

Occupy Vancouver Collection – MsC 146

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

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Fonds Description

MsC 146

Title

Occupy Vancouver Collection

Date(s) of creation

15 Oct. 2011-25 Nov. 2012

Extent

0.68 m of textual records and other material

Administrative history

Occupy Vancouver was a collective of peaceful protests and demonstrations. It was part of Occupy Canada that was also part of the larger Occupy Together movement which first manifested in the financial district of New York City with Occupy Wall Street in March 2011. Occupy Wall Street had initially been organized to answer the call-to-action by the Vancouver-based, advertising-free, anti-consumerist organization Adbusters. Subsequently, the movement spread to over 900 cities around the world.

On October 15, 2011, in Vancouver, around 4000 to 5000 people participated in rallies and the local general assembly. In the days following its inception at the Vancouver Art Gallery there was the arrival of over 150 tents, food, health and safety services, operating on a volunteer basis nearly around the clock.

On October 16, 2011, the activists began formalizing their work and agreeing on broad principles at large gatherings called General Assemblies. The group adopted the general format of Wall Street and they declared themselves leaderless and not hierarchical.

On November 7, 2011, city notices asking protesters to pack up their tents were immediately posted at the site.

On November 15, 2011, police, firefighters and city workers moved in and started removing several tents and tarps that were described as fire hazards. The City of Vancouver applied for an injunction order to remove the entire camp, but the judge adjourned the hearing to allow protesters to prepare their legal response.

On November 18, 2011, Justice Anne MacKenzie granted the city's request to order the removal of Occupy Vancouver's structures by Monday afternoon. Protesters were given until 2 p.m. on November 21, 2011, to remove their tents and other structures.

On November 21, 2011, protesters abandoned the encampment at the Art Gallery zone and relocated their tents to Robson Square, just outside provincial court facilities. Justice Anne MacKenzie granted the Attorney General of British Columbia an order to remove Occupy Vancouver's new tent city by 5 p.m. November 22, 2011. Just before 5 p.m. the tents were packed up and occupiers moved onto the SkyTrain, and over to the Commercial Drive neighborhood where they moved into Grandview Park.

As of late January 2012, Occupy Vancouver was still holding weekly meetings at the W2 media cafe.

Scope and content

The collection consists of records associated to the Occupy Vancouver movement covering the years 2011 and 2012. It comprises records related to Occupy Vancouver Committees (General Assembly, Volunteer Coordinating Committee, Info Tent), photographs of activists and objects (teddy bear, pins, flags). The collection includes records associated with the court case between the City of Vancouver and Sean O'Flynn-Magee, Jane Doe, John Doe and other unknown persons. The records have been arranged in the following six series: Committee records (2011); Court case records (2011); Photographs and moving images (2011); Notebooks (2011); Publications (2012); Adbusters ([2011-2012]).

Physical description

Includes 10 photographs, 1 CD : 50 photographs, 18 videos, and 4 objects

Immediate source of acquisition

Materials donated in 2013 by Adbusters and Stephen Collis, and in 2014 by Mathew Kagis and Sue Wilson.

Arrangement

Arrangement of the files into series provided by the archivist.

Restrictions on access, use, reproduction, and publication

Access to some files is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information.

Finding Aid

File list is available.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

General Notes

Administrative history based on information from *Dispatches from the Occupation: A History of Change* (2012) by Stephen Collis and "Occupy Vancouver: Leaderless and Recordless?" (2012) by Joy Rowe.

Series Description

Series 1: Committees records

Date(s) of creation

2011

Extent

0.13 m of textual records

2 objects

Scope and content

Series consists of records and meeting minutes pertaining to Occupy Vancouver committees: General Assembly, Volunteer Coordinating Committee, Info Tent, Security and Safe Guard Unit. It includes also Occupy Vancouver leaflets, booklets, by-laws and general records related to day-to-day activities.

Restrictions on access, use, reproduction, and publication

Access to some files is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information.

Series 2: Court case records

Date(s) of creation

2011

Extent

0.13 m of textual records

Scope and content.

Series consists of records related to the court case between the City of Vancouver and Sean O'Flynn-Magee, Jane Doe, John Doe and other unknown persons. It includes: affidavits of Garrick Bradshaw, Penny Ballem, Murray Wightman, Frank Dodich, John McKearney, Cael Hopwood, Brenda Proksen, Blake Chersinoff, and Will Johnston; short leave requisition; notice of civil claim; and notice of application.

Restrictions on access, use, reproduction, and publication

Access to some records may be restricted. Consult staff for more information.

Series 3: Photographs and moving images

Date(s) of creation

(2011)

Extent

10 photographs

1 CD : 50 digital photographs, 18 digital videos

Scope and content

Series consists of nine photographs of the same Occupy Vancouver group of activists taken from different angles and one photograph of a single protester. It also includes eighteen digital videos and fifty digital photographs taken on October 15, 2011 by Sue Wilson with images related to the Raging Grannies, activists' activities, policemen, posters and media.

