

**THE MINT MUSEUM
INSTITUTIONAL ARCHIVES
AR2015.4
Learning & Engagement School Programs
Finding aid prepared by Christina Petty**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 03, 2025

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

The Mint Museum Archives
1/3/2017
2730 Randolph Road
Charlotte, North Carolina, 28207
archive@mintmuseum.org

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Summary Information

Repository	The Mint Museum Archives
Creator	Palmer, Cheryl
Title	LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT SCHOOL PROGRAMS
Date [inclusive]	1994-2010
Extent	0.4 Cubic feet 1 letter box
Language	English
Material Specific Details note	Correspondence (letters and printed copies of emails), Newspaper clippings, photograph, slides, DVDs, MAC Diskettes, and other paper items such as: Newsletters, Grant Application, Praxis Research Report, Teacher Resource Guides, Student Activity handouts, and Free Family Passes to the museum.
Abstract	Cheryl Palmer was an employee for 35 years at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC. She retired on November 12, 2014 as the Director of Learning & Engagement. These materials relate to the D.I.G.S. (Deciphering & Investigating Great Societies), Crafting North Carolina, and "Telling Images: The Artist as Visual Storyteller" programs spanning from 1994-2010.

Preferred Citation note

Learning & Engagement School Programs, 1994-2010, The Mint Museum Archives, Charlotte, Accession no. AR2015.4.

Biographical/Historical note

Cheryl Palmer “has a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Smith College and completed Master of Arts coursework in Art History at the University of Oklahoma. Prior to her role at The Mint Museum, Palmer worked at the Indianapolis Museum of Art; the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma, her hometown; and she taught art history at the University of Tulsa. Her first job was as an artist/illustrator with the Peace Corps in Niger, Africa, using the visual language of drawing to counter illiteracy.” Retrieved from <https://www.mintmuseum.org/news/cheryl-palmer-longtime-mint-museum-educator-to-retire-november-14/>

Scope and Contents note

This collection of materials was part of the Mint Museum’s Director of Learning & Engagement, Cheryl Palmer’s files spanning from 1994 to 2010 as they relate to the formation of the D.I.G.S. program from grant application, pilot programs, and the fruition to Fifth Grade education in the Charlotte, NC Mecklenburg County school system. They are an example of the Mint Museum’s collaboration with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public School System (CMS). Additionally a small set of documents related to an offshoot of D.I.G.S, called Crafting North Carolina, which was launched for Fourth Graders is also included in Palmer’s files.

In addition to correspondence (printed emails and paper letters) between Palmer, Jill Shuford (School Programs Coordinator at the Mint Museum), IMS (Institute of Museum Services), North Carolina Arts Council, there is a grant application and D.I.G.S. Program Evaluation Final Report by Praxis Research dated 1995-1996. Also D.I.G.S. MAC diskettes (A Virtual Archaeology Exploration of the Maya, Inca, & Aztec World by Interactive Knowledge, Inc.) and DVDs (Telling Images: The Artists As Visual Storyteller for Dilworth Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School) are included. Many D.I.G.S.ephemera such as Free Family Passes, Passport Plus, Teacher Resource Guide, Activities for D.I.G.S are included. A few newspaper clippings, slides, and one photograph are retained. The primary date range for the collection is 1994-2010.

Arrangement note

The Cheryl Palmer Learning & Engagement School Programs Collection is arranged into 3 series. The series are as follows: Series 1: D.I.G.S. Folder 1: Newsletters & Correspondence Folder 2: Grant Application, North Carolina Arts Council Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings Folder 4: Program Evaluation (Praxis Research) Folder 5: Teacher Resources Folder 6: Student Activities Folder 7: IMS Museum Leadership Initiative Requests Folder 8: Correspondence Re: CMS Budget Cuts Folder 9: Ephemera Folder 10: Mint Museum CMS Collaborative Smithsonian Teleconference Folder 11: Miscellaneous Series 2: Crafting North Carolina Folder 12: Crafting North Carolina Series 3: DVDs Folder 13: Telling Images: The Artist as Visual Storyteller

Administrative Information

Publication Information

The Mint Museum Archives 1/3/2017

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Acquired: 1.16.2015. This collection was acquired after Palmer retired in November 2014, while Joel Smeltzer held the role of Head of School & Gallery Programs. Items were flipped into chronological order as they had been received in reverse chronological order and were given to the Mint Museum Archive Department by Smeltzer according to museum Archivist, Ellen Show. The original order is not known as the materials were removed from Palmer's possession at an unknown time.

