

## ***Chicago Woman's Club Records 1877-1998***

**Creator:** Chicago Woman's Club

**Extent:** 9 linear feet (17 boxes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact [WLArchives@luc.edu](mailto:WLArchives@luc.edu) regarding use.

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright was not transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Chicago Woman's Club Records, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

**Provenance:** The Chicago Woman's Club records were transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives in 2000 as a result of a duplicate donation made to the Chicago History Museum made by Helen Hightower. The transfer was facilitated by Jennifer Bridge August 10, 2000 (WLA2000.33).

**Processor:** Shannon Shea, 2000. Edited and updated by Elizabeth A. Myers, May 2010.

**Processing Information:** Finding aid updated December 2025.

**Separations:** None

### **Administrative History**

Founded on February 17, 1876, the Chicago Women's Club (CWC) had twenty-one original members. Founded by Caroline M. Brown (1836-1932), who served as the first president for three years, the Chicago Women's Club was officially chartered on October 28, 1885 (the organization would change its name to the Chicago Woman's Club in 1895). The goal of the club, as stated in its constitution, was to support the "mutual sympathy and counsel, and united effort toward the higher civilization of humanity." The club's original committees consisted of Reform, Home, Education, Philanthropy, Art, and Literature. Early on, the club shifted focus from literary activities to what they dubbed "practical work." This process began with the 1884 effort by the Committee on Reform to put women doctors in institutions serving women. They first targeted the Cook County Insane Asylum, and after a period of petition writing and meeting with Asylum administrators, the Chicago Woman's Club was successful. Similarly, they founded the first public kindergarten in Chicago, Charity Kindergarten, and later facilitated the appointment of Ellen Mitchell to the Chicago Board of Education. Over several years, the CWC founded the Protective Agency for Women and Children, the Industrial Arts Association, and Society for Physical Culture and Correct Dress, and the School Children's Aid. The group's interest spanned from nurses training, food and clothing for children, temperance, and Cook County jail reform to the management of charities and long-term support of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Art Institute, and the Chicago Public Libraries system.

There were 1,200 CWC members at its peak, a limit set by club rules. The Chicago Woman's Club voted to disband in June 1999. The club closed after holding its final luncheon in the Sullivan Room of Roosevelt University's Auditorium Building on November 2, 1999.

### **Scope and Content**

The Chicago Woman's Club materials span nine linear feet and cover the timeframe of 1877-1998. The records include a complete run of the Annual Announcements (bound) and an incomplete run of the same (unbound). Similarly, the collection includes the Chicago Woman's Club Bulletin bound and unbound, and several monographs related to the history of the Chicago Woman's Club. In addition, the collection includes monograph references works to city ordinances, programs related to education, brochures, invitations, photos of club members, and picture postcards. Some materials also relate to other women's clubs including the First District Illinois Federation of Women's Club, the Irving Park Catholic Women's Club, and the Chicago Outdoor Art League. There are also some oversized materials. The collection is mostly organized chronologically. Some exception exists for boxes 15-17.

#### **Series 1: Annual Announcements, 1877-1996, Boxes 1-12**

Contains only bound and unbound issues of the Chicago Club Women's Annual Announcement. The run is complete except for a missing announcement from 1986-1987. This series also includes the Junior Auxiliary annual announcements.

#### **Series 2: Club Bulletin, 1917-1998, Boxes 13-14**

Includes bound and unbound copies of the Club Bulletin. Bound copies only run from 1917-1924.

#### **Series 3: Monographs and Other Materials, 1888-1991, undated, Boxes 15-16**

Contains multiple monographs related to the history of the Chicago Woman's Club, the City of Chicago, and the women's building at the World's Columbian Exposition. Additional materials include business materials, club-produced histories of the organization, brochures, invitations, letterhead, photos, and poetry. This series also contains photocopies of correspondence, reports on race relations, and campaign materials.

