

Portable Channel Paper Archive

Collection Overview:

Title:	Portable Channel
Inclusive Dates:	1970-1990
Creator:	Portable Channel
Quantity:	6 boxes
Abstract:	Paper and photographic archive of early video collective Portable Channel
Language:	English
Repository:	Visual Studies Workshop 31 Prince Street Rochester, NY 14607

Arrangement of Finding Aid

- I. Biographical Note
- II. Scope and Content
- III. Arrangement
- IV. Administrative History
- V. Box Description
- VI. Related Materials

I. Biographical Note:

Portable Channel was a non-profit community video center that existed in Rochester, N.Y. from 1970-1987. Founded by Bonnie Sherr Klein, Portable Channel supported community access to video equipment, provided training, and produced programs with an emphasis on community activism and documentary work. Portable Channel's mission was to expand television into a medium for social dialog and artistic expression by encouraging community involvement in TV production. Portable Channel was one of the first community video centers to have regularly scheduled programming on broadcast television (Homemade TV 1972-1975).

II. Scope and Content:

The collection consists of photographic materials, meeting minutes, correspondence, posters, newspaper clippings, financial information and other materials related to Portable Channel.

III. Arrangement:

Items in the collection are arranged by format type.

IV. Administrative Information:

Preferred Citation: [Document title], [document date], [bin #], Portable Channel Archive, Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, New York

Acquisition Info: Donated by Portable Channel

Finding Aid Info: Created by Connor Wilkes
Date: March-June 2022

V. Box Descriptions:

BOX I: Historical Information, Board and Meeting Information

This box primarily contains a variety of documents on Portable Channel and its history, including essays, press releases, correspondence with board members, meeting agendas and minutes, tape information and financial information.

File #

- 1 General History
- 2-3 Tape Logs and Tape Information
- 4 Press Releases

- 5 1972 Tax Exemption Information
- 6-7 Employee and Board Information
- 8 1975 Board Minutes and Information
- 9 1976 Board Minutes and Information
- 10 1977 Board Minutes and Information
- 11 1978 Board Minutes and Information
- 12 1979 Board Minutes and Information
- 13 1983-1987 Board Minutes and Information
- 14 Public Access and Cable Television
- 15 Proposals for Restructuring Portable Channel 1978 and 1983
- 16 Productions and Public Viewings 1977
- 17 Grant Information
- 18 Tax Information
- 19 Portable Channel Mailing List
- 20 Membership List
- 21 By-laws 1972-1979
- 22 Financial 1977-1979
- 23 Funds and Financial
- 24 Portable Channel Logo and Type, Transparency for T-shirt
- 25 Miscellaneous
- 26 Press Release and Newspaper clippings for Women Ministers Tape
- 27 Nancy Rosin Folder (Meeting Info, Notes, PC Tape Catalog)
- 28 Portable Channel Information Printed From Internet

BOX II: Financial Information, Grant Information and Applications

This box primarily contains documents pertaining to Portable Channel’s financial and grant information.

File #

- 1 Hispanic Festival 1987
- 2 “Pigment Forest” and Urban League of Rochester Information
- 3 NEA Contract and Forms 1985
- 4 1987-1988 Bills and Receipts
- 5 1987-1990 Bank Statements and Information
- 6 740 University Ave. Building Proposal
- 7 Information on Allofus Art Workshop Building (740 University Ave.)
- 8-9 Bank Statements
- 10 Compensation, 1987 Tax Information and PC Closure Information
- 11 NYSCA Information 1985-1987

- 12 Skip Battaglia "Geological Time" NEA and information 1986
- 13 NEA Information 1986-1987
- 14 Material on Meetings and 1987 Invoices
- 15 Form BSW and Form 990 1981
- 16 Form BSW and Form 990 1983
- 17 Tax Information 1983-1985
- 18 Tax Information 1987
- 19 Blank Letterhead and Envelopes
- 20 Portable Channel Review Committee
- 21 Website Print of Portable Channel Information

BOX III: Newspapers, Magazines, Ephemera, Miscellaneous

This box contains assorted paper materials and ephemera related to Portable Channel. This includes: Feedback Feedforward newsletters, newspapers, magazines and other ephemera. This box also has the Portable Channel Tape Catalog.

BOX IV: Posters and Ephemera

This box contains posters related to Portable Channel. The posters are from tape screenings, workshops, artist in residence posters, and exhibitions. This box also contains a folder of oversized newspaper clipping scans.

BOX V: Photographs

- Box 5.1: Photographs
- Box 5.2: Photographs
- Box 5.3: Photographs [small]
- Box 5.4: Contact Sheets

Photographs have been cataloged on an item level and a spreadsheet can be found [here](#).

BOX VI: Negatives

This box contains 32 sleeves of multiple negative strips. The strips have been cataloged on an item level and a spreadsheet of them can be found [here](#).

VI. Related Materials:

Visual Studies Workshop additionally holds 1268 videos in the Portable Channel collection, donated largely by Portable Channel. The formats of the tapes are ½” open reel and ¾” Umatic. They are held in the Moving Image Archive at the Visual Studies Workshop, a secure location.

The tapes have been cataloged on an item level. A detailed spreadsheet of the tapes can be found [here](#).

Visual Studies Workshop is actively working to digitize the tapes of the Portable Channel collection. A Vimeo showcase of digitized items can be found [here](#).