General note

School Programs D.I.G.S. (Deciphering & Investigating Great Societies) Crafting North Carolina Grant Application Institute of Museum Services (IMS) Praxis Report CMS Budget Cuts

Series 1: D.I.G.S.

Collection Inventory**AR2015.4 Series 1: D.I.G.S. 0.55 Cubic feet 11 file folders**

AR2015.4.1.1 Folder 1: D.I.G.S. 1994-1996 1994-1996 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

A Virtual Archaeology Exploration of the Maya, Inca & Aztec World diskettes (2) for Macintosh Computers; IMS Access newsletter; Grant timeline & budget & proposal; Grant acceptance press release; Museum leadership awards; D.I.G.S. ephemera; slides of museum artifacts; 1994-1995 programs for students & teachers program; Denver Art Museum pre-Columbian/Spanish Colonial Art; D.I.G.S. Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) workshop agenda; 1996 NCAC funds to expand D.I.G.S. beyond CMS

AR2015.4.1.2 Folder 2: D.I.G.S. 1996-1997 1996-1997 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

Amendment to Contract & Contract with North Carolina Arts Council (NCAC); Correspondence with Cheryl Palmer; Grant Application; IMS 1995 Museum Leadership Initiative award letter; Family Passport for 5th Grade curriculum study of Latin America Pre-Visit Questionnaire; D.I.G.S. project evaluation calendar of activities; Grant award congratulatory letters; Mid-year Status Summary D.I.G.S.

AR2015.4.1.3 Folder 3: D.I.G.S. 1995-1996 1995-1996 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

Series 1: D.I.G.S.

1996 Charlotte Observer D.I.G.S.; Feb 1995 NAEA press release IMS Leadership Initiative Grant D.I.G.S. project

AR2015.4.1.4 Folder 4: D.I.G.S 1995-1996 1995-1996 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

DIG IT feedback; D.I.G.S. evaluation; Praxis Research D.I.G.S. program evaluation Final Report

AR2015.4.1.5 Folder 5: D.I.G.S. 1994-1996 1994-1996 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

D.I.G.S. Passport Plus- Classroom & Family Activities for CMS 5th Grade students & D.I.G.S. ephemera; D.I.G.S. Teacher Resource Guide

AR2015.4.1.6 Folder 6: D.I.G.S. 2001 2001 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

Dig It! A Children's Guide to pre-Columbian Art; D.I.G.S. activities for children

AR2015.4.1.7 Folder 7: D.I.G.S. 1994-1995 1994-1995 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

D.I.G.S. IMS Museum Leadership Grant Proposals

AR2015.4.1.8 Folder 8: D.I.G.S. 2009 2009 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

Series 2: Crafting North Carolina

CMS budget cut correspondence

AR2015.4.1.9 Folder 9: D.I.G.S. 2001-2010 2001-2010 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

D.I.G.S. Curriculum Guide for 5th Grade Latin American Social Studies site visit; ephemera (Family Passes)

AR2015.4.1.10 Folder 10: D.I.G.S. 1996 1996 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

Panelists for “Museums as Partners in School Reform”; Smithsonian Teleconference Cheryl Palmer & Faye Bowman

AR2015.4.1.11 Folder 11: D.I.G.S. 1998 1998 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

Miscellaneous letter re: Maya Hieroglyph writing workshop

AR2015.4 Series 2: Crafting North Carolina 2001 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

AR2015.4.1.12 Folder 12: Crafting North Carolina 2001 2001 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

Crafting North Carolina for 4th Graders, A Hands-On Exploration of NC's hand-made heritage; 2005 Interactive Knowledge handbook for web site project guide; Docent guides for Mint Museum galleries: Alexander, Spangler, Harris & Delhom

Series 3: Telling Images: The Artist As Visual Storyteller 2005-2006

AR2015.4 Series 3: Telling Images: The Artist As Visual Storyteller 2005-2006 2005-2006 0.05
Cubic feet 1 file folder

AR2015.4.13 Folder 13: Telling Images: The Artist As Visual Storyteller 2005-2006 2006-2006 0.05
Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

The Mint Museums And Arts Teach At Dilworth Visual & Performing Arts Magnet Present – Telling Images: The Artist As Visual Storyteller (DVDs: 2 edited versions, 1 unedited version 2005-2006)

AR2015.4 Series 4: Miscellaneous n.d.

AR2015.4.1.19 Box 1 Folder 19: Children's Guide n.d. 0.05 Cubic feet 1 file folder

Scope and Contents note

1 black and white booklet, Making Friends At The Mint Museum: A Children's Guide to Pictures in the Permanent Collection

Accruals note

Accrual added 12/4/2019.