Records of J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue, Office of the Museum Director

Overview

Repository

Archives

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Archives

5401 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
archives@ringling.org

Creator

J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue

Title

Office of the Museum Directors, J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue

Date span

1957 - 1964

Language

English

Extent

1.5 linear feet

Arrangement

Chronological

Location

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Archives

Summary

J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue became the Acting Director of the Museum following Austin’s death in March 1957, and was officially named Director in May. Donahue came to the Museum as a Curatorial Librarian and later became Curator before being named as Director. Donahue inherited several ongoing projects from Austin and saw them to their successful conclusion. The files on the reinstallation of the Asolo Theater in its new building and establishment of Legislative Weekends in 1959 are interesting. Donahue’s directorship marked the beginning of the Museum’s acquisition of contemporary art. It was during Donahue’s tenure that air
conditioning was installed in the Art Museum. With the Wadsworth Athenaeum the exhibition “A Director’s Taste and Achievement,” a tribute to Everett Austin.

Provenance
The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

Information about access
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Cite As
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Processing Note
Collection updated May 2022 by H. Connor.

Related materials
Records of the Governing Boards

Subject Headings
Administration of estates – Florida
Business records
Business records-Florida-20th century
Executors and administrators – Florida
Florida – Officials and employees
Museum directors- Administration
Reports
State government records

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