#### **Series 4: Oversize, 1929, undated, Box 17**

Includes photographic materials related to the Chicago Woman's Club Exhibition (undated) described as a pencil drawing and ink inscription on one sheet and a small poster board for the exhibition. Other material consists of a 1929 decorating book.

#### **Subjects:**

Chicago, IL

Chicago Woman's Club

Women—Chicago

Women—Clubs and Organizations

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<b>Series 1: Annual Announcements, 1877-1996</b>	

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1	1	Annual Announcement	1877-1878
1	2	Annual Announcement	1878-1879
1	3	Annual Announcement	1879-1880
1	4	Annual Announcement	1880-1881
1	5	Annual Announcement	1881-1882
1	6	Annual Announcement	1882-1883
1	7	Annual Announcement	1883-1884
1	8	Annual Announcement	1884-1885
1	9	Annual Announcement	1885-1886
1	10	Annual Announcement	1886-1887
1	11	Annual Announcement	1887-1888
1	12	Annual Announcement	1888-1889
1	13	Annual Announcement	1889-1890
2	1	Annual Announcement	1890-1891
2	2	Annual Announcement	1891-1892
2	3	Annual Announcement	1892-1893
2	4	Annual Announcement	1893-1894
2	5	Annual Announcement	1894-1895
2	6	Annual Announcement	1895-1896
2	7	Annual Announcement	1896-1897
2	8	Annual Announcement	1897-1898
2	9	Annual Announcement	1898-1899
2	10	Annual Announcement	1899-1900
2	11	Annual Announcement	1900-1901
3	1	Annual Announcement	1901-1902
3	2	Annual Announcement	1902-1903
3	3	Annual Announcement	1903-1904
3	4	Annual Announcement	1904-1905
3	5	Annual Announcement	1905-1906
3	6	Annual Announcement	1906-1907
3	7	Annual Announcement	1907-1908
4	1	Annual Announcement	1908-1909
4	2	Annual Announcement	1909-1910
4	3	Annual Announcement	1910-1911
4	4	Annual Announcement	1911-1912
4	5	Annual Announcement	1912-1913
4	6	Annual Announcement	1913-1914, 1914-1915
5	1	Annual Announcement	1915-1916, 1916-1917
5	2	Annual Announcement	1917-1918
5	3	Annual Announcement	1918-1919
5	4	Annual Announcement	1919-1920
5	5	Annual Announcement	1920-1921
5	6	Annual Announcement	1921-1922, 1922-1923
6	1	Annual Announcement	1923-1924, 1924-1925
6	2	Annual Announcement	1925-1926, 1926-1927

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6	3	Annual Announcement	1927-1928
6	4	Annual Announcement	1928-1929
6	5	Annual Announcement	1929-1930, 1930-1931
7	1	Annual Announcement	1931-1932
7	2	Annual Announcement	1932-1933
7	3	Annual Announcement	1933-1934
7	4	Annual Announcement	1934-1935, 1935-1936
7	5	Annual Announcement	1936-1937, 1937-1938
8	1	Annual Announcement	1938-1939, 1939-1940
8	2	Annual Announcement	1940-1941, 1941-1942
8	3	Annual Announcement	1942-1943, 1943-1944
8	4	Annual Announcement	1944-1945
8	5	Annual Announcement	1945-1946
8	6	Annual Announcement	1946-1947, 1947-1948
8	7	Annual Announcement	1948-1949
9	1	Annual Announcement	1949-1950
9	2	Annual Announcement	1950-1951, 1951-1952
9	3	Annual Announcement	1952-1953, 1955-1956
9	4	Annual Announcement	1956-1957, 1957-1958
9	5	Annual Announcement	1958-1959, 1959-1960
10	1	Annual Announcement	1960-1961, 1961-1962
10	2	Annual Announcement	1962-1963, 1963-1964
10	3	Annual Announcement	1964-1965
10	4	Annual Announcement	1965-1966, 1966-1967
10	5	Annual Announcement	1967-1968, 1968-1969
11	1	Annual Announcement	1969-1970
11	2	Annual Announcement	1970-1971, 1971-1972
11	3	Annual Announcement	1972-1973, 1973-1974
11	4	Annual Announcement	1974-1975
11	5	Annual Announcement: Anniversary Edition	1976
11	6	Annual Announcement	1976-1977
11	7	Annual Announcement	1977-1978, 1978-1979
11	8	Annual Announcement	1979-1980
12	1	Annual Announcement	1980-1981
12	2	Annual Announcement	1981-1982
12	3	Annual Announcement	1982-1983, 1983-1984
12	4	Annual Announcement	1985-1986, 1986-1987
12	5	Annual Announcement	1987-1990
12	6	Annual Announcement	1990-1993
12	7	Annual Announcement	1993-1996
12	8	Junior Auxiliary Annual Announcement	1933-1937, 1938-1940
		<b>Series 2: Club Bulletin, 1917-1998</b>	
13	1	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1919
13	2	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1922

