

Richard H. Austin Collection
MSS116.PH287

Finding aid prepared by Michelle McKinney

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July 13, 2010

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
2008 July 3
315 East Warren Avenue
Detroit, Michigan, 48201
313-494-5800

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Summary Information

Repository	Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
Creator	Austin, Richard H., 1913-2001
Title	Richard H. Austin Collection
Date [inclusive]	1913-2004
Extent	3.6 Cubic feet 3 Oversize boxes, 2 Archives boxes, Halfsize archives box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Richard Henry Austin was an African American who became Michigan's first black C.P.A. and first black (and longest-serving) Secretary of State. The records in this collection contain mostly certificate and awards Austin received while in office as the Secretary of State; also included are files of correspondence, clippings and news releases, health and educational curricula, programs and other ephemera, and several publications. Of importance are those records pertaining to his political and community involvement, especially with the organization Detroit Council for Political Education and the Michigan Constitutional Convention. Very few records in the collection document his campaigns for county auditor, mayor, and Secretary of State.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Richard Henry Austin, Michigan's first African American Secretary of State, was born on May 6, 1913 in Stouts Mountain, Alabama, the son of Richard H. and Leila (Hill) Austin. His father died in 1924 when Richard Jr. was 11 years old, and his mother moved the family to Detroit around 1925. He graduated head of his class at Cass Technical High and received a four-year track scholarship from Wayne State University. Austin could not pursue a degree at WSU because of his family's circumstances during the Great Depression and decided instead to become an accountant, studying at the Detroit Institute of Technology at night. After graduating from the Institute in 1937, he held several jobs and married his high school sweetheart, Ida B. Dawson in 1939 with Reverend William Peck officiating. He became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 1941, the first African American to do so in Michigan. He founded his own accounting firm, Richard Austin & Company, and soon had two large accounts -- Fred Allen's laundry supply and the black-owned Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery. He cultivated the next five black CPAs, who received from him their two-year, on-the-job training. In addition, Austin helped other blacks in the Detroit area form businesses, foundations, and civic groups. One such group was named Detroit Council of Political Education, organized in the mid-50s by such visionaries as Austin, Forest Green, Horace Sheffield, and Damon Keith; its purpose was to place people of color into Detroit city government. The Council succeeded in getting William (Bill) Patrick elected to Detroit City Council.

Richard Austin was active in political and civil rights groups in Detroit, volunteering for the Booker T. Washington Business Association (BTWBA), the Detroit Urban League, the NAACP, the Detroit Council of Political Education, Kappa Alpha Psi, and also served on the boards of other civic organizations.

In 1961, he attended the Michigan State Constitutional Convention as a delegate from Wayne County 6th District, 1961-62; he was the losing candidate in the 1964 primary for the 1st District U.S. Representative from Michigan and for Detroit mayor in 1969. He was elected Michigan's first African American Secretary of State in 1971 and was subsequently reelected four times, serving until 1994. As Secretary of State, Austin directed the agency that supervised elections, granted automobile driver and boat licenses, and heard license appeals; he innovated birthday registration. During his term, he led a 14-year campaign to enact a vehicle safety belt law that was passed in 1985. He also was a leading advocate for Michigan's child passenger safety law, supported stiffer penalties for drinking drivers, and led the effort to retain the state motorcycle helmet law. Richard Henry Austin died from complications associated with Alzheimer's Disease in Detroit, Michigan on April 20, 2001.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains five series: Secretary of State, Political and Community Organizations, Personal, Publications, and Visual Materials. The series SECRETARY OF STATE contains records documenting

Richard Austin's Secretary of State Health and Educational Initiatives curricula files, correspondence, three clippings, and some ephemera from events, a 1961 Detroit Urban League study of the "Twelfth Street" neighborhood, and expressions of gratitude and commendation in the form of certificates and awards from many organizations. The series **POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS** contains information on the various organizations that Austin was a member of; with the bulk of materials relating to the Detroit Council for Political Education. This sub-series contains not only the first drafts of the constitution, but also membership rosters, meeting minutes and treasurer's reports.