Arrangement

Non-digital format photographs have been numbered from 146.1 to 146.10.

Series 4: Notebooks

Date(s) of creation

[2011]

Extent

0.10 m of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of five notebooks containing drawings and thoughts made by the activists

Restrictions on access, use, reproduction, and publication

Access to some files is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information.

Series 5: Publications

Date(s) of creation

2012

Extent

0.07 m of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of articles and publications, including issues of *The Occupied Vancouver Sun*, and articles from *Extra* and *MetroNews*. It also includes the book *Dispatches from the Occupation: A History of Change* (2012) by Stephen Collis.

Series 6: Adbusters**Date(s) of creation**

[2011-2012]

Extent

0.07 m of textual records

2 objects

Scope and content

Series consists of material relating to Occupy Vancouver either created or received by Adbusters. Included are two flags similar to the American and Canadian flags. The first flag contains the symbols of large corporations. The second flag is decorated with multiple maple leaves that form "99%." It also includes a copy of the Adbusters magazine *The Big Ideas of 2012* and a copy of the book *Meme Wars: The Creative Destruction of Neoclassical Economics*.

File Description

Material acquired in 2013

BOX	FILE	TITLE	DATE(S)
Series 1: Committees records			
1	1	[Occupy Vancouver. Volunteer Coordinating Committee] <i>Scope and content:</i> The file contains minutes and notes of the meeting of November 3 rd 2011 of the Occupy Vancouver Volunteer Coordinating Committee. <i>Restriction on access note:</i> Access to this file is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information. <i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.	2011
1	2	Info Tent workgroups, activities, seminars <i>Scope and content:</i> The file contains notes on workgroups, activities and seminars held by Info Tent. <i>Restriction on access note:</i> Access to this file is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information. <i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.	[ca. 2011]
1	3	City orders, bylaws, official documents <i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes: copies of a booklet on "What is Occupy Vancouver?"; a second draft proposal for review and consensus by the Information Tent Committee for Occupy Vancouver; a folder with the title "Portland Ideas" with records on building consensus in an open assembly; a folder with notes by Tyler, Info Tent; a folder with notes on a guide for group dynamics in people's assemblies; a folder with General Assembly approved bills at 17 th October, 2011; copies of "Occupy Vancouver" magazine; copies of a "Notice pursuant to City Land Regulation By-Law"; a copy of the "Order pursuant to Vancouver fire by-law No. 8191"; proposal for the General Assembly for November 8, 2011; blank forms regarding "My Occupation"; blank copies of the form No. 33 based on the Rule 8-1 (10); two copies of "We can Stay" letter to the Occupiers if they comply with the fire safety rules; and notes regarding Vancouver Fire By-law No. 8191. <i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.	2011
1	4	[Occupy Vancouver. Safe Guard Unit] <i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes notes and procedures from the Safe Guard Unit. <i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.	2011

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| 1 | 5 | <p>[Occupy Vancouver]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes loose papers with emails and phone numbers; Occupy Vancouver leaflets; meeting minutes template; leaflet with “Legal Basics for Occupy Vancouver Activists”; two copies of “Occupy Vancouver Global Revolution Day”; blank copy of McDonald’s Restaurant Employment Application; copy of a letter of a possible \$1000 donation for tents end electricity from Michael Goodman; booklet “Reflections for the US Occupy Movement” by Peter Gelderloos; research on anarcho-capitalism; statement of solidarity march to Ottawa; a draft of “Financial and Accounting Policies” for Occupy Vancouver movement; copy of the General Assembly Organizational Gathering on October 8, 2011; and other records related to Occupy Vancouver activities.</p> <p><i>Restriction on access note:</i> Access to this file is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | [ca. 2011] |
| 1 | 6 | <p>Lost & Found</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes lost and found object lists with names and phone numbers. It contains also a map of where the activists were located.</p> <p><i>Restriction on access note:</i> Access to this file is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | 2011 |
| 1 | 7 | <p>[Occupy Vancouver: Security]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes security information and security numbers related to legal and medical necessities. It also includes names and phone numbers.</p> <p><i>Restriction on access note:</i> Access to this file is restricted for privacy reasons. Consult staff for more information.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | [ca. 2011] |
| 2 | 1 | <p>[Information teddy bear]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a brown teddy bear with a pin on which is written “Info?”</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | [ca. 2011] |
| 2 | 2 | <p>[Paper box]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a paper box with two Occupy Vancouver pins. On the front of the box is written “The General Assembly Field Manual from Madrid [Large font copies in blue and black].”</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | [ca. 2011] |

