

MG
688

GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT, INC
RECORDS

The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research
in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Blvd.
New York, New York 10037

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PREFACE

This inventory was partially funded by a Documentary Heritage Project grant of the New York State Archives, a statewide program established by law in 1988 to ensure the identification, sound administration, and accessibility of New York's historical records. The DHP provides grants to not-for-profit organizations in New York State that collect, hold and make available historical records.

GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT, INC. (1986-). Records. 1986-1998. 25 boxes (9.8 linear feet).

Organizational History

Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD) was founded in 1986 by the Reverend Charles Angel. A Pentecostal preacher, who, by 1986, had contracted AIDS, Angel had recognized the need for black gay men in New York City to form coalitions that would address and combat homophobia and racism, as well as HIV/AIDS. In the ensuing years, the fledgling organization, which began with volunteers, grew to encompass a variety of programs and paid staff. Its focus would also evolve from political advocacy into a supportive agency that provides a social space that nurtures black gay men.

On July 16, 1986, Rev. Angel, along with Tony Crusor, Cary Alan Johnson, Reggie Patterson, Len Richardson, Colin Robinson, Harold Robinson, Ali Wadud, and others met at the relatively new Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center (LGCSC) in Manhattan to discuss the need for a support group for black gay men. Originating as a weekly discussion group (which later came to be called the Friday Night Forum), the members met in each other's homes in Brooklyn and in Harlem. Membership quickly swelled and the group began meeting at the LGCSC. This change in location increased GMAD's visibility, and as membership grew – even as it continued to be a volunteer-run entity – GMAD became identified as an organization that sought to address the needs of black gay men by providing services such as a social space, mentoring opportunities, discussion groups, and public advocacy on the issues that directly impact black gay men.

Reverend Angel and Colin Robinson were co-facilitators of the newly formed group during the first year. By consensus, the group decided that the organization's name should contain the words "gay" and "African," a political move to openly acknowledge both racial and sexual identity distinct from the larger gay white and heterosexual black communities. The group's birthing process gave rise to many concerns such as political and social advocacy, health and wellness – particularly HIV/AIDS awareness – community-mobilization and social-service design and delivery. These concerns would form the foundation of the largest, and oldest community-based organization in the United States serving gay/bisexual men of African descent.

However, as the HIV/AIDS crisis took hold in the mid-80s, Rev. Angel's peers (as well Angel himself) were affected adversely by the lack of information about the virus and as a result, HIV/AIDS education became a distinct priority as GMAD formulated its policies and program initiatives.

Gay Men of African Descent (original spelling "Afrikan," and for a brief period known as G-MAD) came of age during the most significant period of political and social organizing within black queer communities, particularly in response to HIV/AIDS. Around this time, similar organizations and groups in other localities such as Washington, DC, and California, were also forming, including the National Coalition for the Black Gays and Lesbians (DC), and Brothers, a support group for black gay men (CA). Joseph Beam (editor, In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology), Barbara Smith (activist and author, Toward a Black Feminist Criticism), Assotto Saint (poet/performance artist), Audre Lorde (author, Sister Outsider), and Essex Hemphill, (poet and author, Ceremonies: Prose and Poetry), were publishing notable texts of non-fiction, poetry and fiction, which substantially raised the visibility of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and queer people of African descent (LGBTQ) in the popular media, and added to the socio-political presence of black LGBTQ culture and history. While many of these groups have since folded, and more than a few pioneers have passed away, members of GMAD have either been influenced by, and/or hosted these and other groundbreaking makers of black LGBTQ history. Rev. Angel was very much aware of this pivotal moment. His was a vision fusing political organizing by black gay/bisexual men with a commitment to work within black communities, largely to combat homophobia.

Born in 1952, Charles Angel grew up in Brooklyn, and attended Brooklyn Technical High School and Columbia University. Angel became an ordained minister in his early twenties with the Temple of Truth Church of God and later became the regional vice-president of his church's governing body. He was also a licensed stockbroker who worked on Wall Street. Angel was active in several gay and PWA (people with AIDS) groups including the steering committee of the National Coalition of Black Gays and Lesbians (New York affiliate), and People with AIDS Coalition, and was a founding member of ACT-UP. Towards the end of his life, Rev. Angel was one of the first black men to speak publicly about his illness, making appearances on television and radio including The Donahue Show, New York's WBAI, and NBC/Boston. On November 27, 1986, Charles Angel passed away leaving behind a fledgling organization and a legacy of service cut short by HIV/AIDS.

