

## Newark Celebration 350 Records 2015-2017



Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center  
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**Title:** Newark Celebration 350 records

**Dates:** 2015-2017

**Location:** Offsite

**Extent:** 6.2 linear feet (2 Paige cartons, 2 oversize boxes, 1 half-size document box)

**Processed:** by Alix Ross

**Formats:** Textual Material, Photographs, Artifacts, Audio / Video CDs and Digital material

**Abstract:** The Newark Celebration 350 records consist of grant reports, photographs, posters, printed material, artifacts, etc. related to the year-long celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the city of Newark.

**Provenance:** Gift of Newark Celebration 350.

### Restrictions on Access

#### Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

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#### Preferred Citation

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## **Historical Note**

Tradition has it that Newark, New Jersey, was founded in May of 1666 when a band of Connecticut Puritan families, led by Robert Treat, landed on the shores of the Passaic River and began building a settlement.

Over the years the city has celebrated major anniversaries of that founding. In 1866 the city's 200th anniversary was heralded with a parade on Founder's Day, led by Newark native and Governor Marcus L. Ward. Members of "the militia, the fire department and many civic societies, with distinguished guests from all parts of the State" marched in the rain that day. The festivities concluded with "historical exercises in the First Presbyterian Church, conducted under the auspices of the New Jersey Historical Society." Among the speakers were historian William A. Whitehead and publisher of the Newark Daily Advertiser William B. Kinney. (Cunningham 166-167 and Urquhart, 820)

A "Committee of One Hundred" organized 100 events between May and October to commemorate Newark's 250th anniversary in 1916. The festivities included parades and dinners, dedications of civic monuments, poster and poetry competitions, a musical festival, an industrial exposition, and the Pageant of Newark. The Pageant, held in an amphitheater in Weequahic Park, was performed by 4,000 citizen-actors with 92 speaking parts, and featured scenes of Newark's founding, history, industry, and the contributions of immigrant cultures. (Cunningham 248-249; Shales 221-241)

1966 marked the city's 300th anniversary, which was duly celebrated with a year of "Pride in Newark" themed events. On Founders' Day (May 18) "church bells and factory whistles rang at noon, kicking off a three-hour parade of bagpipers, historic steam engines, marching bands, soldier brigades, and floats sponsored by corporations and city agencies." (Tuttle, 3-5)

Following in this long tradition of anniversary observances, Newark Celebration 350 (NC 350), was organized to commemorate Newark's 350th anniversary. American historian, Rutgers University-Newark professor and Newark City Historian Clement A. Price (1945-2014) was an early proponent for a commemoration of Newark's 350th anniversary and chaired the committee tasked with developing and implementing the celebration. Upon his death, attorney, educator and community advocate Junius Williams took over leadership of the committee.

NC 350 paid tribute to Newark's history, culture and diverse communities through a year-long series of festivals, programs and events. In September and October of 2015 NC 350 leaders held community meetings in each of Newark's five Wards to generate enthusiasm and "ideas for events, partnerships and opportunities." Subsequent grant applications to fund events were accepted through a process of rolling admissions.

The kickoff for the festivities was held in the fall of 2015 with a NC 350 Family Fun Festival at Military Park (October 17, 2015), and throughout 2016 NC 350 funded over 150 events in honor of Newark's anniversary. These events and programs were organized by cultural, civic, religious and educational institutions; community groups and individual citizens from Newark and the surrounding area, and included ward-wide and city-wide fairs, festivals and parades; art projects, and theater, dance and musical performances; exhibits, workshops, conferences, lectures, oral history projects and tours.

Several of the funded projects resulted in publications: "Distinguished Alumni" (Newark Public School Historical Preservation Committee); "Knowing Newark: selected Star-Ledger columns by Charles F. Cummings", edited by Timothy J. Crist (Newark: Newark Public Library, 2016); and "Newark Landmark Treasures; a guide to the landmark buildings, parks, public art & historical districts in New Jersey's metropolis," edited by Mark W. Gordon and Anthony Schuman (Newark: Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, 2016)

In honor of Newark's anniversary, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) priced tickets to selected performances at \$3.50. The New Jersey Devils and the Prudential Center offered Newark residents 35,000 free tickets during the 2016 season. The 1916 Gutzon Borglum monument "First Landing Party of the Founders of Newark," commissioned for the city's 250th anniversary, was restored and moved to the NJPAC campus as a "Legacy Gift" of the NC 350. New Jersey artist Faith Ringgold was commissioned to create a limited edition (200) commemorative print, "A Day in Newark's 350th Year Celebration, 2016." Proceeds from the sale of the prints, which sold for \$1,000 each, were slated to fund arts programming beyond 2016.

