

Collection Title: North Shore Illinois Chapter the Links, Inc.

Date Span: 1980-2011

Extent: 1 linear foot

Processed by Shorefront By Dino Robinson. December 12, 2011.

Abstract

The Links is an African American professional women's organization founded in 1946 with chapters throughout the United States. North Shore Illinois Chapter the Links, Inc. was established in 1972, encompassing members in Chicago's suburban northern and northwest suburbs. North Shore Illinois Chapter the Links, Inc. (The Links) Collection was assembled by Shorefront with the majority of the collection coming from North Shore Link member, Margo Robinson. Meeting minutes, membership lists, bylaws, photographs, invitations and ad books are primarily contained in the collection. The Links collection spans from 1980 to 2011, with the bulk of the collection from 1985 to 1994.

Historical Note

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of 12,000 professional women of color in 274 chapters located in 42 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The North Shore Illinois chapter became a part of The Links, Incorporated and the Central Area of The Links, Inc. on November 19, 1972. The North Shore chapter was sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the Links, Inc., at that time, the only Links chapter in Chicago metropolitan area. There are now currently eight chapters in metro area. The North Shore Illinois Chapter had a beginning membership of 25 and one honorary member. The honorary member was Link Etta Moten Barnett who later became a full member of the North Shore Chapter.

Scope and Content

The Links collection spans from 1980 to 2011, with the bulk of the collection from 1985 to 1994. The collection was put together from a donation made by Link member Margo Robinson. Box One contains original documents concerning the North Shore Chapter of the Links, Inc., including photographs, a DVD, a newsletter, budgets, invitations, programs, and membership list, bylaws, committee reports, and delegate reports.

This collection is unique in that it provides insight into the social and civic lives of African Americans in Chicago's northern and northwest suburban area. It is also significant in the fact that it is compiled from a member of the North Shore Chapter Link, installed in 1993. Researchers interested in African American history in Chicago's northern and northwestern suburbs and of African American clubs and organizations will find this collection valuable to use.

Key Words

African American, Black, Women, Professional Women, Clubs, Civic Groups, Social Groups

Container List

Box	Folder		
1	1	By Laws changes and mission card of the Links Incorporated.	
	2	Office related paperwork including some finances and insurance	
	3	Membership list and calling tree	1993, 1999-2004
	4	Newsletter	
	5	Blank Forms	
	6	National Delegate Reports	1993
	7	Misc. letters	
	8	Minutes, Reports and Agendas	1985-86
	9	Minutes, Reports and Agendas	1987-88
	10	Minutes, Reports and Agendas	1989-90
	11	Minutes, Reports and Agendas	1991-92
	12	Minutes, Reports and Agendas	1993-94
	13	Invitations – various invitations to annual and special events	
	14	Ad Books and Programs	2003, 2011
	15	Etta Moten Scholarship	1992
	16	Photographs, CD of digital images and a DVD	1997, 2007, 2009