Series 2: Court Case records

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| 3 | 1 | <p>[Affidavits]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes two copies of the affidavit # 1 of Garrick Bradshaw, Penny Ballem, Murray Wightman, Frank Dodich, John McKearney, Cael Hopwood, Brenda Proksen, Blake Chersinoff, and Will Johnston in the Supreme Court of British Columbia between the City of Vancouver and Sean O’Flynn-Magee, Jane Doe, John Doe and other unknown persons.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | 7 Nov. 2011 |
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| 3 | 2 | <p>[Short Leave Requisition]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes two copies of a “Short Leave Requisition” in the Supreme Court of British Columbia between the City of Vancouver and Sean O’Flynn-Magee, Jane Doe, John Doe and other unknown persons.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | 7 Nov. 2011 |
| 3 | 3 | <p>[City of Vancouver’s Notice of Application]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes a “Notice of Application” in the Supreme Court of British Columbia of the City of Vancouver to Sean O’Flynn-Magee, Jane Doe, John Doe and other unknown persons.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | 7 Nov. 2011 |
| 3 | 4 | <p>[Notice of Civil Claim]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes a “Notice of Civil Claim” in the Supreme Court of British Columbia between the City of Vancouver and Sean O’Flynn-Magee, Jane Doe, John Doe and other unknown persons.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | 7 Nov. 2011 |

Series 3: Photographs and moving images

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| 3 | 5 | <p>[Photographs]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes nine photographs of the same Occupy Vancouver group of activists taken from different angles, and one photograph of a single protester. No dates or names are given.</p> <p><i>Arrangement note:</i> Photographs have been numbered from 146.1 to 146.10</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | [ca. 2011] |
| 3 | 6 | <p>[Occupy Vancouver photographs and videos]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> The file consists of eighteen digital videos and two copies of twenty-five digital photographs (total of fifty digital photographs) of the Occupy Vancouver movement made on October 15, 2011 by Sue Wilson. It includes images of the Raging Grannies, activists’ activities, policemen, posters and media.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Sue Wilson.</p> | 15 Oct. 2011 |

Series 4: Notebooks

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| 3 | 7 | <p>[Journal]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a journal with drawings of faces. Each face has a name on top. Inside the journal there is a loose paper on which is written “pamphlets, petitions, etc. Material for distribution.”</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | [ca. 2011] |
| 3 | 8 | <p>[Notebook]</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a notebook with “Bomb East Side” written on the cover. Inside there are drawings and thoughts.</p> <p><i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis.</p> | [ca. 2011] |

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| 3 | 9 | [Notebook]
<i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a notebook with text written only at the beginning of the first page.
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis. | [ca. 2011] |
| 4 | 1 | [Notebook]
<i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a notebook containing names and phone numbers.
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis. | [ca. 2011] |
| 4 | 2 | [Notebook]
<i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a notebook containing names and phone numbers.
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis. | [ca. 2011] |

Series 5: Publications

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| 4 | 3 | [<i>The Occupy Vancouver Sun</i>]
<i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes three issues of <i>The Occupied Vancouver Sun</i> , which include the following articles: "Putting the People Power back in the Democracy" by Alexander Hynes "Occupy & Capitalism" and "Where Have All the Occupiers Gone?" by Steve Collis.
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Stephen Collis. | 16 Jan 2012 -
25 Feb. 2012 |
| 4 | 4 | [Newspaper articles]
<i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes articles on Occupy Vancouver from <i>Extra</i> and <i>MetroNews</i> .
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Mathew Kagis. | 24 Feb. 2012 -
20 Nov. 2012 |
| 4 | 5 | [Book. <i>Dispatches from the Occupation: A History of Change</i>]
<i>Scope and content:</i> The file includes a copy of the book <i>Dispatches from the Occupation: A History of Change</i> by Stephen Collis.
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Stephen Collis. | 2012 |

Series 6: Adbusters

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| 5 | 1 | [Flag]
<i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a flag similar to the United States flag where instead of the stars there are the symbols of large corporations.
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Adbusters. | [ca. 2011] |
| 5 | 2 | [Flag]
<i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a flag similar to the Canadian flag with 99% made out of maple leaves.
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Adbusters. | [ca. 2011] |
| 6 | 1 | [Book. <i>Meme Wars: The Creative Destruction of Neoclassical Economics</i>]
<i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a copy of the book <i>Meme Wars: The Creative Destruction of Neoclassical Economics</i> . | [ca. 2012] |

Immediate source of acquisition note: Donated by Adbusters.

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| 6 | 2 | <p>[Magazine. <i>The Big Ideas of 2012</i>]
<i>Scope and content:</i> Item is a publication by Adbusters United Kingdom called <i>The Big Ideas of 2012</i>
<i>Immediate source of acquisition note:</i> Donated by Adbusters.</p> | 25 Nov. [2012] |
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