



Guide to the Thomas Rodriguez Professional Papers

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | Rodriguez, Thomas |
| Title: | Thomas Rodriguez Professional Papers |
| ID: | MS-01017 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1974 to 2020 |
| Date [bulk]: | 1980 to 1999 |
| Physical Description: | 2.90 Cubic Feet (4 boxes and 1 oversized box) |
| Physical Description: | 3.59 Linear Feet |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | The Thomas Rodriguez Professional Papers (1974-2020) document Rodriguez's years of work and achievements in the political, educational, and social advancement of the Latinx community in Southern Nevada. The collection contains research files on the Latinx community of Las Vegas, Nevada, newspaper articles and manuscripts written by Rodriguez, and materials from his many years of involvement and work with local organizations including the Latin Chamber of Commerce, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Hispanic Educators Association of Nevada, and the Latino Youth Leadership Conference. Materials include conference proceedings, symposium and event programs, as well as newspaper articles, correspondence, and administrative files gathered by Rodriguez over the years of researching and working within the community. |

Preferred Citation

Thomas Rodriguez Professional Papers, 1974-2020. MS-01017. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Thomas Rodriguez is known throughout Las Vegas, Nevada for his many years of hard work and achievements in the political, educational, and social advancement of the Latinx community. Tom was born in 1940 to Jennie Gomez and Joseph Rodriguez in Topeka, Kansas and he graduated from high school in a nearby town in 1958. Taking cues from the Chicano Movement of the 1960s, Rodriguez began his writing and activism shortly after graduation. In the 1970s, Rodriguez graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Washburn University and a Master's degree in public administration from Kansas University.

In 1981, he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada after being offered a position as the Director of Planning and Evaluation for the Las Vegas Clark County Consortium. In Las Vegas, Rodriguez crafted the ordinance that governs the television cable industry, and wrote grants to construct the League of United Latin American Citizens Multi-purpose senior center and produce the project *A Portrait of Hispanics in Clark County, Nevada*. He also filed a civil rights employment discrimination suit against the Clark County School District. In 1993, Rodriguez co-founded the Latino Youth Leadership Conference which promotes education as a tool to bring forth change within a community. He wrote many articles for local Las Vegas, Nevada newspapers, publications for organizations such as *Quién es Quién: A Who's Who Directory of Hispanics in the State of Nevada* for the Latin Chamber of Commerce, and books including *Americano: My Journey to the Dream* and *Raising Hell and Making a Difference: A Memoir of the First Golden Era of Hispanic Activism in Las Vegas, Nevada*. As of 2020, Rodriguez continues to be a powerful voice in the Latinx community in Las Vegas.

Source:

Thomas Rodriguez oral history interview, 2018 September 10. OH-03476. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Thomas Rodriguez Professional Papers (1974-2020) document Rodriguez's years of work and achievements in the political, educational, and social advancement of the Latinx community in Southern Nevada. The collection contains research files on the Latinx community of Las Vegas, Nevada, newspaper articles and manuscripts written by Rodriguez, and materials from his many years of involvement and work with local organizations including the Latin Chamber of Commerce, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Hispanic Educators Association of Nevada, and the Latino Youth Leadership Conference. Materials include conference

proceedings, symposium and event programs, as well as newspaper articles, correspondence, and administrative files gathered by Rodriguez over the years of researching and working within the community. Also contained in the collection are local Latinx publications which Rodriguez collected or contributed to, such as *El Mundo*, *Comunicación*, *Raising Hell and Making a Difference: A Memoir of the First Golden Era of Hispanic Activism in Las Vegas, Nevada*, *Hispanic Profiles in Nevada History: 1829-1991*, and *Quién es Quién: A Who's Who Directory of Hispanics in the State of Nevada*.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in the order they were received.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2020 by Thomas Rodriguez; accession number 2020-016.

Processing Note

In 2020, Sarah Jones rehousing the collection, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Thomas Rodriguez oral history interview, 2018 September 10. OH-03476. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Latin Americans
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Latin Chamber of Commerce (Nev.)
- Hispanic Educators Association of Nevada
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- Latino Youth Leadership Conference

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Containers |
|---|------------|
| Employment discrimination case against Clark County School District, 1987 to 1990 | box 01 |
| Miranda, M. L. and Thomas Rodriguez, <i>125th Nevada Anniversary: A Profile of Hispanics in Nevada 1829-1991</i> , 1991 | box 01 |
| <i>Nevada Historical Project: Mexicans and Other Hispanics in Nevada</i> , 1988 | box 01 |
| <i>Quién es Quién: A Who's Who Directory of Hispanics in the State of Nevada</i> , 1986 | box 01 |
| State Industrial Insurance System (SIIS) discrimination case, 1988 | box 01 |
| Rafael Rivera issue documents, 2012 | box 01 |
| Hispanics in politics: subject file, 1986 to 1989 | box 01 |
| <i>History of Hispanic Political Involvement in Las Vegas 1874-2013</i> , 2013 | box 01 |
| History of Latino lawyers in Las Vegas: subject file, 2000 to 2015 | box 01 |