Throughout the 80's GMAD's organizational structure was forming and taking shape. After Rev. Angel's death, the organization stalled momentarily. In mid-1987, Harold Robinson led an initiative to revamp the organization, and after a majority vote, the primary focus was changed to reinvesting in "support," providing safe spaces for its constituents, and holding weekly meetings in various members' homes to discuss issues impacting black gay men. The group also continued to meet at the LGCSC. GMAD elected its first set of officers in 1988: Harold Robinson (President), Elbert Gates (Vice President), Dwayne McKinley (Treasurer), and Byron James (Secretary). The following year, GMAD made a decision to incorporate and quickly developed into a structured organization with their first executive director, board of directors, by-laws and statement of purpose. The board of directors was elected in the spring of 1989, and the directors' initial responsibility was to develop the structure of the organization. Other priorities included strategic planning, finding a permanent office space, pushing HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives, and fund raising. The three-year old organization was transformed from a volunteer-run entity funded primarily through the donations from its membership, into a non-profit that would allow GMAD to serve the black gay community, en masse. The first executive director Elbert Gates was elected in May. By September 1989, GMAD rented its first permanent office space at 80 Varick Street, sharing office space with the New York chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination (GLAAD).

Throughout this evolutionary process, the centerpiece of GMAD's programming remained constant: Friday Night Forums. Topics centered on consciousness-raising sessions that explored relationships, communications, dialoguing with gays in the African Diaspora, aging, parenting, intimacy, homophobia, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, religion, sex, and entrepreneurship. Safer sex information, counseling, referrals and condoms were also made available at meetings. In addition GMAD added social and recreational activities, often in collaborative partnerships with similar organizations. GMAD also held monthly meetings to discuss event planning, open to all, and to discuss GMAD business, open to members only. GMAD's first mission statement, "GMAD is a support group of Black Gay Men dedicated to consciousness raising and the growth and development of the Black Lesbian and Gay Community," was formulated at one of these early meetings.

In addition, GMAD produced the "Calendar," the organization's newsletter, which featured GMAD activities, as well as community

announcements of events and programs from other LGBTQ groups.

Gates, the executive director, used his leadership skills and energy to find funding and expand GMAD's advocacy profile. Problems developed, however, as the membership began to view Gates as a strong-willed visionary whose leadership style was distant and appeared to ignore the membership, which included men from different socio-economic classes. In fact, one of the causes of dissension among the membership was that the organization came to be seen largely as "middle-class" due to large attendance by professionals at the Friday Night Forums. After three years of crucial organizational development and struggle with leadership and the direction of GMAD, Gates was voted out of office. His accomplishments during his tenure included numerous grants from the public and private sectors, among them one from the New York State Department of Health to fund the Lifestyle Genesis Learning Series Program; hiring its first paid staff person; upgrading office operations; expanding GMAD's cooperative relations with the Hetrick-Martin Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth; and bolstering the outreach to both gay youth and seniors. Gates also raised GMAD's profile by making a statement at hearings supporting the New York State Department of Housing and Community Renewal's proposal to extend succession rights to "non-traditional" families. Gates's successor was activist Joe Pressley.

In 1992 Colin Robinson, who served in several capacities with the organization, designed and facilitated a strategic planning process. As a co-chair of the board, he had agreed with Gates's decision to move GMAD toward a paid staff structure from an all-volunteer organization, which had been met with opposition from the membership. In an oral history interview in 1999, Robinson stated that GMAD had suffered from the "classic black organization" symptom he felt occurs when black organizations begin to develop rational structures and move toward an operation where the board and staff had more immediate decision-making influence on the day-to-day workings of the organization. Robinson, along with others, helped to bridge the difficult transition from Gates's tenure to that of a staffed service provider organization under Pressley, the new executive director.

Amid this process GMAD experienced several changes: the death of a board member, theft of money from the organization, heated debates about the direction of GMAD, and several conspiracy theories ranging from how grant money from the government would require GMAD to push the drug AZT to its constituents, to rumors

of a take over by the Gay Men's Health Crisis, a largely white HIV/AIDS service organization. As a result GMAD suffered losses of board members, staff and membership, some of whom believed the organization should be more self-sufficient and not depend on grant money.

