

**L2009.28
Karibu (John Guinn)
Collection, 1995-2007**

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

John Guinn donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 2009.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project. This project was guided by an overarching anti-racist framework that informs archival practice in all aspects at Lambda Archives. Therefore, along with processing the collections specified in the original narrative, we intentionally prioritize the collections of BIPOC and Transgender members of the community to preserve and disseminate their narratives, which have been historically ignored and suppressed in archives across the U.S.

This framework promotes transparency and accountability in our responsibility to those in the LGBTQ+ community that have been historically underrepresented, misrepresented and/or trivialized in archives. Our goals are to (a) gain or rebuild trust with BIPOC members of the community; (b) more fully reflect the community's diversity; (c) outwardly recognize the contributions that BIPOC have made which have enabled the community, as a whole, to flourish; and (d) improve the discoverability of these under-acknowledged histories to increase their engagement for varying purposes within the community and for research and public knowledge.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet of shelf space: .125 linear feet

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

Karibu, which means 'welcome' or 'enter' in Swahili, was founded in 1995 by John Guinn, Kenneth Coleman, Joseph McCombs, Pete Simms and Ric Williams. Originally, the organization centered around services for African American Gay, bisexual, and transgender men (who have sex with men) affected by HIV/AIDS. However, this focus

was expanded to HIV/AIDS education and risk reduction programs and related support services to people of color once the organization felt its original mission of “making more African-American men aware of the dangers and preventative actions surrounding HIV and AIDS and making treatment more accessible” was achieved. While the organization focused its support for people of color, people of any race or background were welcomed and served. The organization would host peer support meetings every Wednesday and developed the Community Action Team and the Companion Advocate System to respond to critical community needs. Karibu hosted African American Men’s Support Groups, Men’s Intimacy Groups, Swahili Courses, Arts and Crafts classes, and Volunteer and Peer Advocate trainings. Karibu was heavily inspired by LAGADU (Lesbian and Gays of African Descent United), which had dissolved between 1992 and 1994, partially due to the cancer-related death of Marty Mackey, one of the founders and leaders of LAGADU. Early in its existence Karibu was fiscally sponsored first by the San Diego Urban League, and then The Center before they became their own 501(c)3. Additionally, Karibu had received funding from the Ryan White Care Act since 1998. The Karibu Center was located at 3960 Park Blvd., San Diego.

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials related to Karibu, an organization serving African American gay, bisexual, and transgender men (who have sex with men) affected by HIV/AIDS, and John Guinn, one of Karibu’s founders and core leaders. The materials include tickets, a business card, newspapers, photocopies, and a commendation.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 1 small box.

SEPARATED MATERIAL

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. VHS: [V0784-V0799]

SUBJECTS

John Guinn, Karibu, Vertez Burks, San Diego Union Tribune, organizations, Organizations - service, African Americans, AIDS/HIV

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]

Karibu (John Guinn) Collection, 1995-2007

Lambda Archives of San Diego

San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2011.13

LOCATION NOTE

C.2.2.2

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Envelope with two tickets for 20 Years, 20 Heroes Lambda Archives of San Diego, December 8, 2007, and a business card for Videos Etc. by Vertez [Burks]	2007	
1	2	2 San Diego Union Tribune Monday, July 29, 1996, newspapers	1996	
1	3	San Diego Union Tribune Sunday, August 24, 1997, newspaper	1997	
1	4	Photocopy of San Diego Union Tribune July 29, 1996, Karibu Article	1996	
1	5	Photocopy of San Diego Union Tribune August 24, 1997, Karibu Article	1997	
1	6	Special Commendation to Karibu from Councilmember Christine Kehoe September 13, 1999	1999	