The largest event of the year, which like all other events and activities was free, was the 350 Founders Weekend Festival held in Military Park (May 13-15). The festival featured performers with Newark roots or connections including Faith Evans, Cissy Houston (with the gospel choir Jubilation) and DJs Felix Hernandez and Bobby Trends. Other performers included Naughty by Nature, the Robert Glasper Experiment, La India, and Stefon Harris with the United States Air Force jazz ensemble, the Airmen of Note. The Youth Stage featured Newark Boys Choir and Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens: "The Soul of Newark," among others. Highlights of the weekend also included a North Ward Food Truck Festival, a family fun activity area Kidz Korner, local arts and crafts, and public art exhibitions including Newark's proclaimed "peace ambassadors," the Animodules.

#### Newark Celebration 350 Board of Trustees

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Victor Parsonnet, a Newark native, graduate of Weequahic High School, and prominent New Jersey cardiac surgeon

Secretary: Wilma Grey, Newark native, and Director of the Newark Public Library (2005-2015)

Treasurer: Gina D. Nisbeth, Director in the Structured Lending and Investments Group at Citi

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#### Newark Celebration 350 Staff

John W. Johnson, Jr., PhD., Executive Director; Jackie Harris, Producer; Justine Hunter, Marketing and Communications; Isaiah Little, Director of Administration; and Danielle Vauters, Administrative Production Coordinator

#### Sources:

Cunningham, John T. and Charles F. Cummings. *Remembering Essex: a pictorial history of Essex County, New Jersey*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company/Publishers, 1995.

Shales, Ezra. *Made in Newark; Cultivating industrial arts and civic identity in the Progressive Era*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2010

Tuttle, Brad R. *How Newark Became Newark; the rise, fall, and rebirth of an American city.* Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009.

Urquhart, Frank J. *A History of the City of Newark, New Jersey, embracing practically two and a half centuries, 1666-1913.* New York: Lewis Historical Pub. Co., 1913.

### Scope and Content

The bulk of these records comprise grant reports consisting of a narrative and a brief financial statement. The grant report files may also include photographs, press releases, promotional material (flyers, posters, hand bills, etc.) and in some cases publications.

A small amount of administrative material in the collection consists of lists of events, programs, and grant submission summaries; a few meeting agendas, minutes and notes; a final report and assessment; and two hard drives. The collection also includes guides and posters for events and programs and other promotional material; and commemorative artifacts including pins, paper weights, t-shirts, bags, etc.

The bulk of the material in this collection is from 2016, the year of the celebration.

### Related Collections

Newark's 300th Anniversary collection (MG NWK 300th)

Newark American Revolution Bicentennial Commission collections (MG NWK Bicentennial - Main; MG NWK Bicentennial - Offsite)

Newark Historic Celebrations Collection (MG NWK Historic Celebrations)

### Access Points

#### Subject Topics:

Newark (N.J.) -- Centennial celebrations, etc.  
 New Jersey -- History.  
 Newark (N.J.) -- History.

#### Subject Places:

Newark, N.J.

BOX	FOLD-ER	FOLDER CONTENTS	DATE
		ADMINISTRATIVE:	
1	1	Board, Executive	2016
1	2	Events / Programs	2016
1	3	Events / Programs — Grant Submissions	2016
1	4	Events / Programs — Kickoff	2015
1	5	Events / Programs — Lists	2016

1	6	Events / Programs — Notes	2016
3(OS)	1	Events / Programs — Rankings	2016
1	7	Financial	2016
1	8	Hard Drives	2016
1	9	Legacy Committee— Newark Gives	2016
1	10	Report, Impact Assessment	2017
1	11	Ward Meetings	2016
1	12	Website — screen grabs	2016
		EVENTS /PROGRAMS:	
1	13	General	2016
1	14	General — Guides	2016
1	15	Founders Weekend	2016
1	16	Hispanic Heritage Month	2016
1	17	Ironbound Multicultural Festival	2016
1	18	Jazz at Clement's Place	2016
1	19	Lincoln Park — Music Speaks	2016
1	20	Lincoln Park — Music Speaks: Rock the Block	2016
1	21	Newark Gives Day	2016
	22	Newark International Film Festival	2016
1	23	Newark Walks	2016
1	24	Newark's Spiritual Heritage	2016
1	25	Ringgold, Faith — commemorative print	2016
1	26	Vaughn, Sarah — stamp, first day of issue	2016

