



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0272

Kansas City's Ten-Year Plan Records

[Native Sons Archives]

1870-1938 (bulk: 1921-1940)

73 folders

*Records relating to the depression era bond issue that resulted in the construction of a number of civic buildings and community improvement projects in Kansas City MO. Includes research, drafts, and photographs for the book, *Where the Rocky Bluffs Meet: The Story of the Kansas City Ten-Year Plan*.*

HISTORY:

Where the Rocky Bluffs Meet: The Story of the Kansas City Ten-Year Plan was originally intended to convey the story of the Ten-Year Plan as it was conceived and conducted by the Chamber of Commerce, and more specifically by the Civic Improvement Committee (or the Committee of 1000) under the General Chairmanship of Conrad H. Mann. Conrad Mann served as President of the Chamber of Commerce from 1928-1934 and was drafted by Mayor Bruce B. Smith and City Manager H.F. McElroy to lead the Ten-Year Plan Movement.

It was quickly realized that the Ten-Year Plan was not an isolated activity and that the story could not adequately be told without the context of the activities and events that preceded it. Ray W. Wilson, Civic Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Executive Secretary of the Civic Improvement Committee, devoted over a year to collecting this data (much of it has his name on it) and compiling it with the help of numerous others in the form of a book. Thus, out of the initial idea to record this one particular plan spanning from 1931-1941 was born the history of Kansas City's public improvement endeavors.

The Ten-Year Plan was a coordinated effort to help Kansas City organize city improvements. It was officially launched in 1931 during the mayoral administration of Bryce Smith, with Henry F. McElroy as City Manager, although there had been talk of such a plan by other mayors. There were also earlier drives for civic improvements.

The Ten-Year Plan had beginnings in the "Get-it-Done" Committee of the Chamber of Commerce started in 1921 with F. C. Sharon, who was President of the Chamber of Commerce at the time. In 1920, following World War I, it was recognized that hospitals, streets, schools and fire protection were inadequate in Kansas City. Improvements were needed for parks and boulevards.

The "Get-it-Done" committee did not initiate new improvements, but pushed to complete projects started under the tax bill method, which was special assessment against real estate within the benefit district. It was not just a Chamber of Commerce program but one that involved city-wide cooperation. Some projects that were completed were the widening of Main Street and Broadway, the opening of Twenty-third and Sixth Street Trafficways, the installation of a modern lighting system, and others.

It was recognized that the tax bill system was inadequate and that bonds needed to be passed. The "Get It Done" committee recommended preparations of "a comprehensive program covering the needs of Kansas City for physical public improvements for a definite term of years under which these would be financed in accordance with their need and the city's ability to pay, through bond issues, special assessments and from current revenues."

During the 1920's, several bond issues were presented to the voters, but few passed. Some voters felt that the issues had not been investigated sufficiently and that pertinent information was not brought out. Long-term planning was advocated by the Civic Research Institute, the Chamber of Commerce and Mayors Cromwell and Beach. In 1929, Mayor Beach and City Manager McElroy appointed a committee of 100 citizens to study and present programs for public improvement. When Bryce Smith was elected mayor in 1930, he and McElroy followed through and appointed Conrad Mann, President of the Chamber of Commerce, as general Chairman of the Ten-Year Plan organization.

Conrad Mann, originally from Milwaukee, was secretary and general manager of the Kansas City Breweries Company. He expanded the committee of 100 to a committee of 1000. Many notable Kansas Citizens became involved such as J.C. Nichols, James A. Reed, H.M. Langworthy, N.T. Veatch, Jr., R.E. McDonnell and others. Some of the projects accomplished during this time were the Municipal Auditorium, City Hall and County and Federal Courts and Post Office buildings; the paving of Brush Creek and other sanitary and sewer projects; improvements of trafficways, boulevards and streets; additions at the airport; and others.

PROVENANCE:

This collection was originally part of the Native Sons Collection, KA0590, acquired on July 17, 1990.

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Specific item; folder number; *Kansas City's Ten-Year Plan Records* (KC0272); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

CONTACT:

The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City
302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City
5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
(816) 235-1543 SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>

DESCRIPTION:

The records are apparently a working file created for the purpose of research for the book *Where These Rocky Bluffs Meet*, about Kansas City's Ten-Year Plan. This collection contains clippings, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs and reports relating to the Ten-Year Plan, the "Get It Done" campaign, and the writing of *Where These Rocky Bluffs Meet*.

INVENTORY:**BOX 001***General Background*

- Folder 1. Ten-Year Plan Book Outline and Instructions, 1936-1937
- Folder 2. Promotional Materials for Book, 1938
- Folder 3. Manuscript - Second Draft called "Building the Program", May 27, 1938

General Research Data

- Folder 4. General Historical Data about Kansas City, 1903, 1934
- Folder 5. Historical Sketches, Various Subjects
- Folder 6. Historical Sketches, Various Subjects

Folder 7. Early History of Kansas City's Railroads and Steamboats in the 1800's

Folder 8. *Kansas Citian*, September 10, 1929
Features article about history of the Chamber of Commerce

Clippings

Folder 9. Ten-Year Plan Clippings Scrapbook, December 1929-June 1931

Folder 10. Clippings Relating to Ten-Year Plan, 1929-1932

Folder 11. Ten-Year Plan Miscellaneous Printed Publicity Matter and Advertisements, 1930-1931

Folder 12. Clippings—Ten-Year Plan and Related Projects, 1937-1938

Organization and Formulation

Folder 13. Data on Events Leading up to Ten-Year Plan, 1927-1931

Folder 14. Data on Organization, Formulation and Campaign for Ten-Year Plan, 1931

