

# A Guide to the Betsy Brinson collection of AIDS epidemic exhibit materials, 1998, 2016-2017 M 558

Betsy Brinson collection of AIDS epidemic exhibit materials  
1998, 2016-2017



## Title Statement

A Guide to the Betsy Brinson collection of AIDS epidemic exhibit materials, 1998, 2016-2017 M 558

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2018

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-04-14 07:02:17 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

M 558

### Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/565

### Unit Date

1998, 2016-2017

### Language

English

**source**

Brinson, Betsy

**Extent**

.42 Linear Feet one document box

**Repository**

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to research.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of Betsy Brinson in 2017.

**Preferred Citation**

Box/folder, Betsy Brinson collection of AIDS epidemic exhibit materials, 1998, 2016-2017, Collection # M 558, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

## Historical Information

The contents of this collection are associated with an exhibit presented at the Richmond Public Library in 2017 titled "The Modern Plague: Voices and Images of the Early AIDS Epidemic" by Betsy Brinson and Kathy Yost Benham which shared the stories of the communities and community allies who experienced the HIV/AIDS crisis in the 1980s and 1990s in central Virginia, particularly Richmond.

## Content Description

The bulk of the collection consists of oral history interviews conducted by Betsy Brinson in 2016 and 2017 with people who volunteered and worked with affected communities in the Richmond area during the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s. There are seven different interviews on cassette, all about thirty to forty minutes long. The interviews are digitized with links to the files in Series 1.

Researchers will find content relating to major HIV/AIDS organizations in Richmond that served the community during the AIDS epidemic along with a detailed history of those organizations. These organizations include the Fan Free Clinic, Richmond AIDS Information Network, Central Virginia Aids Services and Education, along with others. Also found in the collection are interview notes, a booklet from Transformation Retreats, and a laminated newspaper clipping describing the exhibit.

The collection provides insight into how HIV/AIDS has and continues to affect the Central Virginia region, along with the many challenges and hardships that people affected by HIV experienced during the epidemic. A researcher doing research on non-profit organizations, specifically Richmond non-profits, will find this collection to be extremely useful.

## Keywords

Gay activists -- Virginia -- Richmond

Gay rights -- Religious aspects

Gay men -- Virginia -- Richmond

Public health -- Virginia -- Richmond.

Brinson, Betsy

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: Series 1: Oral Histories, 2016-2017 and Series 2: Related materials, 1998, 2017

## Description of Subordinate Components

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### Series 1: Oral Histories

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57785

**Unit Date** 2016-2017

#### Jihad Abdulmumit oral history

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57786

**Unit Date** 2017

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### Scope and Contents

Length: 39:08

#### Chris Clarke oral history

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57787

**Unit Date** 2016

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### Scope and Contents

Length: 52:00

#### John Elliot oral history

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57788

**Unit Date** 2016

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

#### Scope and Contents

Length: 41:26

#### Ruth Fitzsimmons oral history

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57789

**Unit Date** 2017

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

#### Scope and Contents

Length: 56:32

#### Bill Harrison oral history

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57790

**Unit Date** 2016

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

#### Scope and Contents

Length: 48:24

#### Bob Higginson oral history

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57791

**Unit Date** 2017

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Scope and Contents**

Length: 50:33

**Russell Webb oral history**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57792

**Unit Date** 2017

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Scope and Contents**

Length: 39:24

**Series 2: Related Materials**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57793

**Unit Date** 1998, 2017

**Exhibit newspaper clipping**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57794

**Unit Date** 2017

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Transformation Retreats booklet**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/57795

**Unit Date** 1998

**Mixed Materials [A11423646137]** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)