

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

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A Collection in Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library M 558  
Virginia Commonwealth University, James Branch Cabell Library  
2018

## History

**Processed by:** Jonathan Faulconer

## Title Statement

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

**Subtitle:** Betsy Brinson collection of AIDS epidemic exhibit materials

**Collection:** M 558

**Author:** Jonathan Faulconer

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Margaret Kidd, 9/24/2018

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection number

M 558

### Language

English

### Collector

Brinson, Betsy

### Extent

0.42 linear feet.

### Repository

Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University

## 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. 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 -- Archives -- 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

### Series 1: Oral Histories

**Unit Date** 2016-2017

#### **Jihad Abdulmumit oral history**

**Unit Date** 2017

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### **Digital Archival Object**

Jihad Abdulmumit oral history

#### **Digital Archival Object**

Jihad Abdulmumit oral history transcript

**Scope and Contents**

Length: 39:08

**Chris Clarke oral history**

**Unit Date** 2016

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Digital Archival Object**

Chris Clarke oral history

**Digital Archival Object**

Chris Clarke oral history transcript

**Scope and Contents**

Length: 52:00

**John Elliot oral history**

**Unit Date** 2016

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Digital Archival Object**

John Elliot oral history

**Digital Archival Object**

John Elliot oral history transcript

**Scope and Contents**

Length: 41:26

**Ruth Fitzsimmons oral history**

**Unit Date** 2017

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Digital Archival Object**

Ruth Fitzsimmons oral history

**Digital Archival Object**

Ruth Fitzsimmons oral history transcript

**Scope and Contents**

Length: 56:32

**Bill Harrison oral history**

**Unit Date** 2016

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Digital Archival Object**

Bill Harrison oral history

**Digital Archival Object**

Bill Harrison oral history transcript

**Scope and Contents**

Length: 48:24

## **Bob Higginson oral history**

**Unit Date** 2017

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

### **Digital Archival Object**

Bob Higginson oral history

### **Digital Archival Object**

Bob Higginson oral history transcript

### **Scope and Contents**

Length: 50:33

## **Russell Webb oral history**

**Unit Date** 2017

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

### **Digital Archival Object**

Russell Webb oral history

### **Digital Archival Object**

Russell Webb oral history transcript

### **Scope and Contents**

Length: 39:24

## **Series 2: Related Materials**

**Unit Date** 1998, 2017

### **Exhibit newspaper clipping**

**Unit Date** 2017

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

### **Transformation Retreats booklet**

**Unit Date** 1998

**Box/folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)