



JEFFERSON
COUNTY COLORADO

Festival of the West, Inc. Records 1975-2004

Series #186



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Overview of Records

Creators:	Festival of the West, Inc., Jefferson County Historical Commission, Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Title:	Festival of the West, Inc. Records
Dates:	1975-2004
Series Number:	186
Quantity:	12 boxes (9 Ltr Docs, 2 Slim Docs, 1 F39, 1 Loose Object), 5.02 cubic ft.
Arrangement:	Arranged chronologically in three series
Abstract:	Records documenting the annual Festival of the West celebration. The Festival of the West began as a project of the Jefferson County Historical Commission for the Centennial-Bicentennial celebration of July 3-4, 1976. It was ranked among the top 20 national bicentennial events. The event was so popular that the Board of County Commissioners asked the Historical Commission to continue it and it grew into one of the biggest 4th of July festivals in the Denver metropolitan area. Held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, the Festival of the West featured all local entertainers and included amusements, band concerts, gunfighters, museum tours, equestrian demonstrations by the Westernaires Riding Group, and professional fireworks displays.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:	None
Use Restrictions:	None
Preferred Citation:	Item Description; Box number, Folder number; Festival of the West, Inc. Records, 1975-2001; Series #186; Jefferson County Archives, Golden, Colorado.
Provenance:	The Jefferson County Fairgrounds transferred the Festival of the West Records to the Archives in 2004 and a second group in 2018.
Related Records:	None

History Note

The Festival of the West began as a Centennial-Bicentennial project of the Jefferson County Historical Commission. A “dress rehearsal” was held in July, 1975, followed by the big Centennial-Bicentennial celebration July 3rd & 4th, 1976. The event was so popular that the County Commissioners asked the Historical Commission to continue it.

In 1980, a separate non-profit corporation was formed to perpetuate the Festival, which continued to be one of the largest 4th of July celebrations in the Denver Metro area. Members of the Festival Committee volunteered their time and talent, and were dedicated to producing an event worthy of Jefferson County and of commemorating our national birthday. Attendance each year averaged about 21,000 people over the two days.

The Westernaires, Jefferson County’s own precision mounted youth drill team, were involved since the inception of the Festival, volunteering countless hours to practice and presenting their precision riding maneuvers and taking parking fees at the gate. Other volunteers such as the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department Reserves, Youth Division, K-9 Corps and Mounted Posse helped with crowd control, parking and arena show activities. The Jeffco High School Rodeo Team helped the Fairgrounds staff with trash and grounds clean up. The West Metro Fire District provided fire protection during the fireworks shows. Traffic control was directed by the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department, Golden and Lakewood Police Departments, and Colorado State Patrol. In addition, the Jefferson County Fairgrounds manager and staff and county electricians were an indispensable part of the Festival team making the Festival truly a county-wide effort to provide a fun-filled family event for the entire metropolitan area.

The Festival ended with the 2001 event.

Scope and Content Note

The Festival of the West records are arranged chronologically as originally received, into three series. Original folder titles were maintained where possible. Multiple copies/items were weeded and copies of personal checks were removed and shredded.

Series I: Administrative Files contains budget and accounting records such as annual budget requests, cash flow reports, and revenue and expenditures; contracts and agreements between the county and the Festival of the West, agreements for law enforcement services and contracts for fireworks; liability insurance documents; fireworks display permits, bonds and special event permits; festival committee meeting minutes; vendor applications, correspondence and surveys; publicity; and traffic control plans.

Series II: Photographs contains black and white and color photos and negatives of performers, festival attendees, festival committee and Jefferson County Historical Commission members, VIPs, venues and Westernaires performances.

Series III: Ephemera contains buttons and a tie tack; ribbons with the JHC/76 logo; broadsides; posters; and special advertising supplements to the newspapers with official event programs.

