

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.278]

---

### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### Urban League of Kansas City Collection

*Abstract:* This collection contains photograph reproductions and microfilm reproductions of original images and records pertaining to the Urban League of Kansas City: black history, African-American history.

*Extent:* 1/3 cubic feet

*Physical Description:* Photograph prints; microfilm

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* TIFs and JPGs of photographs

*Access Restrictions:* One reel of microfilm and one photograph are restricted

*Publication Restrictions:* None

*Preferred Citation:* [description of item], [date]; *Urban League of Kansas City Collection*, Record Group 998.278; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Loaned for copying; Accession #1999-0070

*Processing Information:* Processing begun by BC on 02/19/1999, completed by AM on 08/11/2011. Updated by EW on 05/09/2017, 03/24/2021 and 04/12/2021.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Urban League of Kansas City was founded in 1919 and is part of the National Urban League, a community-based organization promoting civil rights and educational, personal and economic development for African Americans.

Originally named the Urban League for Negroes of Kansas City, the organization's early focus was on immigrants and soldiers returning from World War I. Through educational training and

employment, the Urban League hoped to improve equality in the workplace for African Americans. Their efforts centered on empowerment and the belief that economic self-reliance would foster equality within the existing system of segregation.

Both men and women benefited from the various services provided by the Urban League of Kansas City. Working mothers could take advantage of a Day Nursery and Health Clinics. The On the Job Training Program prepared workers for jobs such as home services, porters, or factory workers. The Urban League of Kansas City was also an activist organization, attending bill hearings regarding public accommodations and planning for the proposed 1941 March on Washington.

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

MS336 Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection  
RG820 Kansas City Parks & Recreation Photograph Collection

Microfilm reels #C15701-15703 contain records of the St. Louis Urban League.

Coulter, Charles E. Take up the Black Man's Burden: Kansas City's African American communities, 1865-1939. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2006. Call No. R 977.8 C83215.

### Additional External Resources

Kansas City Public Library's Missouri Valley Special Collections maintains the following collections, records, and publications regarding the Urban League:

- 1) 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial: 1920-2020: <https://kchistory.org/coloringkc/19th>
- 2) John Ramos Collection: <https://kchistory.org/research/john-ramos-collection>
- 3) Reverend William Clark vertical file:  
<https://kchistory.org/islandora/object/kchistory%253A68201>
- 4) Esther Brown vertical file: <https://kchistory.org/islandora/object/kchistory%253A67075>

The Missouri History Museum in St. Louis maintains the following collection:  
[#P0911 Carrie Bash Photograph Collection](#)

The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia maintains the following collections:  
[#S0093 Urban League of St. Louis, Inc. Collection, 1938-1982](#)  
[#T0025 Interview with Sidney Redmond, July 6, 1970](#)

The State Historical Society of Missouri in Kansas City maintains the following collection:  
[#K1219 Thomas A. Webster Papers, 1921-1988](#)

The Urban League of Greater Kansas City: <https://www.ulkc.org/>.

## SERIES

Photographs (1922-1959)

Documents (1920-1998)

## PHOTOGRAPHS, 1922-1959

*Arrangement:* By size and then roughly chronologically

### Scope and Content

The 92 photographs in this collection illustrate the early years of the Urban League of Kansas City. Subjects include conventions and meetings, training and education, health services, summer camps and athletics. The photographs in this series are copy prints made in 1999; originals were returned to the donor.

Digital TIF images are on the Z Drive. JPGs are on Missouri Digital Heritage (MDH) here: [http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=kcurbanleague](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=kcurbanleague).

### Container List

See the Excel spreadsheet for an item-by-item listing. One image is restricted as indicated in the spreadsheet.

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	85	3	8x10 Copy Prints with 4x5 Copy Negatives	1922-1947
	84	49-124	5x7 Copy Prints with 4x5 Copy Negatives	1927-1959

## DOCUMENTS, 1920-1998

*Arrangement:* By reel number

### Scope and Content

This record series is a set of four 16mm microfilm reels made from original documents of the Urban League of Kansas City. Records include meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, programs, activities, etc.

