

L2013.49
AIDS Walk San Diego
Collection, 1986-2016

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Ethan Lopez

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Sarafina Scapicchio donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego on September 10th, 2013.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Ethan Lopez as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 3

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.6

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

San Diego Walks for Life was a 10k annual San Diego fundraiser for local AIDS organizations and PWAs (People with AIDS). In 1986, its inaugural year, this event raised over \$51,000 and continued to fundraise more each year. They invited honorary chairpersons with notable celebrities and politicians.

““We started in 1985 and HIV wasn’t even a word, but AIDS was a really bad word,” Jester said. “There were still a lot of unknown factors,” about the disease and how it was transmitted. “When HIV started, it was a fearsome thing; people were very frightened. I remember that families would not come and pick up the bodies of the men who had died, and guys would put out the clothes of roommates or partners who were sick or had died. Today, while some still struggle with the stigma and shame all too often associated with HIV/AIDS, the world is unimaginably different than it was when the first San Diego Walk for Life took place in the mid-1980s. Back then, there was so much fear that neither HIV nor AIDS could even appear in the name of One part of our vow remains the same — to never forget those early days of the epidemic or the indifference and outright hostility with which those impacted by the disease were treated. And certainly, to never forget all those we’ve lost.

And, as it has been since the event's first heroic days, this event is a community testament powered by compassion, courage, and commitment. This is as true today as it was more than 25 years ago when a brave group of San Diegans stood up and stepped out on behalf of people who were being ravaged by this disease.

"People just kept getting sick – one after another after another – then three to six months later, they were dead," Jester said. "No one could figure it out. In the meantime, protesters were starting to come into Hillcrest from other parts of San Diego with signs and we could not get the city or the Feds to do anything. It really started to piss me off, but I knew in my heart that I could do something to bring about some dialogue on this." So, she did. According to Jester, the Los Angeles AIDS Walk had started a couple of years prior, and "I saw all of our people were going up there to the L.A. Walk when we so desperately needed funds here. That angered me, too, and I just got it in my head that we could do a walk here, too. I met with Nicole (Murray-Ramirez) and then David Coppini and Rob Merrill and I found one of the consultants that had worked on AIDS Walk L.A. and asked if they would help us; show us how it worked. Ken Martin helped, Chris Shaw, all these guys really stepped up, and we were doing this out of my garage." The first San Diego Walk for Life drew about 1,500 people, and took place near the San Diego County Administration building, with a brief program and a walk around Harbor Island and back.

"I was shocked at how many people were brave enough and cared enough to show up," Jester recalled. "There was such pain and agony during that time. It was a heartbreaking, gut wrenching, angering thing. It was overwhelming. Here was this so-called gay disease that we couldn't get anyone to pay attention to and we finally got some press that was in a positive light about dealing with the disease and it made me realize that this was a start. That it was just the start."

<https://aidswalksd.org/history/>

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection showcases materials from AIDs Walk San Diego. Items in this collection range from news clippings, email correspondence, financial documents, fundraising sheets, receipts, public relations documents, Board of Directors notes, poster, and programs. Also included is a photo collection from SD Walks for Life events. In boxes two and three are four flags for the Names Project and AIDS Quilt.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 3 boxes divided into 3 series:

- Series I: Internal Documents
- Series II: AIDS Walk Advertisement Materials
- Series III: Miscellany

SEPARATED MATERIAL

1. Photos:
 - a. P366.001-.004 – Two boxes of promotional photos. “Living Proof” portraits of people living with AIDS in the late 1990’s (many now deceased)
 - b. P367- many copies of each LASD may decide what to do with duplicates. The Center may have digital version and check on rights
2. VHS:
 - a. 4 VHS Tapes- AIDS Quilt DC – 1988, 1992, and 1998, Living Proof San Diego 1997-2002 [Missing]
3. T-shirt:
 - a. T1060- AIDS Walk 1999 *signed*
4. Flat files:
 - a. L2013.49.01-.51 – Memorial Posters “Path of Remembrance”
5. Buttons:
 - a. 4 Buttons from box of AIDS Walk memorial Items [Missing]

SUBJECTS

Path of Remembrance, Living proof, AIDS Walk San Diego, AIDS Quilt, Names Project, LGBT Sports

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

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PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]
AIDS Walk San Diego, 1986-2016
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

1990.03, 2015.26, 2014.01, 2015.27, 2013.64, 2016.14, 2001.05

LOCATION NOTE

C.4.1.4

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Sponsorship Sheets	1999-2006	
1	2	Team Leader Handbooks	2000-2002	
1	3	Board Internal Documents	2001-2004	
1	4	AIDS Walk/Run Advertisement Materials	2003-2008	
1	5	AIDS Walk Programs	1989-1998	
1	6	AIDS Walk Programs	2000-2004	
1	7	The Center Materials	2010	
1	8	Miscellany		