The **PERSONAL** series contains a few personal records including correspondence, programs of events and obituaries (the file includes Austin's funeral program), and a November 1978 Papal Blessing card from the newly inaugurated Pope John Paul II. There is also an autographed 78-rpm sound recording from the Honorable Averell Harriman, Governor of New York and son of railroad magnate E. H. Harriman. The **PUBLICATIONS** series includes annual reports and manuals from local and national business and causes. The **VISUAL MATERIALS** series contains two files of mainly Secretary of State photographs and a photocopied scrapbook of Austin's accomplishments and personal life.

With the exception of the **POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**, this collection does not include any other records truly representative of Austin's long career. These records, particularly those from his work as Secretary of State reside with the Michigan Historical Museum and the Walter P. Reuther Library.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History 2008 July 3

Revision Description

Materials donated by Ida B. Austin were incorporated into the collection. 2010 July 13

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Booker T. Washington Business Association.

Geographic Name(s)

- Michigan

Occupation(s)

- African American politicians.

Personal Name(s)

- Austin, Ida B., 1928-
- Casey, Jack -- History-Sources
- Hare, James H., (James Henry), 1856-1946 -- History
- Harriman, Averell, (William Averell), 1891-1986 -- History
- Peck, Fannie -- History
- Peck, William H., Reverend -- History
- Sheffield, Horace L., Jr., 1916-1995

Subject(s)

- Politics and culture in modern America

Secretary of State

Collection Inventory

Secretary of State

Certificates

Appearances-Speaker

	Box	Folder
Text	4	1

Appreciation: Gratitude & Esteem

	Box	Folder
Text	4	2

Completion: Member or Associate

	Box	Folder
Text	4	3

Contribution or Service

Certificates

	Box	Folder
Text	4	4

Governorship

	Box	Folder
Text	4	6

Military, Service to

	Box	Folder
Text	4	7

Public Service & Volunteer

	Box	Folder
Text	4	8

Recognition of Support

	Box	Folder
Text	4	9

Certificates

Tribute

	Box	Folder
Text	4	10

Wayne State University -- Scholarship Fund

	Box	Folder
Text	4	11

Clippings 1970

	Box	Folder
Text	1	7

Correspondence 1986-1994

	Box	Folder
Text	1	6

Donation to Boy Scouts of America 1992

Education Initiatives

	Box	Folder
Text	1	8

Education Initiatives

Educational -- Educational Systems Technology; Articles 1968-1972

	Box	Folder
Text	1	9

Health-Related 1962-1976

Classification System - Health Education Materials Undated

	Box	Folder
Text	1	10

Federal Extension Service / USDA - No. 2-5 1962-1963

	Box	Folder
Text	1	11

THETA (Teen Health Education Teaching Assistants) - USDA Undated

Health-Related

	Box	Folder
Text	1	12

Health Studies Curriculum

Changing the Framework of Program; Planning, etc. - Malcolm Merrill; X214

	Box	Folder
Text	1	13

OHB/HE 651 - Assignment Sheet; Program Planning for H.E.

	Box	Folder
Text	1	14

14.0 Planning For Health Education X-51

	Box	Folder
Text	1	15

14.0 Planning the Instructional Program; (Educ. & Man. of Patient c Diab.) - Transifax

	Box	Folder

Health-Related

Text	1	16
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14.0 Defining Mission, Goal, & Objective - (Programmed Instruc. Segment; USPHS - Trans. 2/74