*NOTE: For a more detailed listing of these records, see the accession paperwork.*

### Container List

Location	Reel	Contents	Date
Reference	#M330	1) Annual Meeting Minutes, 1933-1969 2) Annual Meeting Minutes, 1970-1975 3) Black Adoption Program, 1950-1986 4) Committee Minutes, 1940-1956 5) Committee Minutes, 1952-1990 6) Financial Records, 1955-1994 7) Historic Records, 1920-1946 8) Historic Records, 1950-1992 9) Guild Records, 1956-1995	1920-1995
Reference	#M331	1) Publications, 1945-1960 2) Publications, 1934-1989 3) Publications, 1930-1993 4) Publications, 1987-1996 5) Board of Directors Minutes, 1932-1939 6) Meeting Minutes, 1942-1947 7) Meeting Minutes, 1950-1954 8) Meeting Minutes, 1955-1959 9) Meeting Minutes, 1960-1963 10) Meeting Minutes, 1970-1990	1932-1996
Reference	#M332	1) Meeting Minutes, 1971-1995 2) Newspaper Clippings, 1932-1938 3) Newspaper Clippings, 1962-1980 4) Newspaper Clippings, 1980-1998 5) Program & Activity Summaries, 1978-1995 6) Program & Activity Summaries, 1968-1975 7) Negro Charity League, 1933-1936 8) Programs & Projects, 1932-1940 9) Programs & Projects, 1951-1996 10) Programs & Projects, 1933-1996 11) Staff Documents, 1935-1996** THIS ITEM IS RESTRICTED BECAUSE IT CONTAINS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS	1932-1998
Reference	#M333	1) Press Releases, 1988-1989 2) Strategic Plan, 1991-1996	1920-1992

		3) Staff Photographs, 1920-1934 4) Photographs, 1950-1959 5) Staff Obituaries, 1977-1992 6) Newspaper Clippings, 1976-1977 7) Secretary of the Year, 1965-1967 8) Staff Meeting Minutes, 1935-1959	
--	--	---	--

New Box #	New Folder #	Image #	Date	Title	Description	Other Information	Old Box #	Old Folder #
85	3	MS278_111_01_001.tif	1927	National Urban League Convention, St. Louis	Conference Attendees on sidewalk outside "Peoples Building." Building is decorated with flag bunting and a banner that reads "Welcome Headquarters National Urban League Conference March 29th to April 1st, 1927."	negative in folder	111	1
85	3	MS278_111_02_002.tif	1927	National Urban League Convention, St. Louis	Conference Attendees on sidewalk outside "Peoples Building." Building is decorated with flag bunting and a banner that reads "Welcome Headquarters National Urban League Conference March 29th to April 1st, 1927."	negative in folder; Duplicate of Image #1	111	2
85	3	MS278_111_03_003.tif	1929	"Worker Winning Team, Pearl M. Dabney, Capt"	1929 Charity Drive. Large group poses with two trophies.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	111	3
85	3	MS278_111_04_004.tif	1929	"Lieutenant Winning Team Pearl Dabney Capt"	1929 Charity Drive. Group poses with trophies.	negative in folder	111	4
85	3	MS278_111_05_005.tif	n.d.	"Urban League Community Xmas Mrs. Dabney Chairman"	Group poses with Christmas decorations and toys, brooms, books, apples and other gifts.	negative in folder	111	5
85	3	MS278_111_06_006.tif	1930s	Unidentified Group Meeting	Unidentified Group Meeting. Attendees seated in rows of folding chairs.	negative in folder	111	6
85	3	MS278_111_07_007.tif	May 12-14, 1932	"National Conference of the Urban League, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania"	Conference Attendees in front of YWCA Building	2 copies and negative in folder	111	7
85	3	MS278_111_08_008.tif	Jan. 30, 1933	"14th Annual Banquet Urban League City Club, Kansas City, MO"	Formally dressed men and women seated at tables in large banquet room.	negative in folder; Photo: Cresswell's K.C.Mo.	111	8
85	3	MS278_111_09_009.tif	Sept. 25-29, 1946	"National Urban League Conference, St. Louis, MO"	Group stands on steps of building with large white columns.	negative in folder	111	9
85	3	MS278_111_10_010.tif	1947	"National Urban League Conference, Camp Atwater"	Conference Attendees	negative in folder	111	10
85	3	MS278_111_11_011.tif	1947	"National Urban League Conference, Camp Atwater"	Conference Attendees	2 copies and negative in folder; Cropped duplicate of #10	111	11
85	3	MS278_111_12_012.tif	7/21/1923	"Annual Picnic Montgomery Ward & Co. Porters"	Liberty Park, Kansas City	3 copies and negative in folder; Photo: Anderson Photo Co. KC	111	12
85	3	MS278_111_13_013.tif	June 11-13, 1931	"The National Conference of the Urban League St. Paul Minnesota"	Group poses in front of large stone building.	2 copies and negative in folder	111	13