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files

Administrative Files, 1975	Box 1	Folder 1
Administrative Files, 1976	Box 1	Folder 2
Administrative Files, 1977	Box 1	Folder 3
Administrative Files, 1978	Box 1	Folder 4
Budget/Accounting, 1979	Box 1	Folder 5
Miscellaneous, 1979	Box 1	Folder 6
Publicity, 1979	Box 1	Folder 7
Budget/Accounting, 1980	Box 1	Folder 8
Meeting Minutes, 1980 (See also: Box 12)	Box 1	Folder 9
Miscellaneous, 1980	Box 1	Folder 10
Permits, 1980	Box 1	Folder 11
Publicity, 1980	Box 1	Folder 12
Budget/Accounting, 1981	Box 1	Folder 13
Contracts & Agreements, 1981	Box 1	Folder 14
Meeting Minutes, 1981 (See also: Box 12)	Box 1	Folder 15
Miscellaneous, 1981	Box 1	Folder 16
Publicity, 1981	Box 1	Folder 17
Budget/Accounting, 1982	Box 1	Folder 18
Contracts & Agreements, 1982	Box 1	Folder 19
Insurance, 1982	Box 1	Folder 20
Meeting Minutes, 1982 (See also: Box 12)	Box 1	Folder 21
Miscellaneous, 1982	Box 1	Folder 22

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Publicity, 1982	Box 1	Folder 23
Budget/Accounting, 1983	Box 1	Folder 24
Contracts & Agreements, 1983	Box 1	Folder 25
Fiddle Contest, 1983	Box 1	Folder 26
Insurance, 1983	Box 1	Folder 27
Meeting Minutes, 1983 (See also: Box 12)	Box 1	Folder 28
Miscellaneous, 1983	Box 1	Folder 29
Publicity, 1983	Box 1	Folder 30
Budget/Accounting, 1984	Box 1	Folder 31
Contracts & Agreements, 1984	Box 1	Folder 32
Insurance, 1984	Box 1	Folder 33
Meeting Minutes, 1984 (See also: Box 12)	Box 1	Folder 34
Miscellaneous, 1984	Box 1	Folder 35
Permits, 1984	Box 2	Folder 1
Publicity, 1984	Box 2	Folder 2
Budget/Accounting, 1985	Box 2	Folder 3
Contracts & Agreements, 1985	Box 2	Folder 4
Insurance, 1985	Box 2	Folder 5
Meeting Minutes, 1985 (See also: Box 12)	Box 2	Folder 6
Miscellaneous, 1985	Box 2	Folder 7
Permits, 1985	Box 2	Folder 8
Publicity, 1985	Box 2	Folder 9

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Vendor Surveys, 1985	Box 2	Folder 10
Budget/Accounting, 1986	Box 2	Folder 11
Contracts & Agreements, 1986	Box 2	Folder 12
Insurance, 1986	Box 2	Folder 13
Meeting Minutes, 1986 (See also: Box 12)	Box 2	Folder 14
Miscellaneous, 1986	Box 2	Folder 15
Publicity, 1986	Box 2	Folder 16
Vendor Surveys, 1986	Box 2	Folder 17
Budget/Accounting, 1987	Box 2	Folder 18
Contracts & Agreements, 1987	Box 2	Folder 19
Insurance. 1987	Box 2	Folder 20
Meeting Minutes, 1987 (See also: Box 12)	Box 2	Folder 21
Miscellaneous, 1987	Box 2	Folder 22
Permits, 1987	Box 2	Folder 23
Publicity, 1987	Box 2	Folder 24
Vendor Surveys, 1987	Box 2	Folder 25
Budget/Accounting, 1988	Box 2	Folder 26
Contracts & Agreements, 1988	Box 2	Folder 27
Insurance, 1988	Box 2	Folder 28
Meeting Minutes, 1988 (See also: Box 12)	Box 2	Folder 29
Miscellaneous, 1988	Box 2	Folder 30
Permits, 1988	Box 2	Folder 31

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Publicity, 1988	Box 3	Folder 1
Vendors, 1988	Box 3	Folder 2
Budget/Accounting, 1989	Box 3	Folder 3
Contracts & Agreements, 1989	Box 3	Folder 4
Insurance, 1989	Box 3	Folder 5
Meeting Minutes, 1989	Box 3	Folder 6
Miscellaneous, 1989	Box 3	Folder 7
Permits, 1989	Box 3	Folder 8
Publicity, 1989	Box 3	Folder 9
Vendors, 1989	Box 3	Folder 10
Budget/Accounting, 1990	Box 3	Folder 11
Contract, 1990	Box 3	Folder 12
Insurance, 1990	Box 3	Folder 13
Meeting Minutes, 1990	Box 3	Folder 14
Miscellaneous, 1990	Box 3	Folder 15
Permits, 1990	Box 3	Folder 16
Publicity, 1990	Box 3	Folder 17
Budget/Accounting, 1991	Box 3	Folder 18
Contracts & Agreements, 1991	Box 3	Folder 19
Insurance, 1991	Box 3	Folder 20
Meeting Minutes, 1991	Box 3	Folder 21
Miscellaneous, 1991	Box 3	Folder 22

