



Historical Society of Long Beach
4260 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 www.hslb.org

LONG BEACH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY COLLECTION, 1961-2012

Finding aid prepared by Tristan Willenburg and Julie Bartolotto. The processing of this collection and creation of this finding aid were made possible by generous support from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association.

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Long Beach Redevelopment Agency Collection, 1961-2012

Dates: 1961-2012

Collection Number: 2017.029

Creator: City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency

Extent: Approximately 82.2 linear ft.

Abstract: The collection documents work of the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (LBRDA) to promote economic renewal in local neighborhoods. The Agency was formed in 1961 and dissolved by state law in 2012. The collection includes approximately 23,700 35mm slides as well as many photographic prints, negatives, digital files, oversized aerial photographs, maps, and documents. These items show neighborhoods both before and after the completion of LBRDA projects. They portray changes in Downtown Long Beach, West Beach, Central Long Beach, the Poly High Neighborhood, North Long Beach, Bixby Knolls, Los Altos, the Westside, and in other parts of the city.

Publishing Rights: All requests for permission to publish photographs or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of the Historical Society of Long Beach. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Historical Society of Long Beach as the owner of the physical items, and does not include permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of Item], Long Beach Redevelopment Agency Collection, Historical Society of Long Beach, Long Beach, California.

Acquisition Information: The collection was donated to the Historical Society of Long Beach in 2015 and 2017 after LBRDA was dissolved in 2012 pursuant to California State Legislation AB 1X 26.

Processing Information: The slides arrived in 75 three-ring binders, with the other items arriving with less organization. Once at the Historical Society of Long Beach, the materials were sorted and rehoused in acid free folders and boxes. Rehousing and cataloging of the collection was done by HSLB staff members Brandon Werts, Tristan Willenburg, Brian Chavez, Julie Bartolotto, and Yolanda Villegas, by volunteers Erin Perkins, Jade Cortez, and by Leadership Long Beach. This finding aid was prepared by Tristan Willenburg with help from Julie Bartolotto in 2019.

The processing of this collection and creation of this finding aid were made possible by generous support from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association.

Biography: The Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (LBRDA) was established in 1961 to promote economic renewal in local neighborhoods. Its work changed city streetscapes by altering various residential areas and commercial corridors.

The City of Long Beach's first focus of Redevelopment was the "Jungle," an area of small apartments and motels built around 1900 along the beach, west of Downtown. Subsequent LBRDA projects included Downtown Long Beach, Long Beach Boulevard, Pine Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, the Westside, Central Long Beach, the Poly High School neighborhood, Los Altos, Bixby Knolls, North Long Beach, and "brownfields project" areas with industrial or petroleum pollution, among others. In short, the LBRDA's work affected many areas of the City.

LBRDA was dissolved in 2012 through legislation by the State of California. At that time, it controlled 40% of the City's land, and millions of property tax dollars.

Scope and Content: The Long Beach Redevelopment Agency Collection documents the activities of the LBRDA in the City of Long Beach from the years 1961 through 2012. The materials include photographs, 35mm slides, documents, maps, compact disks, and video tapes. Areas of the city of Long Beach represented in the collection include Downtown Long Beach, Central Long Beach, the Poly High neighborhood, the Westside, North Long Beach, Los Altos, Bixby Knolls, and others.

Series 1 contains 35mm slides showing photographs of LBRDA projects. Many were taken by professional photographers such as Kayte Deioma. Others were taken by City staff members such as David Inocencio and City Photographer Andy Witherspoon. They are divided by location or project area. During processing, HSLB staff attempted to preserve LBRDA organization. In situations where slides were out of order, the group was very large, or the subjects of the photographs warranted it, the slides were reorganized to increase their utility to researchers. It should also be noted that some of the dates of the slide groupings are approximations, based on the slides in each group.

Series 2 consists of oversized aerial photographs, maps, and mounted materials. These materials were sorted and organized by project or geographic area. They relate to LBRDA projects in Downtown Long Beach, Long Beach Boulevard, Atlantic Boulevard, King Park, the Westside, Los Altos, Central Long Beach, and North Long Beach, and some smaller areas.

Series 3 consists of videotapes and compact disks, which contain a variety of documents, images, studies, financial reports, promotional materials, and other miscellaneous items. All these materials are in digital format.

Series 4 contains photographic prints, including some smaller versions of the aerials in Series 2. The photographs were rehoused in acid free folders and sorted according to project area.

Series 5 contains a variety of physical items including paper documents, reports, and promotional materials. These materials are not indexed.

Arrangement: The RDA Collection is arranged in five series. If more materials relevant to this collection are either donated to the Historical Society of Long Beach or found in HSLB's archival collections, these series may continue to be modified.

Series 1: Slides

20 Boxes, each containing 6 sub boxes

Series 2: Aerials and Maps (Oversized)

10 Oversized Folders

Series 3: CDs and VHS Tapes

1 Box

Series 4: Photographs

3 Boxes

Series 5: Documents

3 Boxes

Subjects:

Aerial photographs

Aerial views

Blight

Buildings, structures

City of Long Beach

City planning

Construction

Demolition

Development

Harbor

Housing

Maps

Neighborhoods

Photography

Redevelopment, Urban

35mm Slides

Slides

Streets

Transparency, Slide

Los Angeles River

Port of Long Beach

Urban blight

Urban planning

Personal Names (Photographers):

Baxter, Elmar
Carroll, Donna
Deioma, Kayte
Grimm, Michele
Grimm, Tom
Inocencio, David
Metiver, George
Morris, Jim
Mortimer, Arthur M.
Owens, Peg
Robinson, John
Siegel, Minette
Westervelt, Julie
Witherspoon, Andy

Government Names:

City of Long Beach
Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (Long Beach, Calif.)

Geographic Areas:

Belmont Shore (Long Beach, Calif.)
Bixby Knolls (Long Beach, Calif.)
California
Central Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)
Downtown Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)
Long Beach Harbor (Calif.)
Long Beach (Calif.)
Los Altos (Long Beach, Calif.)
Marina (Long Beach, Calif.)
Naples (Long Beach, Calif.)
North Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)
Poly High School Neighborhood (Long Beach, Calif.)
Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan (Long Beach, Calif.)
Southern California
Waterfront (Long Beach, Calif.)
West Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)
West Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)
West Long Beach Industrial (Long Beach, Calif.)
Westside (Long Beach, Calif.)