85	3	MS278_111_14_014.tif	Oct. 16-19, 1922	"9th Annual Conference National Urban League, Kansas City, MO"	Attendees pose outside brick building.	2 copies and negative in folder; Photo: Anderson 1912 Grand Av K.C.	111	14
85	3	MS278_111_15_015.tif	1930s	Circa 1930's Unidentified Dinner Meeting	Men and women are seated at tables while a group of young persons, perhaps students in uniform, line the wall on the left side of the room.	negative in folder	111	15
85	3	MS278_111_16_016.tif	May 19, 1934	"National Urban League Dinner Hotel Ambassador, Kansas City, MO"	Men and women in formal dress are seated at tables in a large ballroom.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	111	16
84	49	MS278_112_01_017.tif	1940s	Men at U.S. Army Recruitment Office	A man looks at an Army pamphlet while men in uniform stands around him.	negative in folder	112	1
84	50	MS278_112_02_018.tif	Dec. 1945	Regional Conference National Urban League at St. Louis	A group poses on front steps of building.	negative in folder	112	2
84	51	MS278_112_03_019.tif	n.d.	Social Service Department	Mrs. Goss cooperating with Urban League Cooking Class, appears to be a training class	negative in folder; Photo: Williams Studio KC Mo.	112	3
84	52	MS278_112_04_020.tif	1940's	Outdoor Scene Tennis Court	African American female tennis player in foreground, along with group of small children at the fence.	negative in folder; Photo: Williams Studio KC Mo.	112	4
84	53	MS278_112_05_021.tif	1940's	Unidentified African American female tennis player	Woman poses with raquet on tennis court.	negative in folder	112	5
84	54	MS278_112_06_022.tif	n.d.	"Outlining Charity Campaign in Westside"	Two women seated are (left) Miss Saline Bolden and (right) Miss Massie Briggs	negative in folder; 2932 Summit	112	6
84	55	MS278_112_07_023.tif	ca 1948-1950	Presentation of gift to hospital by Urban League Board of Directors	Members of the Urban League Board of Directors presented an instrument table and immersion basins to Wheatley Provident Hospital as a memorial to Urban League Board member Dr. Edward P Heller.	negative in folder	112	7
84	56	MS278_112_08_024.tif	n.d.	Cobbler Training	Men working on equipment making leather shoes.	negative in folder	112	8
84	57	MS278_112_08_025.tif	n.d.	Maid/Domestic Training	Group of women in maid uniforms gather around table for demonstration.	negative in folder	112	8
84	58	MS278_112_09_026.tif	n.d.	Shirley Hill, Office Manager, Jack Norman's Mens Shop	Woman seated at desk with office equipment and ledger book.	negative in folder	112	9
84	59	MS278_112_10_027.tif	n.d.	Coffee Served at Secretarial Clinic	Women gather around a snack and drink table.	negative in folder	112	10
84	60	MS278_112_11_028.tif	n.d.	Unidentified Event	Women gather inside home for an unidentified event.	negative in folder	112	11
84	61	MS278_112_12_029.tif	n.d.	Unidentified Presentation	A man is presented with what appears to be a check and a handshake from a second man, while two other men look on.	negative in folder	112	12