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Permits, 1991	Box 3	Folder 23
Publicity, 1991	Box 3	Folder 24
Budget/Accounting, 1992	Box 3	Folder 25
Contracts, 1992	Box 3	Folder 26
Fairgrounds Commitment, 1992	Box 3	Folder 27
Insurance, 1992	Box 4	Folder 1
Meeting Minutes, 1992	Box 4	Folder 2
Miscellaneous, 1992	Box 4	Folder 3
Permits, 1992	Box 4	Folder 4
Publicity, 1992	Box 4	Folder 5
Budget/Accounting, 1993	Box 4	Folder 6
Contracts & Agreements, 1993	Box 4	Folder 7
Fairgrounds Commitment & Staff Checklists, 1993	Box 4	Folder 8
Flea Market, 1993	Box 4	Folder 9
Health Department, 1993	Box 4	Folder 10
Insurance, 1993	Box 4	Folder 11
Meeting Minutes, 1993	Box 4	Folder 12
Miscellaneous, 1993	Box 4	Folder 13
Permits, 1993	Box 4	Folder 14
Press Package, 1993	Box 4	Folder 15
Publicity, 1993	Box 4	Folder 16
Traffic Control, 1993	Box 4	Folder 17

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Budget/Accounting, 1994	Box 4	Folder 18
Contract, 1994	Box 4	Folder 19
Fairgrounds Commitment & Staff Checklists, 1994	Box 4	Folder 20
Insurance, 1994	Box 4	Folder 21
Meeting Minutes, 1994	Box 4	Folder 22
Miscellaneous, 1994	Box 4	Folder 23
Permits, 1994	Box 4	Folder 24
Publicity, 1994	Box 4	Folder 25
Traffic Control, 1994	Box 5	Folder 1
Vendors, 1994	Box 5	Folder 2
Budget/Accounting, 1995	Box 5	Folder 3
Community Garage Sale, 1995	Box 5	Folder 4
Contracts & Agreements, 1995	Box 5	Folder 5
Fairgrounds Commitment, 1995	Box 5	Folder 6
Insurance, 1995	Box 5	Folder 7
Meeting Minutes, 1995	Box 5	Folder 8
Miscellaneous, 1995	Box 5	Folder 9
Permits, 1995	Box 5	Folder 10
Publicity, 1995	Box 5	Folder 11
Traffic Control, 1995	Box 5	Folder 12
Budget/Accounting, 1996	Box 5	Folder 13
Contracts & Agreements, 1996	Box 5	Folder 14

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Fairgrounds Commitment & Staff Checklists, 1996	Box 5	Folder 15
Insurance, 1996	Box 5	Folder 16
Meeting Minutes, 1996	Box 6	Folder 1
Miscellaneous, 1996	Box 6	Folder 2
Permits, 1996	Box 6	Folder 3
Publicity, 1996	Box 6	Folder 4
Traffic Control, 1996	Box 6	Folder 5
Vendors, 1996	Box 6	Folders 6-7
Budget/Accounting, 1997	Box 6	Folder 8
Contracts & Agreements, 1997	Box 6	Folder 9
Fairgrounds Commitment & Staff Checklists, 1997	Box 6	Folder 10
Insurance, 1997	Box 6	Folder 11
Meeting Minutes, 1997	Box 6	Folder 12
Miscellaneous, 1997	Box 6	Folder 13
Permits, 1997	Box 6	Folder 14
Questionnaires, 1997	Box 6	Folder 15
Traffic Control, 1997	Box 7	Folder 1
Vendors, 1997	Box 7	Folders 2-3
Budget/Accounting, 1998	Box 7	Folder 4
Contracts & Agreements, 1998	Box 7	Folder 5
Fairgrounds Commitment & Staff Checklists, 1998	Box 7	Folder 6
Insurance, 1998	Box 7	Folder 7