		GRANT REPORTS:	
1	27	Abdullah, Dr. Zain — Muslim Voices	2016
1	28	Alijira — Performing Artists Series	2016
1	29	Arts ETC — Quilt	2016
1	30	Banks, Greg — Let Us Create	2016
1	31	Barat Foundation — Animodules History Project	2016
1	32	Blues Straight Ahead — Jazz Meets Dayton Street	2016
1	33	Boys and Girls Club — Intergenerational Dialogue ...	2016
1	34	Brazusa Cultural Center — Brazilian Day	2016
1	35	Brick City Bicycle Collective — Tour de Newark	2016
1	36	Churchman Funeral Home — “Laid Out: the Business of Funerals”	2016
1	37	Clark, Dwayne — A Portrait of Ray Charles	2016
1	38	Clean Water Fund — Tours	2016
1	39	Clement A. Price Institute — Branch Brook Park Program	2016
1	40	Ecuadorian Chamber of Commerce — Parade	2016
1	41	FamiCare, Inc. — Haitian Flag Day	2016
1	42	Forest Hill Literary Society & NPL — Newark Literature Festival	2016
1	43	Glass Roots — FACES of Newark	2016
1	44	Grace Church — Te Deum Concert	2016
1	45	Honors Program — Guard d’ Avant Progressive Music Festival	2016
1	46	Horses of Newark	2016
1	47	HYCIDE	2016-2017
1	48	“Insurance: Putting Newark on the Map” (includes video CD)	2016
1	49	Irish American Cultural Institute — various	2016

		GRANT REPORTS, continued:	
2	1	Institute of Jazz Studies — Newark Citizen Historian Initiative	2016
2	2	Ironbound Community Corporation — Murals	2016
2	3	Ironbound Community Corporation — Neighborhood History Day and Her Story on Elm Street	2016
2	4	Jazz House Kids	2016
2	5	La Casa de Don Pedro — Festival de la Familia	2016
2	6	Lenape and Essex County Commission	2016
2	7	New Jersey Ballet	2016
2	8	New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)	2016
2	9	New Jersey Symphony — Ward Jams	2016
2	10	Newark Arts Education Roundtable	2016
2	11	Newark Girl Scouts — Take Newark	2016
2	12	Newark LGBTQ — Dance - A - Thon	2016
2	13	Newark Poems	2016
2	14	Newark Preservation and Landmarks — “Treasures”	2016
2	15	Newark Public Library — “Knowing Newark”	2016
2	16	Newark Public Library — We Lift up Their Voices	2016
2	17	Newark Public Schools Historical Preservation Committee — “Distinguished Alumni”	2016
2	18	Newark School of Arts — Mural	2016
2	19	Newark Science and Sustainability, Inc. — Newark’s Harvest: a City-wide Garden Tour	2016
2	20	Newark Trust for Education	2016
2	21	North Ward Celebration — Food Truck Place and Scavenger Hunt	2016
2	22	North Ward Multicultural Festival	2016

2	23	Pathways to College —“The Youth of Newark Speak to the World”	2016
2	24	Paulo Freire Charter School — The Power of Words	2016
2	25	People Planning Newark — interactive installation at NPL	2016
2	26	Rutgers University - Newark (RU-N) — Academic Foundations	2016
2	27	RU-N — ALI Conference — The 1967 Rebellion	2016
2	28	RU-N — Cherry Blossoms in Winter	2016
2	29	RU-N — Community and Transitional Lawyering Committee — The Gibson Years	2016
2	30	RU-N — Queer Newark oral history project	2016
2	31	RU-N Foundation — Songs of Solidarity	2016
2	32	RU-N History Department — “Rutgers, Race and Slavery” talk	2016
2	33	Theatre World Music Service — Newark SingFest	2016
2	34	Unified Vailsburg Services — Awards Banquet	2016
2	35	United Parks as One	2016
2	36	WBGO — audio portraits of everyday Newarkers	2016
2	37	Weequahic High School '66 — WHS Family and Friends Festival	2016
2	38	Weequahic Sports Authority — South Ward Fitness Expo	2016
2	39	Women in Media — Film Festival	2016
2	40	Xplore Communications — Restaurant Week	2016
		PRINTED MATERIAL	2016
2	41	Advertisements	2016
3(OS)	2	Advertisement — Open Doors Arts Festival	2016
2	42	Promotional — guides	2016
2	43	Promotional — “Newark Bound”	2016



2	44	Promotional — “Radius”	2016
3(OS)	3	Posters: RU-N — ALI: The 1967 Newark Rebellion: Power and Politics; Cherry Blossoms in Winter; La Casa de Don Pedro: 9th Annual Festival de la Familia; Lincoln Park — Music Speaks: Rock the Block; Newark LGBTQ Community Center: 3rd Annual Dance-A-Thon; and North Ward Multicultural Festival	2016
		ARTIFACTS and EPHEMERA	2016
3(OS)		Backpack	2016
3(OS)		Commemorative Glass paper weights (3)	2016
4(OS)		T shirts: Brazilian Day Newark (2 green, 2 yellow); Cherry Blossoms in Winter (2); Girls Scouts Take Newark 350 (2); and Newark 350 (1)	2016
4(OS)		Aprons — Cherry Blossoms in Winter (2)	2016
4(OS)		Cotton bag— Cherry Blossoms in Winter (2)	2016
4(OS)		Backpack, small — Celebrating 350 Years of Newark	2016
4(OS)		Commemorative pins	2016
5		Plaque — Landing Monument	2016