84	62	MS278_112_13_030.tif	May-June 1947	Partial View of the Exhibit of Outstanding Negro Americans	Displayed in Carver Neighborhood Center in Kansas City	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	13
84	63	MS278_112_14_031.tif	1940s	Applying for Jobs	Group looks at stacks of papers in an office setting.	negative in folder	112	14
84	64	MS278_112_15_032.tif	1940s	Speaker Thomas A. Webster, Executive Director Urban League	Webster stands at a podium with people sitting in chairs behind him (see also 112_61_077)	negative in folder	112	15
84	65	MS278_112_16_033.tif	1927	Boys Camp	Large group of young men in uniform pose in front of line of cabins in background. Most likely they are Boy Scouts at a camp.	negative in folder; Photo: J.E. Miller, KC '27	112	16
84	66	MS278_112_17_034.tif		Nursery School Children	Group of young children pose. Caption reads "While Their Mothers Work The Day Nursery Keeps Them."	negative in folder	112	17
84	67	MS278_112_18_035.tif		West Side Homemakers Club #2 Organized by Urban League	Two men and twelve women gather in room with piano.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	18
84	68	MS278_112_19_036.tif	c1933	Progress Trophy, National Negro Health Movement	awarded to Negro Health Committee Kansas City, Missouri for years 1931-1932-1933.	negative in folder	112	19
84	69	MS278_112_20_037.tif	May 22-31, 1932	Better Homes Exhibit, Social Service Department, Urban League of Kansas City, Mo	Two men repair old furniture as a woman looks on.	negative in folder	112	20
84	70	MS278_112_21_038.tif	1932	North Side Day Nursery	Children pose on steps outside school building.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	21
84	71	MS278_112_22_039.tif	Aug. 25-29, 1934	Urban League Girls Camp, Rotary Club Camp, Lee's Summit	Group of girls of varying ages poses next to streetcar line on cobblestone street.	negative in folder	112	22
84	72	MS278_112_23_040.tif	1935	Well Baby Station	Doctor and three nurses examining two tables of babies as group of women sits in back of the room.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	23
84	73	MS278_112_24_041.tif	1930's	Health Clinic, Urban League	Large room of mothers and babies being examined by Doctors and nurses.	2 photos and 2 negatives in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	24
84	74	MS278_112_25_042.tif		Jr. Urban League Girls Basketball Team	Group of girls in basketball uniform jumpers pose with ball in gymnasium.	negative in folder	112	25
84	75	MS278_112_26_043.tif	1934	Urban League Home Service Class	Women holding certificates or diplomas pose as a group.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	26
84	76	MS278_112_27_044.tif		Daily Employment Registration in Urban League Office	Group of men and women wait to speak to office workers.	negative in folder	112	27
84	77	MS278_112_28_045.tif	1930's	Short Wave Broadcast from Urban League	Dr. E. B. Perry, Wheatley-Provident Hospital speaking into microphone.	negative in folder	112	28
84	78	MS278_112_29_046.tif	1930's	Woman at Microphone	Member of the Urban League Rhino Club which furnished--score of the short wave broadcast--Charities Campaign	negative in folder	112	29