Structural changes guided by strategic planning and led by Pressley, included the formation of committees for membership, the newsletter (referred to as the "Calendar"), programming and volunteers, as well as more specific responsibilities for the board members and the director. The Harambee! Committee, whose main charge was to introduce new members to GMAD's services, was created during this period. After one year in office, however, Joe Pressley resigned. In his letter to the membership published in the "Calendar," he stated that his reasons for resigning included constant battles with the board over the direction of the organization and lack of support from the board for political causes such as rallies and support for AIDS awareness programs.

Despite this setback, over the next two years it appears that the board ran the organization. Robinson became managing director in 1994, and shortly thereafter, executive director, by a resolution from the board. He, along with Ray Williams, the program associate, were the only paid staff. Among other priorities they focused on professionalizing the recordkeeping and continued to bring in funds from such organizations such as AIDS Films, Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Centers for Disease Control, Gay Men's Health Crisis AIDS Walk, and the New York City Manhattan Borough President's Office.

In 1995 GMAD initiated one of GMAD's most significant programs, Yo! GMAD. The program provided a safe space for gay black youth ages 18-24 to explore a variety of topics impacting their lives. Other programs concentrated on the physical and mental health and safety of GMAD's membership. Drop-in hours were established, and group therapy was initiated. Also starting up this year were therapeutic guide groups, support/rap groups, meditation and visualization classes. Friday Night Forums continued and in addition GMAD often co-sponsored programming with other organizations.

GMAD moved into a new office space (133 W 4th Street) in 1996, which located the organization in Greenwich Village, where the Lesbian and Gay Services Center was also located and where gay men of African descent gather and socialize. The new office provided more space for ongoing programming including Drop-In

Hours (renamed Solutions), and a new program called Over 50 Forum, for men aged fifty and older to discuss issues such as aging, health care, sexuality, and dating.

Cary Alan Johnson, an early GMAD member and one of the founders of the Blackheart Collective, a black gay writers group, was hired to be the executive director in August. The organization expanded its programming and created positions of Peer Trainers to assist with outreach and educational workshops for gay men, a Development Associate, HIV Programs Coordinator, and volunteers to be Peer Outreach Workers to canvas the streets and engage their peers in HIV awareness, and to promote GMAD's programming. They also created "Between the Sheets," a book club that featured the works of black LGBTQ writers such as James Baldwin, James Earl Hardy, April Sinclair, as well as non-gay writers. Volunteers established the Entrepreneurship Program, which offered the history of blacks in business, and issues to consider when starting a business. Annual programs included a fashion show and picnic.

For their 10-year anniversary, GMAD held an award ceremony at the National Black Theatre in Harlem. Honorees included producer/director George C. Wolfe and author E. Lynn Harris. Over 200 guests attended the event. Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger presented the group with a proclamation declaring December 7th as "Gay Men of African Descent Day" in Manhattan. During the program, Cary Alan Johnson stated "...the organization's survival during the last ten years in the face of all that has threatened to destroy it, is testimony to its strength and pride."

In 1997, GMAD's new mission statement posited itself as "an organization committed to empowering gay men of African descent through education, social support, political advocacy, and health and wellness promotion." Johnson resigned and Robert E. Penn, a writer and member of Other Countries, became the interim director. In July, longtime GMAD member and past board member, Kevin McGruder, was hired as the executive director.

In a letter printed in the newsletter, McGruder outlined his priorities to the membership, which included continuing to strengthen HIV prevention services; diversifying GMAD's funding base by bringing in new forms of income; and developing programs that responded to other areas of GMAD's mission (advocacy, fighting racism, sexism, and homophobia). McGruder's leadership heightened the organization's profile in the community. Politically, GMAD made its voice heard by issuing several

position statements on same-sex marriages and the death penalty, "names reporting" of persons with HIV and the murder of Matthew Shepard, a young white gay male.

