

Anna Stonum Papers 1958-1999, undated

Creator: Anna Stonum (1958-1999)

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact wlarchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright remains with the original creator for all materials in this collection and has not been transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Anna Stonum Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Mike Ervin on February 17, 2000 (WLA2000.05).

Processor: Unknown

Processing Information: Finding aid updated December 2025.

Separations: Unknown

Biographical History

Anna Marie Stonum was born on October 14, 1958, in Granite City, Illinois, to Robert and Julia Sedej Stonum. She moved to Chicago in 1980 to attend Mundelein College, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Anna suffered from Friedreich's Ataxia, a degenerative condition that affects coordination and eventually caused her to use a wheelchair for much of her adult life. Consequently, she became involved in advocacy for disability rights along with her husband, Mike Ervin, a playwright who is also disabled. In the early 1980s, Anna and Mike were founding members of the Chicago chapter of Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT), now known as Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs Today. The group advocated for lifts to be installed on all Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) buses to make them more accessible to the disabled. Anna also served on the board of the Disability Arts and Culture Center at the University of Illinois as well as the board of the Progress Center and the Council for Disability Rights. Through her numerous affiliations with disability rights groups, she advocated for more accessible public transportation, higher wages for home aides serving the disabled, and initiated a national protest against Jerry Lewis' telethon for the way he portrayed the disabled. In 1988, Anna was part of the first delegation of disabled American activists to meet with the National Association of Cubans with Disabilities.

Anna was also an accomplished artist and started her own graphic design company, Designs for All, in 1994. She operated the company out of her home in Chicago, and much of her work consisted of designs for newsletters. She also created the “Adapt or Perish” logo that was used by Chicago and national disability rights organizations. Anna died on February 6, 1999 at the age of 40.

Scope and Content

The Anna Stonum Papers consist of 0.5 linear feet (1 box) and span the years 1958-1999. They contain biographical and professional materials that span Anna’s lifetime. Many of the materials relate to Anna’s disability rights advocacy efforts and her work as a graphic artist. The collection includes artwork, newspaper articles, newsletters, photographs, and unpublished writings, short stories, and poetry written by Anna. Also included are materials related to a lawsuit Anna helped bring against the Chicago Cubs regarding their noncompliance with Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations at Wrigley Field.

Subjects:

- ADAPT
- Disability rights
- Friedreich’s Ataxia
- Graphic arts
- Stonum, Anna (1958-1999)
- Women artists

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Anna Stonum Papers 1958-1999, undated</i>	
1	1	Birth Certificate	1958
1	2	Birthday Cards	1998-1999
1	3	Obituary	1999
1	4	City of Chicago Resolution	1999
1	5	Computer Artwork	undated
1	6	Computer Artwork	undated
1	7	Computer Artwork	undated
1	8	Computer Artwork	undated
1	9	Computer Artwork	undated
1	10	Computer Artwork: EKA Marketing and Distribution	1995
1	11	Computer Artwork: Oversized	undated
1	12	Designs for All	1995
1	13	Art Exhibit Flyers and Articles	1995-1999
1	14	ADAPT	1993-1997
1	15	Photograph Negatives	1990
1	16	Progress Center for Independent Living	1996
1	17	Newspaper Article	1984
1	18	“The Cuban Disabled: Is There a Revolution within the Revolution?” <i>COPH Bulletin</i>	1989
1	19	“Comparison of Chinese and Japanese Art”	undated

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1	20	“Chinese Art”	undated
1	21	“Don’t They Know” and “Tea for One”	undated
1	22	“The Rainy Season”	undated
1	23	“No Questions Asked”	1986
1	24	“Untitled, Number 5”	1986
1	25	“The First Kiss”	1993
1	26	“Big Possums” Commentary	1995
1	27	Chicago Cubs Lawsuit	1995
1	28	<i>New Mobility Magazine</i>	1999
1	29	The Nth Degree Catalog	1999
1	30	Chicago Foundation for Women Symposium	1999