84	79	MS278_112_30_047.tif	1930	Camp Scene	Two young ladies with Red Cross Lifesavers insignia on swimsuits, poolside	negative in folder	112	30
84	80	MS278_112_31_048.tif	1930's	Community Picnic/Urban League	Group of men and women poses in outdoor setting.	negative in folder; Photo: Elko	112	31
84	81	(none)		UL Health Clinic 1930's	No image found		112	32
84	82	MS278_112_33_049.tif	1930's	Urban League Health Clinic	Dentist works on a patient in chair while receptionist and patients waiting to be seen sit to the side.	negative in folder	112	33
84	83	MS278_112_34_050.tif		Urban League Industrial Services for Women and Girls	People watch performance by children in a room decorated with streamers.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	34
84	84	MS278_112_35_051.tif		Christmas Toy Project	Five men and one woman work on building toys in workshop.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	35
84	85	MS278_112_36_052.tif	1933	Annual Swope Park Picnic	Large group poses in Swope Park for an annual Urban League picnic. A policeman stands on the far right.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	36
84	86	MS278_112_37_053.tif	1930's	Group Portrait	A woman stands to the right of three men, two wearing round, brimmed hats.	negative in folder	112	37
84	87	MS278_112_38_054.tif	1930's	Family Snapshot	Image of a man, woman and four children.	negative in folder	112	38
84	88	MS278_112_39_055.tif		Unidentified group shot	Three woman and two men in unidentified setting.	negative in folder	112	39
84	89	MS278_112_40_056.tif	1930	Camp goers	Seven young ladies surrounded by suitcases and camp gear.	negative in folder	112	40
84	90	MS278_112_41_057.tif		Camp scene	Three men have a conversation, a line of tents in the background.	negative in folder	112	41
84	91	MS278_112_42_058.tif		Swimmers	A group of children and teens in swimming caps enjoys a swim. <b>NOTE: This image is restricted due to graphic content.</b>	negative in folder	112	42
84	92	MS278_112_43_059.tif	1930's	Group of Camp Staff	Eight women pose in front of building. One is wearing a swimming suit with a lifesaver's badge.	negative in folder	112	43
84	93	MS278_112_44_060.tif	1930's	Unidentified group of men and one woman	Man on left wearing shirt red cross lifesavers insignia, indicating the group is associated with swimming, perhaps at a camp.	negative in folder	112	44
84	94	MS278_112_45_061.tif	1930's	Payground scene	Two boys perch on top of wooden slide, with other children standing on the ladder behind them.	negative in folder	112	45
84	95	MS278_112_46_062.tif	1930's	Group of women	Group of six women with suitcases. Three of the women's heads are cut off in photograph.	negative in folder	112	46
84	96	MS278_112_47_063.tif	1930's	African American women	Two women wearing hats and white dresses pose outdoors.	negative in folder; Photo: Elko	112	47

84	97	MS278_112_48_064.tif	1930's	African American girls	Two young ladies pose outdoors.	negative in folder	112	48
84	98	MS278_112_49_065.tif	1930's	Playground scene	Two children swing on swingset while other children watch.	negative in folder	112	49
84	99	MS278_112_50_066.tif	1930's	Road scene with bus and two men on a tractor	Possibly Garden Project	negative in folder	112	50
84	100	MS278_112_51_067.tif	1931	Kansas City Urban League Training Class	Group of women pose in room. Caption reads "Edward S. Lewis Executive Secretary."	negative in folder; Photo: Williams Studio KC Mo.	112	51
84	101	MS278_112_52_068.tif	ca 1920's	Urban League Training Class at Well Baby Station	Urban League Training Class cooperating and entertaining the patrons of the Well Baby Station. Miss Goss, Domestic Science Teacher of Lincoln High School, and Mrs. Dabney, Industrial Secretary, Supervising. Edward S. Lewis, Executive Secretary.	negative in folder; Photo: Williams Studio KC Mo.	112	52
84	102	MS278_112_53_069.tif	1941	Planning Committee, March on Washington, D.C.	Front Row: A. Philip Randolph, Thomas Webster Second Row: E. Vincent Suitt, James H. Herbert, Lawyer, and Dr. J. Houston Lewis	negative in folder; Photo: Williams Studio KC Mo.	112	53
84	103	MS278_112_54_070.tif	1940's	William H. Hastie going to the White House	Man in overcoat and hat pulls open a door.	negative in folder	112	54
84	104	MS278_112_55_071.tif	1940's	Group poses at desk	Thomas Webster and William Clark stand behind three seated women holding a book.	negative in folder; Photo: Williams Studio KC Mo.	112	55
84	105	MS278_112_56_072.tif	1940's	Woman at sewing machine	One of Urban League's first factory placements.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	56
84	106	MS278_112_57_073.tif	1940's	Group of women in nursing uniforms	Thomas Webster stands in middle of row of women in nurses' uniforms. They stand behind a table with flowers and a punch bowl.	negative in folder; Raised Seal: R.L. Anderson Kansas City, MO	112	57
84	107	MS278_112_58_074.tif	1940's	Unidentified Event	Group of seven men, some wearing name tags, pose underneath chandelier.	negative in folder	112	58
84	108	MS278_112_59_075.tif	1940's	Dinner meeting	Groups sit at tables as servers attend them.	negative in folder	112	59
84	109	MS278_112_60_076.tif	1940's	Two Men seated at Desk	Men identified as William Clark and Charles A. Ricker, Manager	negative in folder	112	60