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13	3	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1924, 1939
13	4	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1955, 1956
13	5	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1962-1969
13	6	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1970-1976, 1979
13	7	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1986-1989
13	8	Club Bulletin (unbound)	1990-1998
14	1	Club Bulletin (bound) Volume I	1917-1918
14	2	Club Bulletin (bound) Volume II	1918-1919
14	3	Club Bulletin (bound) Volume III	1919-1920
14	4	Club Bulletin (bound) Volume VI	1922-1923
14	5	Club Bulletin (bound) Volume VII	1923-1924
		<b>Series 3: Monographs and Other Materials, 1888-1991</b>	
15	1	<i>History of the Chicago Women's Club</i>	1888
15	2	<i>The Book of the Chicago Women's Club</i>	1900
15	3	"Our History"	undated
15	4	<i>City Ordinances You Ought to Know</i>	1916
15	5	Organizational and Business Materials	[1921]-1929
15	6	Programs	1895-1898
15	7	Brochure	1931
15	8	Brochure	1934
15	9	Brochure	undated
15	10	Brochure	undated
15	11	Blank Invitations and Calling Cards	undated
15	12	Photographs and Other Ephemera	undated
15	13	Picture Postcards	undated
15	14	Poetry by Vera S. Flandorf	undated
15	15	"The Clubwoman: A Story of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs" by Mary Jean Houde	1970
15	16	First District Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs Yearbook	1986-1988
15	17	Irving Park Catholic Women's Club	1991-1992
15	18	Chicago Outdoor Art League	1990-1991
15	19	<i>Chicago Tribune</i> Article: Alice MacKinley	1974
15	20	Label from a Mallet	undated
15	21	Palmer House Centennial Memento	1971
15	22	Deagan Musical Dinner Chime Sheet Music	1939
15	23	Illinois Bar Association: Bill of Rights	1970
15	24	General Not For Profit Corporation Act	1944
15	25	Brochure: White House Gardens	1973
15	26	Chicago Park District Map	undated
15	27	Reports on Race Relations (copies)	1943-1948
15	28	Hannah Solomon Campaign Materials (copies)	1916

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15	29	Hannah Solomon Funeral Program	1942
15	30	Correspondence (copies)	1910, 1929, undated
15	31	Letterhead	undated
15	32	News Clippings	undated
15	33	<i>Mary McDowell and Municipal Housekeeping</i>	1929
16	1	<i>Ganinwari's Chicago</i>	1924
16	2	<i>The Fair Women: The Story of the Women's Building, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893</i>	1981
16	3	<i>A Book of Duties</i>	1942
16	4	<i>Chicago Women's Club Historical Manuscripts</i>	1926-1929
		<b>Series 4: Oversize, Box 17</b>	
17	1	Chicago Woman's Club Exhibition Materials	undated
17	2	<i>Ross Crane Guide and Stylist</i>	1929