Folder 15. Executive Committee Report Outlining a Ten-Year Plan for Kansas City, Jackson County and the Kansas City School District, January 22, 1931

Folder 16. The Story of Kansas City's Ten-Year Plan: Jackson County Improvements, Undated

Reactions

Folder 17. Ten-Year Plan—Outside Editorial Comments, 1931

Folder 18. "What Kansas City is to Get for its Ten-Year Plan Money", Undated

Committees

Folder 19. Personnel of Sub-Committees No. 1-16 and their Sub-Committees, August 18, 1930

Folder 20. List and Supplemental List of Subscribers to Civic Improvement Committee, May-June 1931

Reports

Folder 21. Progress Report Submitted to the Executive Committee November 6, 1930

Folder 22. Summary of Committee Recommendations for Bond Issues, December 23, 1930

Folder 23. Itemized Summary of Committee Reports, December 29, 1930

Folder 24. Final Total Recommendations of Amounts by the Various Committees, January 3, 1931

Meetings

Folder 25. Executive Committee Correspondence, 1930-1931

Folder 26. Extracts from Minutes of Bond Advisory Committee Meetings, 1931-1932

Finance

Folder 27. General Data on Financing Public Improvements Prior to 1930

Folder 28. Financial Information Related to the Ten-Year Plan 1928-1934

Folder 29. 30-5 Ten-Year Financial Program for Kansas City 1927-1928

Folder 30. 30-5 Ten-Year Financial Program for Kansas City, 1928-1932

Folder 31. Ten-Year Financial Program for Kansas City, 1931-1932 and 1939-1940

Bonds

Folder 32. Bonds Issued by Kansas City 1870 to May 1, 1931

Folder 33. Bond Issues, 1921-1926

Folder 34. Bond Campaign, 1928

Folder 35. Bond Literature Sent to Employees, 1931

Folder 36. Miscellaneous, St. Louis Bond Issue, Undated

Folder 37. 115-19 Bond Issues, 1931

Folder 38. 115-19-E Speakers-Bond Campaign, 1931

Folder 39. 115-19-F Material for Speakers, 1931

BOX 002

Folder 40. Ten-Year Plan Bond Expenditures, 1931-1937

Folder 41. Statement of Ten-Year Plan Bonds-Voted, Authorized and Sold July 31, 1937, October 31, 1937

General Information of Trafficways, Parks, Boulevards and Airport

Folder 42. Report of Trafficways Commission to City Manager, January 5, 1928

Folder 43. Program of Trafficways and Boulevards, February 1931

Folder 44. Parks and Boulevards, 1905-1937

Folder 45. Parks, 1930

Folder 46. Kansas City Airport, 1936

“Get It Done Projects”

Folder 47. Projects in the 1920's Decade

Folder 48. “Get It Done Projects”, 1921-1930

Projects

Folder 49. 171-1 Public and Civic Ten-Year Improvement Program, 1930-1931

Folder 50. 171 Project #8, 20th Street, 1921

Folder 51. 171 Project #20, Winner Road Viaduct, 1933-1935

Folder 52. 171 Project #21, Oak Street Viaduct, 1927, 1930-1931

Folder 53. 171 Project #22, Inter-City Viaduct, 1929-1930, 1933-1935

Folder 54. 171 Project #23, Wornall Road Widening, 1935

Folder 55. 171 Project #25 (a), Public Buildings, 1930

Folder 56. 171 Project #25 (b), City Hall, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1935

Folder 57. City Hall 1936-1937, Municipal Courts-Police Building, 1936-1938

Folder 58. 171 Project #27, County Improvement, 1930

Folder 59. 171 Project #31, Police, Fire, Public Safety, 1930

Folder 60. 171 Project #33, Blue Valley Improvements, 1930-1931

Folder 61. 171 Project #35, Municipal Auditorium, 1934-1935

Folder 62. 171 Project #36, Water Supply Committee, 1928-1930

Folder 63. 171 Project #37, Wharves, Levees and River Front Improvement, 1928-1930

Folder 64. 171 Project #39, Ten-Year Budget Bonds, 1931

Folder 65. 171 Project #40, Finance Correspondence, 1925-1931

Folder 66. 171 Project #71 “What Kansas City is to Get for Its Ten-Year Plan Money”, 1930

Folder 67. 171 Project #74, Bond Celebration “Kansas City Day”, 1931

Photographs

Folder 68. Photograph—The Scout and Kansas City Skyline

Folder 69. Photographs—City Scenes 1869, 1870, 1930's; Milton Payne; Robert T. Van Horn; Trail Marker

- Folder 70. Photographs—West Bluffs 1905; August Meyer; George Kessler; Thomas Swope, Swope Park Entrance and Swope Memorial; Ninth Street Incline; Baltimore Ave. 1890, 1937; Irwin Kirkwood; Missouri River Traffic
- Folder 71. Photographs—Union Station; American Royal Building; Airport; Liberty Memorial; Nelson-Atkins Museum; University of Kansas City; H. F. McElroy; Bryce Smith; Conrad Mann; Committee of 1000, 1930's.
- Folder 72. Photographs and Maps—map of traffic improvements; Civic Improvement Committee 1931; map of Jackson Co., Mo. 1930; Noland Road; Jackson County Courthouses; Old Detention Building, 1930's
- Folder 73. Photographs—Municipal Auditorium; Recreational Activities; Street Improvements; Old and New City Hall; Post Office; Federal Court, 1930's