

Worcester Comalapa Sister City Project (1981-1991, 1997)

Accession number 2020.36

Worcester Historical Museum

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Creators

Lincoln, Matthew J.

Related Materials

Size

2 boxes.

Forms of Material

Photographs, Correspondence, Plastic Banners, Publications.

Language

English, Spanish

Processed by

Matthew Lincoln, November-January 2020-2021 with the assistance of Librarian Wendy Essery.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the personal experiences of those involved in the Sister City Project as well as news articles and letters. The content gives an insightful look into how the operation functioned, those within the organization saw themselves, the crisis in Comalapa, and their own government.

Provenance

This collection was donated to Worcester Historical Museum without limiting conditions by Jerry Lemboke on September 09, 2019.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in chronological order. Photographs and Correspondence are included. Items are arranged in folders are also arranged in chronological order.

Biographical Note

The Sister City Project was initiated in 1956 during the Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower, with his person-to-person diplomacy initiative. The aim of this initiative was to spread peace throughout the world one city at a time. It gave many Americans the chance to learn about various cultures, while allowing the United States to spread its values too. During 1981-1991 Worcester became involved in this initiative. The city that Worcester partnered with was Comalapa, El Salvador. Comalapa was going through a civil war that started in 1979 and ended

in 1992. The war was between the established government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Minor communist/socialist groups were also part of the revolution such as the Sandinista National Liberation Front. Reagan saw the FMLN as a threat to stability in the Latin American region.

The main organizer Richard Schmidt would continue to teach about his involvement in this initiative as well as socialism and Marxism.

Names

Castillo, Otto Rene
Chamorro, Violetta
Ortega, Daniel
Reagan, Ronald
Schmidt, Richard

Subjects

Strife
Civil Unrest
Farabundo Marti National Libération Front.
Marxism.
Municipal Elections.
National Elections.
Nicaragua.
Sandinista National Liberation Front.
Sister City Project.
Trade Embargo.
United Opposition Union.
United States Invasion.
Voter Registration.
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Series List and Descriptions

Series I: Paper/Objects Dates: 1981-1991, 1997.

Extent: 10 folders.

Description: Folders 1-6 contains news articles, organizational forms, letters, names and dates, and firsthand accounts of those involved. Folder 7 has enclosed photographs of some of the people involved both in the USA and in Nicaragua. Folder 8 consists of receipts and bills that highlight the cost of the Sister City Project in Worcester. Folders 9-10 include important paperwork but are undated. Folder 11 comprises objects: two plastic banners and an armband the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front). Folder 12 consists of further letters, and anthology projects of Richard Schmidt. Schmidt continued to be an advocate for socialism long after his involvement for the Sister City project concluded. Folder 13 consists of the miscellaneous papers of the Rabbit Organization that was an offshoot of the Sister City Project.

Container List

Box 1	Folders 1-6	Paper: articles, forms, miscellaneous information
Box 1	Folder 7	Photographs
Box 1	Folder 8	Receipts
Box 2	Folder 9-10	Miscellaneous Paper: Undated
Box 2	Folder 11	Objects
Box 2	Folder 12	Schmidt: Anthology
Box 2	Folder 13	Rabbit Organization