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Meeting Minutes, 1998	Box 7	Folder 8
Miscellaneous, 1998	Box 7	Folder 9
Permits, 1998	Box 7	Folder 10
Proposal – 99.5 FM The Hawk, 1998	Box 7	Folder 11
Publicity, 1998	Box 7	Folder 12
Traffic Control, 1998	Box 7	Folder 13
Vendors, 1998	Box 7	Folder 14
Budget/Accounting, 1999	Box 7	Folder 15
Contracts & Agreements, 1999	Box 7	Folder 16
Fairgrounds Commitment & Staff Checklists, 1999	Box 7	Folder 17
Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Building Ground Breaking, 1999	Box 7	Folder 18
Insurance, 1999	Box 7	Folder 19
Miscellaneous, 1999	Box 7	Folder 20
Permits, 1999	Box 7	Folder 21
Traffic Control, 1999	Box 7	Folder 22
Vendors, 1999	Box 8	Folders 1-2
Budget/Accounting, 2000	Box 8	Folder 3
Contracts & Agreements, 2000	Box 8	Folder 4
Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Building Dedication, 2000	Box 8	Folder 5
Insurance, 2000	Box 8	Folder 6
Miscellaneous, 2000	Box 8	Folder 7
Permits, 2000	Box 8	Folder 8

Container List

Series I: Administrative Files (cont.)

Traffic Control, 2000	Box 8	Folder 9
Vendors, 2000	Box 8	Folders 10-11
Budget/Accounting, 2001	Box 8	Folder 12
Contracts & Agreements, 2001	Box 8	Folder 13
Insurance, 2001	Box 8	Folder 14
Miscellaneous, 2001	Box 8	Folder 15
Permits, 2001	Box 8	Folder 16
Traffic Control, 2001	Box 9	Folder 1
Vendors, 2001	Box 9	Folders 2-3
2002 Budget Request & Preliminary Planning, 2001	Box 9	Folder 4
Meeting Minutes (Final Versions), February 1980-March 1992	Box 12	Folders 1-2
Miscellaneous, 2002	Box 12	Folder 3
Publicity, undated	Box 12	Folder 4

Series II: Photographs

1975 (Color Slides)	Box 9	Folder 5
1978 (B&W Prints)	Box 9	Folder 6
1980: Mary Bindner, Festival Committee (B&W Prints)	Box 9	Folder 7
Early 1980s: Jefferson County Historical Commission and other individuals, Construction Project (B&W Print, Negatives, Contact Sheet)	Box 9	Folder 8
1983 (B&W & Color Prints and Negatives)	Box 9	Folder 9
1984: Daniel (Dan) L. Schaefer, US Representative, R-Colo, Honorary Chairman for 1984 Festival of the West (B&W Print)	Box 9	Folder 10

Container List

Series II: Photographs (cont.)

1984 (B&W & Color Prints and Negatives)	Box 9	Folders 11-14
1985 (Color Prints only)	Box 9	Folder 15
1985 (B&W & Color Negatives only)	Box 9	Folder 16
1987 (B&W Prints and Negatives)	Box 9	Folder 17
1987 (Color Prints only)	Box 9	Folder 18
1987 (Color Prints & Negatives)	Box 9	Folders 19-24
1988 (Color Prints & Negatives)	Box 9	Folders 25-29
1995: Muddy Fairgrounds (Color Poloroids)	Box 9	Folder 30
1996 (Color Prints)	Box 9	Folder 31
No Date (B&W & Color Prints and Negatives)	Box 9	Folders 32-33

Series III: Artifacts & Ephemera

Buttons (Festival of the West), 1981-1986, 1988, 1992, 1999, 2001	Box 10	Envelopes 1-3
Ribbons (JHC 76 Logo), ca. 1975-1976, ca. 1976-1977, 1978, 1979	Box 10	Envelopes 4-6
Ribbon (Festival Committee), 1985	Box 10	Envelope 7
Tie-Tack (Colorado Centennial '76 Logo), ca. 1975-1976	Box 10	Envelope 8
Special Advertising Supplements to Newspapers/Official Event Programs, 1975-1976, 1978-1979, 1982, 1993-1994, 1996-1999, 2001	Box 11	Folder 1
Broadsides, 1977-1980, 1982, 1986-1992	Box 11	Folder 2
Posters, 1993, 1994 & 1995	Box 11	Folder 3
Posters: Fairgrounds Building Groundbreaking	Box 11	No Folder
Poster: Fairgrounds Rededication, 2004	No Box	