



Guide to the Aaron Williams Photograph Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1h08s>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Williams, Aaron , 1921-2011
Title:	Aaron Williams Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00234
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1968 to 1983
Physical Description:	0.02 Cubic Feet (1 hanging file)
Physical Description:	0.01 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Aaron Williams Photograph Collection (approximately 1968 to 1983) consists of three black-and-white photographic prints. Two of the images are of the groundbreaking ceremony of the Senior Citizens' Center with Las Vegas, Nevada Mayor Oran Gragson, and the third of three unidentified individuals.

Preferred Citation

Aaron Williams Photograph Collection, approximately 1968-1983. PH-00234. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Born in Detroit, Michigan on October 4, 1921, Aaron Williams was the first African American in the history of Nevada to be elected to a local municipal position when he became North Las Vegas City Councilman in 1968. Williams served on the council until he was elected to the Clark County Commission in 1972.

Williams was educated in Texas and served in the South Pacific with the United States Army during World War II. Upon leaving the service, he worked in the steel industry in Detroit, where he was an assistant superintendent. He resigned from the steel industry to open his own supermarket and, after five years, relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada. He was initially employed as a porter and then as an orderly at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital (now University Medical Center). After leaving the hospital he went to work for Reynolds Electrical and Engineering

Company (REECo) as a clerk, advancing to senior clerk, clerk supervisor, material control agent, buyer, and senior buyer.

Williams' community interests included the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Nevada Lung Association, Optimist Club, National Black Caucus, and the Clark County Democratic Central Committee. He founded the Aaron Williams Youth Foundation to fund minority players in local little leagues. Williams also served on the Clark County Economic Opportunity Board.

Aaron Williams died in North Las Vegas, Nevada on November 30, 2011 at the age of 90.

Source:

Lynette Curtis. "Aaron Williams, who broke racial barriers in Nevada, dies at 90," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, December 19, 2011. Accessed February 20, 2020, <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-las-vegas/aaron-williams-who-broke-racial-barriers-in-nevada-dies-at-90/>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Aaron Williams Photograph Collection (approximately 1968 to 1983) consists of three black-and-white photographic prints. Two of the images are of the groundbreaking ceremony of the Senior Citizens' Center with Las Vegas, Nevada Mayor Oran Gragson, and the third of three unidentified individuals.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1983 by Aaron Williams; accession numbers 83-08 and 87-36.

Processing Note

In 2020, as part of a backlog elimination project, Nicole Batten wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Aaron Williams Papers, 1965-1981. MS-00276. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Aaron Williams oral history interview, 2005 August 16. OH-01983. 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

- photographs
- African American politicians -- Nevada
- Clark County (Nev.) -- Politics and government
- Public buildings (governmental buildings)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints, approximately 1968 to 1983 Physical Description: 3 Photographic Prints	