This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are miscellaneous papers concerning the Ozark Artists’ Guild at Joplin in Jasper County, Missouri. Included are program schedules, announcements, brochures, and other printed matter, especially concerning the Guild’s headquarters and gallery, the Spiva Art Center.

Focusing on the visual arts, the Ozark Artists’ Guild was organized in 1948 and chartered as a Missouri benevolent corporation in 1957. In 1958 the George A. Spiva family donated a building at 406 Sergeant Avenue in Joplin to the Guild, to be operated “as a public cultural center.” In 1969 the Guild was restyled as the Spiva Art Center, Incorporated, and in 1994 it became the George A. Spiva Center for the Arts. The materials in this collection were created under the auspices of the Ozark Artists’ Guild.

Most of the items in this collection are program schedules, workshop and course announcements, brochures, and other printed matter. Of particular interest are the annual program schedules and items concerning the annual juried exhibition. Included are a membership list dated 1 August 1958, the “formal opening and dedication” program for the Spiva Art Center on 24 May 1959 and financial balance sheets for January through April 1961. The years 1960 and 1961 have the best representation of the Guild’s activities.

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<th>16 December 2002</th>
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