	Box	Folder
Text	1	17

7.0 Behavioral Objectives as a Basis For Planning

	Box	Folder
Text	1	18

3.0 Behavioral Objectives -- A Selected Bibliography and Brief Review

	Box	Folder
Text	1	19

Assignment Sheet - Behavioral Objectives

	Box	Folder
Text	1	20

7.0 Stating Educational Objectives Behaviorally 3/69

Health-Related

	Box	Folder
Text	1	21

14.0 How to Plan

	Box	Folder
Text	1	22

14.0 Program Planning - An Organized Approach (John McCormick) Transifax

	Box	Folder
Text	1	23

14.0 Model For Comprehensive, Systematic Program Development in H. Educ.

	Box	Folder
Text	1	24

The Precede Framework (Figure 1.3) - Flowchart

	Box	Folder
Text	1	25

Health-Related

14.0 Vaccination Program, Health Education Plan (Xerox, No Stencil)

	Box	Folder
Text	1	26

14.00 Schematic Sequence of Educational Activities in the ____ Program; X-53B

	Box	Folder
Text	1	27

Educational Approaches in the Malaria Eradication Program - Dorothy Nyswander; 14.0

	Box	Folder
Text	1	28

14.0 The P-P-B Health Planning Process (Programmed Instruc. Segment) Transifax; 3/74

	Box	Folder
Text	1	29

14.0 Planning For Social Change: Dilemmas for Health Planning; John G. Bruhn - Trans. 2/74

Health-Related

	Box	Folder
Text	1	30

14.0 Developments in Evaluation: Their Implications For H. Ed. Practice -- Cochran

	Box	Folder
Text	1	31

22.0 H.E. 651 - Assignment Sheet -- Planning A Comprehensive Health Education Program

	Box	Folder
Text	2	32

14.0 Public Health Education and Health Care Delivery; UCS Detroit -- Trans. 3/74

	Box	Folder
Text	1	33

22.0 Assignment Sheet - Systems Approach to Program Planning

	Box	Folder
Text	1	34

Health-Related

14.0 Directions For Preparing a PERT Network -- Bemis, et al.; Xerox

	Box	Folder
Text	1	35

14.0 The PERT System: An Appraisal of Program Evaluation Review Technique - Daniel D. Roman

	Box	Folder
Text	1	36

14.0 PERT Exercise - Willston HMO; Transifax 3/74

	Box	Folder
Text	1	37

14.0 PERT Exercise - Willston HMO Diagrams and Lists of Events

	Box	Folder
Text	1	38

14.0 Statement of Events - PERT Continuing Educ. Prog. Plan #3

Health-Related

	Box	Folder
Text	1	39

22.0 Assignment Sheet - Evaluation of Health Education Programs

	Box	Folder
Text	1	40

22.0 HB/HE 651 - Outline of Content for Major Course Project

	Box	Folder
Text	1	41

14.0 Program Evaluation

	Box	Folder
Text	1	42

Product & Process Evaluation

	Box	Folder
Text	1	43

Health-Related

Evaluation: Categories & Foci

	Box	Folder
Text	1	44

Evaluation: Purposes and Method

	Box	Folder
Text	1	45

Evaluation: Designs

	Box	Folder
Text	1	46

10.0 Evaluation History

	Box	Folder
Text	1	47

Press Releases 1971-2006

Political and Community Organizations

	Box	Folder
Text	1	48

Event Programs

	Box	Folder
Text	1	50

Political and Community Organizations**Booker T. Washington Business Association**

"Hidden Costs in Racial Segregation" Address to BTWBA by Arthur Johnson 14 June 1961

	Box	Folder
Text	6	3

Newsletter 1961

	Box	Folder
Text	6	4

Programs

Constitutional Convention

	Box	Folder
Text	6	5

Civil Rights Commission Newsletter August 1966

	Box	Folder
Text	6	6

Constitutional Convention

	Box	Folder
Correspondence from Richard Austin Re: Arthur J. Koscinski undated	6	7

Correspondence from Don Binkowski RE: Richard Austin and the CONstitutional Convention

