



Nashville Municipal Auditorium Collection, 1962-2022

Collection Summary:

Title: Nashville Municipal Auditorium Collection

Summary: A collection of administrative records, printed materials, event files, and ephemera documenting the history and activities of Nashville Municipal Auditorium. Dates range from 1962 to 2022. Bulk dates: 1963-2006.

Physical Description: 129 Hollinger boxes, plus 14 oversize boxes; 79.2 linear feet.

Language: English

Stack Location: Oversize materials are housed at Archives II. The remainder of the materials are housed at the Metro Records Center.

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Historical Note:

The Nashville Municipal Auditorium, located at 417 4th Avenue, North, began construction on the site of the Bijou Theater in 1957, as part of the Capitol Hill Urban Renewal Project. Built as both an arena and an exhibition hall, the Auditorium first opened with a Church of Christ revival on October 7, 1962. The building was designed by Marr & Holman Architects and constructed by Nashville Bridge Company. The distinctive, dome-shaped structure seats over 9,000 and was built to serve as a multi-purpose facility that could handle a diversity of different events. For over 60 years, the Auditorium has hosted all manner of events including concerts, sporting events, circuses, trade shows, political meetings and rallies, and religious events.

Notable music performers include Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Kiss, The Jackson 5, Fleetwood Mac, Charlie Daniels, and Bob Dylan, among many others. Municipal Auditorium has hosted a wide variety of sporting events, including rodeos, OVC basketball championships, the Harlem Globetrotters, Nashville hockey teams such as the Dixie Flyers and the Nashville Knights, and the Nashville Venom indoor football team. The Auditorium has also played host to diverse political events, including meetings of the NAACP, rallies for presidential candidates, and both the Democratic and the Republican parties. In addition, family events such as the Ringling Brothers and Shriners Circuses, Sesame Street Live, monster truck rallies, and Holiday on Ice have been held at Municipal Auditorium.

Today, Nashville Municipal Auditorium continues to be a popular event venue for the city, and the former exhibition hall has been home to the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum since 2013.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This extensive collection contains the administrative records, ephemera, event files, and printed materials that document the history and activities of Nashville Municipal Auditorium. Dates of materials range from 1962 to 2022, with bulk dates between 1963 and 2006. The largest portion of the collection consists of files for events held at Municipal Auditorium between April of 1963 and November of 2006.

Index Terms:

Names:

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.)

Subjects:

Auditoriums

Auditoriums--Tennessee Concerts--Nashville.

Music concert posters

Music concert programs

Sports--Tennessee--Nashville.

Sports--Tennessee--Nashville--History.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged alphabetically into five series: Administrative Records, Ephemera, Events, Photographs, and Printed Materials.

The *Administrative Records* series documents the day-to-day business of the Auditorium, and contains four sub-series: *Building*, which includes correspondence, bids, insurance certificates, and other materials relating to the Nashville Municipal Auditorium building; *Financial*, which contains invoices, budgets, statements, and reports submitted to Metro Government; *Legal*, which includes resolutions and agreement forms, and *Personnel*, which contains payroll and civil service information, employee time sheets, and employment applications. Some materials in the *Personnel* sub-series contain personal information such as social security numbers, and are confidential and closed to research.

Ephemera contains artifacts and scrapbooks relating to Municipal Auditorium and specific events. Artifacts include ID badges, passes, and souvenir items such as cups, ribbons, and buttons.

The *Events* series contains the files for each event hosted by the Auditorium between April of 1963 and November of 2006. The files include information such as lease agreements, concert riders, correspondence, and other materials relating to the promotion or execution of each event. In some cases, tickets and ticket stubs are included. This series is the most extensive series of the Nashville Municipal Auditorium Collection, and contains over 3,000 event files that are arranged chronologically.

The *Photographs* series includes albums documenting restoration work, interior and exterior photos of the building, staff photos, and images from various events such as the Ice Capades and hockey games.

Printed Materials includes event posters, as well as tour and program booklets for music, sports, theater, and children's events. Newspaper clippings about Municipal Auditorium and various events from the 1960s-2000s are also included in this series.

Contents Listing:

For a complete, folder-level contents listing of this collection, please contact Metro Archives.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County owns the intellectual rights to these materials. Materials may be used for research purposes only, and cannot be used in a publication or reproduced. Some materials in this collection contain confidential information and are closed to research.

Administrative Information:

Copyright: The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

Provenance: Transferred to Metro Archives from Nashville Municipal Auditorium.

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, August 2023

Accruals: Further accruals are possible.