



## Guide to the Dennis McBride Personal Papers

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This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on February 20, 2024. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f12x9f>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	McBride, Dennis
<b>Title:</b>	Dennis McBride Personal Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-01099
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1920 to 2023
<b>Physical Description:</b>	54.92 Cubic Feet (43 boxes, 1 flat file)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	49.24 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5700 Digital Files (62.289 GB) MP3, WAV, PDF/A
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Dennis McBride Personal Papers (approximately 1920-2023) contain the papers of local historian and activist Dennis McBride. Papers include correspondence between McBride and many prominent members of the Las Vegas, Nevada LGBTQ community; financial and employment records from McBride's time at University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Nevada State Museum; publications, press, and research surrounding McBride's numerous written works, unpublished and published; and family history, correspondence, and other personal documents. The collection also contains McBride's detailed personal date books and diaries that span multiple decades. Some audiovisual material and correspondence exist as digital files.

### Preferred Citation

Dennis McBride Personal Papers, approximately 1920-2023. MS-01099. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Dennis McBride was born January 13, 1955 and grew up in Boulder City, Nevada. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in English Literature from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He is well-known as an expert in the history of Hoover Dam and has published several histories of Boulder City. His books include *In the Beginning: A History of Boulder City, Nevada, Building Hoover Dam, An Oral History of the Great Depression* (with Andrew Dunbar), and *Midnight on Arizona Street: The Secret Life of the Boulder Dam Hotel*. McBride is also an authority on Nevada's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) history. He has chronicled and collected the history of the LGBTQ community in Las Vegas, Nevada since the late 1970s and authored *Out of the Neon Closet: Queer Community in the Silver State* and *LGBTQ Las Vegas*, a visual history of the LGBTQ community. He has worked as a curator of historical collections at the Boulder City Museum and Historical Society, UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives, and the Nevada State Museum. He was appointed Director of the Nevada State Museum in 2012 and retired in 2022. As of 2022, he resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Dennis McBride Personal Papers (approximately 1920-2023) contain the papers of local historian and activist Dennis McBride. Papers include correspondence between McBride and many prominent members of the Las Vegas, Nevada LGBTQ community; financial and employment records from McBride's time at University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Nevada State Museum; publications, press, and research surrounding McBride's numerous written works, unpublished and published; and family history, correspondence, and other personal documents. The collection also contains McBride's detailed personal date books and diaries that span multiple decades, as well as signed copies of two of McBride's books, *Out of the Neon Closet: Queer Community in the Silver State* and *Building Hoover Dam: An Oral History of the Great Depression*. Some audiovisual material and correspondence exist as digital files.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in the order in which they were received.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

This collection is closed. It will be open for research use on January 1, 2030. While the collection is closed the donor retains all copyright therein. Access may be granted by the donor; contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for more information.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2022, 2023, and 2024 by Dennis McBride; accession numbers 2022-024, 2023-007, 2023-026, and 2024-014.

### Processing Note

In 2022, Sarah Jones created the collection-level finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2023, Sarah Jones added the 2023 accessions at the box level. Item-level inventory is available upon request for photographs until further processing is completed. In 2024, Sarah Jones added the 2024-014 accession and updated the finding aid.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

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

LGBTQ Las Vegas records, approximately 2016-2017. MS-00965. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dennis McBride LGBTQ Poster and Sign Collection, 1977-2017. MS-00842. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dennis McBride Collection on LGBTQ Las Vegas, Nevada 1990-2017. MS-00802. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Gay community
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Personal papers
- Digital photographs
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries. Special Collections and Archives
- McBride, Dennis