	Box	Folder
Text	6	8

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention

	Box	Folder
Text	6	9

Explanation of Democratic Vote "No" on Proposed Constitution 1962

Detroit Commission on Community Relations

	Box	Folder
Text	6	10

No. 136A, Journal of the COntitutional Convention 1962

	Box	Folder
Text	6	11

Report to Detroit Council for Political Education by the Michigan Constitutional Convention 1961

	Box	Folder
Text	6	12

Detroit Commission on Community Relations

Correspondence

	Box	Folder
Text	6	13

Newsletter

	Box	Folder
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Detroit Council for Political Education

Text	6	14
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Detroit Council for Political Education

Annual Address by Richard Austin 1962

	Box	Folder
Text	6	15

Annual Report

	Box	Folder
Text	6	16

Articles of Incorporation

	Box	Folder
Text	6	17

Breaches of Conduct 1959

	Box	Folder
Text	6	18

Detroit Council for Political Education

Committees, roster 1960

	Box	Folder
Text	6	19

Constitution, Draft

	Box	Folder
Text	6	20

Constitution 1959

	Box	Folder
Text	6	21

Council

	Box	Folder
Text	6	22

Council Program, Suggestions to Program Committee

Detroit Council for Political Education

	Box	Folder
Text	6	23

Correspondence, Incoming undated

	Box	Folder
Text	6	24

Correspondence, Incoming 1964

	Box	Folder
Text	1	2

Correspondence, with NAACP

	Box	Folder
Text	6	25

Correspondence, Outgoing from President Richard Austin

	Box	Folder
Text	6	26

Detroit Council for Political Education

Meeting Minutes

	Box	Folder
Text	6	27

Member Roster 1959-1964

	Box	Folder
Text	6	28

Memorandum

	Box	Folder
Text	6	29

Newsletter, Vol. II, No. IX October 1962

	Box	Folder
Text	6	30

Newsletter 1980

Detroit Council for Political Education

	Box	Folder
Text	6	31

Organization of Committees 1961

	Box	Folder
Text	6	32

Purpose, Program, and Platform

	Box	Folder
Text	6	33

Report of Special Planning Committee 1959

	Box	Folder
Text	6	34

Statement of purpose

	Box	Folder
Text	6	35

Personal

Stationary

	Box	Folder
Text	6	36

Treasurer's Reports

	Box	Folder
Text	6	37

Detroit Urban League, Correspondence & Study

	Box	Folder
Text	1	49

Personal**Separated Materials note**

1 Oversize Box for Phonograph Recording separated to the Oscar Micheaux Workroom.

Campaign Ephemera 1966-1970

	Box	Folder
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Personal

Text	1	1
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Certificate -- Friendship (From a Friend)

	Box	Folder
Text	4	5

Dedication Programs

	Box	Folder
Text	6	2

Obituary Programs 1944-2003

	Box	Folder
Text	1	3
	Box	Folder
Text	6	1

Paradise Theater Program 1987-1988

	Box	Folder
Text	1	4

Publications

Papal Blessing Card 1978

	Box	Folder
Text	1	5

"A Message to James Hare From Averell Harriman" (Side A); "Excerpts From a Speech by Maj. General John R. Deane" (Side B) -- (Sound Recording, 78rpm)

	Box	Box- folder
Audio	5	

Publications

Condition of our National Political Parties by Stephen K. Bailey

	Box	Folder
Text	6	38

Guidelines For Health Workers; 1965

	Box	Folder
Text	2	1

Michigan Department of State: Annual Report, 1970-1971

Mammoth Life and Accident Insurance Company Promotional Literature

	Box	Folder
Text	6	39

Michigan Department of State: Annual Report, 1970-1971	Box	Folder
	1	51

"Self-Care for Congestive Heart Failure Patients" [Return Before Discharge]

	Box	Folder
Text	2	2

Working Conference on the Evaluation of Health Education Materials for Domestic Agricultural Workers of Mexican and Spanish Descent, 1965

	Box	Folder
Text	2	3

Visual Materials

Photographs	Box
	P2

3

Photograph Scrapbook