84	110	MS278_112_61_077.tif	1940's	Man giving speech at podium	Left to right: Oswald Abernath, Dem. State Representative; Mrs. H. Corinne Lowrey, President, Fed. Womens' Clubs; Dr. Prudence Bostwick, School Administrator; Mrs. Edward B. Costigan; Mr. Minorie Yosui, Japanese-American Citizens League; Mr. Thomas Campbell, Attorney; Mr. William F. McGlove, Attorney, Chairman of the Board; Speaker: Miller Barbauer, Executive Secretary; Mr. James Fresques, President City Council; Mr. Roy Ericson, Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Guy Fox, School Administration; Mr. Earl Mann, Rep. State Representative; Mr. H. B. McDaniel, U.S.O. Director	negative in folder	112	61
84	111	MS278_112_62_078.tif	1940's	Portrait of unidentified gentleman	Edge of image is torn.	negative in folder; Photo: Williams Studio KC Mo.	112	62
84	112	MS278_112_63_079.tif	1940's	Street scene	Unidentified street; apartments; man; car	negative in folder	112	63
84	113	MS278_112_64_080.tif	1940's	Unidentified Meeting	Group of people at table in auditorium. The man standing is Judge Lewis Clymer, speaker. Thomas Webster is seated to Clymer's right.	negative in folder	112	64
84	114	MS278_112_65_081.tif	1940's	Unidentified Meeting	Thomas Webster and Judge Lewis Clymer are seated as another man speaks into microphone.	negative in folder	112	65
84	115	MS278_112_66_082.tif	1940's	Shirley Hill, Office Manager, Jack Norman's Mens Shop	Woman seated at desk with office equipment and ledger book.	negative in folder	112	66
84	116	MS278_112_67_083.tif	1950	Executive Committee, Urban League of Kansas City	A group of men sit around table.	negative in folder	112	67
84	117	MS278_112_68_084.tif	Oct-Nov 1955	Kansas City Urban League promotional display	Advertisements for Urban League of Kansas City, affiliated with the National Urban League and member of Council of Social Agencies and the United Campaign Agency.	negative in folder; Photo: Anderson KC	112	68
84	118	MS278_112_69_085.tif	1950's	Buffet luncheon	Meeting, buffet line; electronic equipment in background	negative in folder	112	69
84	119	MS278_112_70_086.tif	1950's	On the Job Training	Three women at work in a factory.	negative in folder	112	70
84	120	MS278_112_71_087.tif	1950's	Mrs. Evelyn Crawford training as Leather Finisher	Woman operates a presser at Wardrobe Leather Cleaners, 2425 McGee Trafficway. She is part of Urban League OJT [On the Job Training] Program.	negative in folder	112	71
84	121	MS278_112_72_088.tif	1950's	On the Job Training	Two people at desks with drafting materials, perhaps part of drafting training program.	negative in folder	112	72
84	122	MS278_112_73_089.tif	1959	Public Accommodations Bill Hearing	Group of men seated around table with microphone stands.	negative in folder	112	73

84	123	MS278_112_74_090.tif	1959	Floor of the Missouri General Assembly Jefferson City	Public Accommodations Bill Hearing	negative in folder	112	74
84	124	MS278_112_75_091.tif	1959	Kansas Citizens at Urban League Conference	Urban League Guild promotional display is set up behind the citizens.	negative in folder	112	75