Minnesota Underground Music Archive

Community-driven archive dedicated to collecting and preserving artifacts associated with the Minnesota music scene of the past, present, and future for access by all.
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Minnesota Underground
Music Archive

Spans all genres – as long as the music and bands are:

- Under the radar
- Self-produced
- DIY
- Off the Grid
Minnesota Underground Music Archive

- Collection need identified by the community
- Bulk of materials accumulated and donated by the community
- Arrangement & description in collaboration with UMN Libraries
- Preservation & access handled by the UMN Libraries
Minnesota Underground
Music Archive

• Bulk of materials accumulated and donated by the community

• Volunteers, or “community curators” are equipped with tools to help them work with collection donors directly.
  • Collections diagram
  • Research value flowchart
  • Collection policy
Collections Diagram

Archival Collections

- **Uniqueness**: Documents that are uncommon or irreplaceable, and notable because of their unique or remarkable qualities.

- **Rote Documentation**: Family Heirlooms, Souvenirs, Personal Book/Music Libraries, Memorabilia Collectibles

- **Personal or Organizational Value**: Documents that tell the story of an individual or explain the core functions of an organization.

- **Cultural or Historical Significance**: Rare Books, Antiques, Artifacts, Documents that are historically relevant or explain a particular cultural milieu.

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But is it Archival? 
Determining Research Value

Where did this document come from?

I created this document.

I kept it because it was significant or valuable to me at some point.

Why do you have this document?

I'm not sure why I kept it.

For archival collections, context is just as important as content. If you're not sure why you have a document you didn't create, a researcher will be similarly perplexed!

Is this document significant or valuable today?

Because it reveals an aspect of my self or my organization, my interests, and/or my work.

Because it reveals an aspect of my community, my family, and/or the world in which I live.

For archival collections, context is just as important as content. If you're not sure why you have a document you didn't create, a researcher will be similarly perplexed!

Why is this document significant or valuable?

I don't think this document is significant or valuable anymore.

Significance and value can be incredibly hard to judge. Just because a document isn't significant now doesn't mean it might not be later. Think again, not everything can—or should—be judged. Use your best judgment, or contact an archivist.

Does the document contain sensitive or private information?

Yes

NO

Your document may have research value depending on where other copies exist or the condition of your copy. An archivist can help you decide if your copy has permanent research value.

Keep in mind that archives are open to the public for research. Talk with an archivist about your privacy concerns to determine the best course of action.

Research Value Flowchart

Where did this document come from?

Why is this document significant or valuable?

Is this document rare, unique, or irreplaceable?
Performing Arts Archives
University of Minnesota Libraries, Archives and Special Collections
Collection and Acquisition Practices

The Performing Arts Archives holds records of the Minnesota Orchestra, as well as the papers of artists such as Day etc. and folk music artists and organizations. Al Haug/New Riverside Cafe, Pop Wod Underground Music Archive, a compilation of off-rad music in the Twin Cities.

Subjects
Current areas of collecting strength include:
- Professional theater, music, and dance organizations and artists
- Scenic design
- Punk music and culture
- Folk music

Collection Policy
Minnesota Underground Music Archive

• MUMA collects:
  • Press clippings
  • Zines
  • Flyers, posters, handbills
  • Calendars
  • Photographs
  • Non-commercial recordings
  • Set lists
  • Oral histories
  • Ephemera (buttons, patches, etc.)
Climate-Controlled Storage
Minnesota Underground Music Archive

Collection Identifier: PA115

Performing Arts Archives | Minnesota Underground Music Archive

Collection Overview | Collection Organization | Container Inventory

The Minnesota Underground Music Archive documents independent bands and artists in Minnesota. In addition to recorded music on CD, tape, and vinyl formats, the collection contains live and promotional photographs, posters and flyers, publications, and ephemera (primarily band merchandise and promotional material).

Dates
1988-2016

Language of Materials
English

Restrictions on Access
The collection is open and available for use by researchers in the Andersen Library Reading Room.

Restrictions on Use
Copyright is retained by the copyright holder.

Extent
13 Linear Feet (17 boxes)
Open to the Public
MUMA has been accessed by:

- Local radio stations and DJs
- English: Music and Literature courses
- Honors Student projects
- Exhibits at Minnesota History Center
- Independent researcher projects
- Donors and creators themselves
Minnesota Underground Music Archive

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