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|---|--------|
| 2nd Governor's Commission on Education, 1988 | box 01 |
| <i>A Portrait of Hispanics in Clark County</i> , 1997 | box 01 |
| Nevada Association of Latin Americans (NALA) subject file, 1999 | box 01 |
| Latin Chamber of Commerce Career Day and Scholarship Program reports, 1985 to 2004 | box 01 |
| <i>El Mundo</i> newspaper columns by Tom Rodriguez, 1989 to 1990 | box 01 |
| Las Vegas Clark County Library District affirmative action case: subject file, 1993 | box 01 |
| Workshop presentation for Latino Youth Leadership Conference No. 13, 2010 | box 01 |
| Hispanic Leadership Summit documents, 1998 to 2001 | box 01 |
| <i>A History of the Latin Chamber of Commerce</i> , 1975 to 2008 | box 01 |
| Latino Youth Leadership Conference No. 1 materials, 1994 | box 01 |
| Latino Youth Leadership Conference No. 3 materials, 1996 | box 01 |
| Latino Youth Leadership Conference No. 2 materials, 1995 | box 02 |
| Latino Youth Leadership alumni directories, 1997 to 1999 | box 03 |
| Latino Youth Leadership conference materials, 1995 to 2019 | box 03 |
| Opposition to raising the grade point average (GPA) at University of Nevada schools, 2001 to 2007 | box 02 |
| Hispanic Excellence in Education Symposium I documents, 1990 | box 02 |
| Hispanic Excellence in Education Symposium II documents, 1992 | box 02 |
| Hispanic Excellence in Education Symposium III documents, 1993 | box 02 |
| The Hispanic Roundtable and Hispanic Agenda: subject file, 1984 to 1985 | box 02 |
| <i>Chronology of Latin Chamber of Commerce</i> , 2008 | box 02 |
| League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) senior center planning documents, 1985 to 1986 | box 02 |
| Excellence in Education Symposium III: Southern Nevada Language Issues Conference summary and evaluation report, 1993 March 05 to 1993 March 06 | box 02 |
| <i>Americano: My Journey to the Dream: An Autobiography</i> by Thomas Rodriguez, 2004 | box 02 |
| <i>Raising Hell and Making a Difference: A Memoir of the First Golden Era of Hispanic Activism in Las Vegas, Nevada</i> by Thomas Rodriguez, 2014 | box 02 |
| <i>Vida Nueva: the Bilingual Magazine</i> , 1979 to 1980 | box 03 |
| <i>Nosotros</i> , a publication of the Hispanic Educators Association of Nevada, 1991 to 1993 | box 03 |

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| The Condition of Education for Hispanic Americans in the Clark County School District: a report by the Hispanic Committee for Quality Education, 1982 August 05 | box 03 |
| <i>A Profile of Hispanics in Nevada: An Agenda for Action and Hispanic Profiles in Nevada History: 1829-1991</i> : book drafts by Tom Rodriguez, 1984, 1991 | box 03 |
| <i>Southern Nevada Hispanic Magazine</i> , 2018 | box 03 |
| <i>A History of Hispanics in Nevada, 1829-2020</i> draft by Tom Rodriguez, 2020 | box 03 |
| Hispanic Educators Association of Nevada symposiums and documents, 1985 to 1990 | box 03 |
| Newspaper articles by Thomas Rodriguez for Las Vegas, Nevada newspapers, 1979 to 1991 Physical Description: 2 Files | box 03 oversized box 05 |
| Newspaper articles by Thomas Rodriguez for Las Vegas, Nevada newspapers, 1991 to 2007 Physical Description: 2 Files | box 03 oversized box 05 |
| Newspaper op-ed articles by Thomas Rodriguez for Las Vegas, Nevada newspapers, 1982 to 2015 | box 03 |
| State of Nevada Hispanic Leadership Summit report, 1997 to 2001 | box 04 |
| League of United Latin American Citizens conference, 1984 March 15 to 1984 March 16 | box 04 |
| Latin Chamber of Commerce Career Day and Scholarship Awards Ceremony programs, 1999 to 2012 | box 04 |
| Latin Chamber of Commerce Business Award banquet programs, 1986 to 1996 | box 04 |
| Latin Chamber of Commerce Board Installation and Annual Gala programs, 2006 to 2017 | box 04 |
| <i>Latin Scholar</i> , a Latin Chamber of Commerce Foundation publication, 2017 to 2019 | box 04 |
| Latin Chamber of Commerce <i>Comunicación</i> chamber newsletter, 1991 to 2012 Physical Description: 3 Files | box 04 oversized box 05 |
| Latin Chamber of Commerce <i>Latin Chamber Magazine</i> , 2013 to 2015 | oversized box 05 |
| <i>The Need for Activism in the Hispanic Community</i> draft by Tom Rodriguez, 2010 June 23 | box 04 |
| Hispanic Heritage Week in Las Vegas, Nevada programs, 1987 to 2000 | box 04 |
| 11th Annual International Festival program, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1986 June 29 | box 04 |
| Hispanic Youth Advancement Programs presentation to NSHE Board of Regents, 1997 October 24 | box 04 |

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| <i>Circulo Cubano de Las Vegas</i> community circular, 1974 October | box 04 |
| Newspaper articles, correspondence, clippings for research, 1989 to 2001 | box 04 |
