

Guide to the Alice Key Papers

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Key, Alice
Title:	Alice Key Papers
ID:	MS-00095
Date [inclusive]:	1936-1995
Date [inclusive]:	1966-1990 (bulk)
Physical Description:	0.46 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	0.42 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Alice Key Papers, (1936-1995) contain certificates and awards, correspondence, newspaper clippings, invitations, programs, and pamphlets, all relating to her work in the African American community. There is also a VHS tape from January 30, 1995 featuring Alice Key, highlighting Black History Month.

Preferred Citation Note

Alice Key Papers, 1936-1995. MS-00095. Special Collections, University Libraries, Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Community activist, dancer, and newspaper columnist Alice Marie Key was born on March 18, 1911, in Henderson, Kentucky to Louise and Malcolm Key. As a young child, she moved to Riverside, California with her family. She finished high school in Riverside and then went to the University of California, Los Angeles to pursue a degree in journalism. Her mother managed a coffee shop near the famous Club Alabama in central Los Angeles, California. Key met a girl there who worked at the Cotton Club in Culver City, California, who eventually persuaded her to dance at the club, too. She left school and danced for the next five years."

Key's career as a dancer took her to New York where she worked at the Ubangi Club, and later, she spent six months in Europe touring with the Cotton Club Show. In 1943, Key ended her dancing career and started working as a writer for an African American newspaper, the "Los Angeles Tribune." In 1954, she moved to Las Vegas to take a job working for the "Las Vegas Voice." Not long after her arrival, Key and

Bob Bailey started the first all-African American television talk show in Las Vegas, "Talk of the Town," which she co-hosted for several months. In the 1960s, Key became the public relations manager for the Nevada Committee for the Rights of Women, which promoted education about birth control and fought for reforms to the abortion laws in Nevada. After that position, she worked for the Economic Opportunity Board until 1971. In 1983, Governor Richard Bryan named Key as the Deputy Commissioner of Labor, a position she held for ten years. She became involved in political campaigns, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and founded the Barbara Jordan Democratic Women's Club. When she retired from public service, Key worked to preserve the history of African Americans in Las Vegas through the Moulin Rouge Preservation Association and the Black History Society, Inc. On July 20, 2005, Key was inducted into KLAS, Channel 8's Wall of Fame. Key resided until her death on September 29, 2010, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Source: This biographical note is a direct quote from The History Makers.

<http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography/alice-key-41>

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Scope and Content

Alice Key Papers, (1936-1995) contain certificates and awards, correspondence, newspaper clippings, invitations, programs, and pamphlets all relating to her work in the African American community. She served on the board of the Moulin Rouge Preservation Association and was active in the Black History Society. Also included is an audiovisual tape featuring Alice Key, highlighting Black History Month from January 30, 1995 .

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Arrangement Note

Material remains in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access

This collection is open for research. Digital versions of this material are available through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Libraries website at: <http://digital.library.unlv.edu/objects?CISOOP1=all&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOROOT=all&CISOBOX1=MS+95-47&submit=Search+All>

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Acquisition Note

Original accession was donated in 1995 by Alice Key; accession number 95-47. Additional accession numbers; 2008-029, 2013-025, and 2014-11.

Processing note

Material was processed in 1995 by Joyce Marshall. In 2016 Joyce Moore edited and enhanced the collection description to bring it up to current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Some of the photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in Alice Key Photographs, 1936-1995. PH-0297. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Related Materials

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:
Key, Alice. Interview, 1997 February 17. F850.N4 K49 2009. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Dancers
- Public relations personnel -- Biography
- Political activists -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Biography
- African Americans -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Las Vegas Voice
- Talk of the town
- Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino -- History

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Certificates and Awards, 1980-1995	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence, 1989-1995	box 1	folder 2
Invitations, 1965-1995	box 1	folder 3
Las Vegas Review Journal, "Living" section, May, 19, 1993	box 1	folder 4
Las Vegas Review Journal, "Nevadan" section, September 17, 1989	box 1	folder 5
Las Vegas Review Journal "Nevadan" section, February 25, 1990	box 1	folder 6
Las Vegas Voice, July 21, 1990	box 1	folder 7
Newspaper clippings, 1936-1986	box 1	folder 8
Nevada Black History, Newspaper supplement, published 1992	box 1	folder 9
Photocopies and JPG images of photographs removed to Photo Collection 00297, circa 1940s-1970s	box 1	folder 10
Programs, 1937-1995	box 1	folder 11
Pamphlets, 1995-1996	box 1	folder 12
Newspaper clippings, undated	box 1	folder 14
Correspondence and speeches, undated	box 1	folder 15
Newspaper clippings, 1954, 1965, 1976, and 1979	box 1	folder 16
Awards, certificates and proclamations, undated	box 1	folder 13
Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1980-2004	box 1	folder 17
Photographic prints, circa 1950s-1980s	box 1	folder 18
Video recording (VHS tape) Channel 8 KLAS-TV Black History Month: Alice Key, January 30, 1995	box 1	folder 19

