

CCA/C Archives Finding Aid

Updated December 2025
[Vault](#) (CCA's institutional repository)

Descriptive Summary

Title: CCA/C Archives, (Date Range 1908 - current)

Extent: Approx. 480 linear feet

Repository: California College of the Arts

Simpson Library

145 Hooper Street
San Francisco, CA, 94107

The "Farchives"

5301 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94618

Language: English

Administrative Information

Provenance: Several different donors donated materials to the college over time. Alumni, faculty and departments within the College generally donate materials held by the College Archives.

Access: Collection is open for research; please contact the institution directly. In most cases advance notice or an appointment are required for use.

Publication Rights: All requests for permission to publish materials must be submitted in writing to the college. Any permission for publication, reproduction, or quotation is granted on behalf of the holding institution as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the user.

Citation: [Identification of item], from the archives of California College of the Arts, Simpson Library, San Francisco, California.

History

The formation of the California College of Arts and Crafts was directly influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement, which spread throughout Europe in the latter half of the 19th century. The movement was sometimes associated with Jugendstil and Art Nouveau. The Arts and Crafts movement was in part a response to and a revolt against the change in aesthetics prompted by the dawn of the industrial revolution. The ideas of the Arts and Crafts movement, such as "an artist should be actively involved in creating items for living" and "trying to combat the spreading of the ugliness of the Victorian era" were great influences on Fredrick H. Meyer,

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the primary founder of the college.

Fredrick H. Meyer, Laetitia Meyer, Perham Nahl and Isabelle Percy West founded what became California College of Arts and Crafts in the summer of 1907. In its early days the school made its home at various addresses in the Berkeley area, including the Studio building (one block from the UC campus), 2130 Center St. and 2119 Allston Way. In 1909 Xavier Martinez joined the faculty and developed the nascent fine arts division. In 1914, the school received state accreditation. In 1922 the school incorporated, so it could grant degrees equivalent to college degrees. The first degrees offered at the college were a Bachelor of Applied Art (B.A.A.), Bachelor of Fine Art (B.F.A.) and Bachelor of Art Education (B.A.Ed.).

Information for this brief history was drawn entirely from California College of Arts and Crafts, 1907-1944, a thesis by Margaret Penrose Dhaemers, Mills College, 1967. A copy of this thesis can be found in the CCAC Archive in Series I, Subseries 7, as well as in the Meyer Library collection, call no. LD652 D53 1967.

Presidents of the California College of the Arts:

1. Fredrick Meyer

- 1908-1936 Director
- 1936-1944 President
- *Henceforth only 'President' used*

2. Spencer Macky

- 1944-1954

3. Daniel S. Defenbacher

- 1954-1957

4. Joseph Danysh

- 1957-1959

5. Harry X. Ford

- September 1959-March 1960 Acting President
- March 1960-1984

Thomas (Toby) Schwartzburg (Acting)

- 1984-1985

6. Neil J. Hoffman

- June 1985-July 1993

Transition Team

- *August 1993-April 1994:*
- *John Stein, Chief Operating officer*
- *Lorne Buchman, Provost*

7. Lorne M. Buchman, Ph.D.

- April 1994-October 1999

Transition Team

- *October 1999-July 2000*
- *Stephen Beal, Provost*
- *David Kirschman, Vice President for Administration and Finance*

8. Michael S. Roth, Ph.D.

- 2000-2007

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9. Steve Beal

- 2008-2023

Tammy Rae Carland, Provost (Acting)

- 2023

10. David C. Howse

- 2023 - Present

History of the School Name and Location:

- **School of the California Guild of Arts and Crafts**
 - 2130 Center St, Berkeley, CA 94704 (*Summer 1907 - Summer 1908*)
- **California School of Arts and Crafts**
 - 2130 Center St, Berkeley, CA 94704 (*Summer 1908 - Summer 1912*)
 - 2119 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704 (*Summer 1912 - Summer 1925*)
 - 5212 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94618 (*Summer 1922 - Summer 1936*)
 - *Incorporated in 1922; two versions of catalog for 1922-1923*
- **California College of Arts and Crafts**
 - 5212 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94618 (*Summer 1936 - Summer 2003*)
 - 1700 17th St, San Francisco, CA 94103 (*Summer 1988 - Summer 1996*)
 - 1111 8th St, San Francisco, CA 94107 (*Summer 1996 - Summer 2003*)
- **California College of the Arts**
 - 5212 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94618 (*Summer 2003 - Summer 2022*)
 - 1111 8th St, San Francisco, CA 94107 (*Summer 2003 - Summer 2022*)
 - 450 Irwin Street, San Francisco, CA 94107 (*Summer 2022 - Summer 2024*)
 - 145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA 94107 (*Summer 2024 - current*)

Processing Notes

Materials were divided into Series based upon their content, as the strict provenance of most of the archives materials is unclear. Because some materials are appropriate to more than one series, there are some duplicates in the collection and a researcher may encounter the same item in more than one place in the collection.

Photographs were left in place in various series in the collection, so as to make possible their identification by context. There is a series of photographs (Series VI) that had been separated from the collection and loosely organized by subject, topic or date. The original provenance of these photos was not recorded.

Where multiple copies of an item were found, the best three copies of the item were retained for the archives. Extra copies of some items were retained, such as accreditation reports and some publications, and may be available to interested parties.

Credits

The inventory and arrangement of Series I-V was conducted by Sarah (Tommy) Walker, with the assistance of Nancy Chan, during Spring 2006. Sarah Walker is also the author of this finding aid. The web-accessible interface was designed and implemented by Lia Thomas.

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For inquiries or to report errors and difficulties with searching, please contact the the Libraries, librarynotices@cca.edu

Arrangement

Series I. Administrative Materials

1. Academic Council
2. Accreditation and Licensing Materials
3. Board of Directors (*past 40 years are kept locked and confidential*)
4. Faculty Assembly / Faculty Senate
5. Faculty and Staff Files
6. Finance and Development
7. General Admin Files
8. Partnerships and Affiliations
9. Presidents Office

Series II. Alumni Society Materials

1. Alumni Files
2. Alumni Exhibitions

Series III. College Life

1. Commencement Materials
2. Ephemera
3. Events
4. Awards
5. Oral Histories

Series IV. Department Materials

1. Academic Departments/Programs (*department histories, syllabi, course readers, etc.*)
2. Administrative Departments
3. Other

Series V. Exhibits and the CCA Art Collection

1. Collection and Administration
2. Exhibits
3. Gallery Management Class

Series VI. Photographs

1. Commencement
2. Students
3. Alumni
4. Department / Studio
5. Events
6. Exhibits

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7. Works of art
8. Photographs by format

Series VII. Press

1. Press Clippings
2. Press Releases

Series VIII. Periodicals and Other Publications

1. College Publications
2. Student Publications
3. Alumni Publications
4. Yearbooks
5. Published by CCA/C
6. Catalogs / Schedule of classes

Series IX. Graduate and Undergraduate Theses Papers (listed in CCA Libraries catalog)

Series X. Buildings & Grounds

1. Berkeley
2. Oakland
3. San Francisco
4. Other Locations