Currently Gay Men of African Descent represents the largest constituency of Black gay men on the East Coast. In fact, it is the nation's largest and oldest black gay organization dedicated exclusively to the welfare of black gay men. GMAD implements its mission to empower black gay men through education, social support, political advocacy, and health and wellness promotion, through a wide range of programs targeting Black 'Men Who Have Sex With Men' (MSM) in the New York City metropolitan area. The organization's HIV/AIDS outreach programs are supported by the New York State Department of Health/AIDS Institute, the New York State Department of Health/AIDS Institute, the New York City Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, foundations, and individuals. GMAD continues to host community social events, educational seminars and weekly forums on issues related to public policy and advocacy.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Gay Men of African Descent, Inc, Records (1986-1998) document the development of the organization as a support group to the largest black gay run educational, social and political organizations in the United States. The collection is divided into the following five series: **EARLY DOCUMENTS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, GENERAL OFFICE FILES, and FINANCIAL RECORDS.** (Note: Records for 1990 reveal little about the organization's activities that year.)

Series	Box
EARLY DOCUMENTS	1
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
By-laws and Amendments	1
Agenda and Meeting Materials	
Election	2
Committees	
Managing/Executive Director Colin Robinson	3
Early Members	
Colin Robinson	4
C. Ralph Wilson	4
PROGRAMS	
Calendar/Newsletter	5
Committees	6
Programs	7-12
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GENERAL OFFICE FILES

Subject Files	13-15
Miscellaneous Alphabetical Files	16-20

FINANCIAL

Grants	21-24
General Files	25

EARLY DOCUMENTS, 1986-1990 (1 folder.) This series contains a collection of documents that illustrate the organization's early years primarily as a support group. Materials found here range from minutes of meetings chaired by Charles Angel and Colin Robinson in 1986, to executive committee notes, proposed organizational structure notes, meeting agendas, letters, flyers, and treasurer's reports. Of interest is an article about the dedication of the Charles Angel Room at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Another early document is arguably the first flyer produced by the young organization in the fall of 1986. The flyer, "An Appeal to the Black Family and All Segments of the Progressive Community," called for a cross-cultural dialogue between gays and heterosexuals in black communities. Charles R.P. Pouncy, an early member of the organization, donated this folder to the organization in 1990.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1991-1997 (bulk dates, 1995-1996) (1.6 lin. ft.) This series contains information about the structure and development of the board throughout the years, and gives an overview of the organization. There are six subseries: By-laws and Amendments, Agenda and Meeting Materials, Election, Committees, Managing/ Executive Director, and Early Members.

The **By-laws and Amendments** subseries, **1989, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996 (.4 lin. ft.)** are composed of various versions of GMAD's by-laws, some of which have annotations by Colin Robinson. Also included are notes by Bert Hunter (1989) about the proposed structure and by-laws of the organization, along with a memorandum from the board to the membership concerning an revision of the by-laws.

The **Agendas and Meeting Materials (.4 lin. ft.)** subseries consists mainly of agendas and various addendum/attachments from past meetings, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996-1997, and memorandum and reports from committees about elections, employments, events, financial information, staff hiring and membership.

In the subseries **Election, 1989; 1991-1997, (.4 lin. ft.)** the files contain ballots, candidate information, and membership lists. Minutes from monthly and special board meetings, which

relate specifically to elections, are arranged chronologically, 1991-1993; 1994-1997. This series is restricted because it contains personal information on GMAD's membership.

The **Committees, 1991-1992, n.d. (.3 lin. ft.)** subseries contains information about two board appointed committees: the HIV Program Initiative and Strategic Planning. These files contain agendas, flyers, job announcements, letters, reports, questionnaires, sign-up sheets, and notes related to each committee's objectives.

The **Managing/Executive Director Colin Robinson (1994-1995)**, subseries contains files generated by Colin Robinson, who held both titles at different times. Correspondence, memorandum, board minutes and related notes, vision statements, recommendations to the board, reports and drafts of employment agreements, can be found in these files. Notably there is a letter (August 4, 1995) from Robinson to the board that details his reasons for leaving his position as executive director, and lays out a history of his tenure with the organization as the managing director. Much of the material concerns the role of the board, formalizing the managing director and program assistant's position, information pertaining to a board retreat in 1994 that focused on the strategic plan to strengthen the board and organizational development. The records do not contain discrete bodies of files for most of the past executive directors or managing directors, including founder Charles Angel, Harold Robinson, Elbert Gates, Joe Pressley, Lawrence Abrams, Cary Alan Johnson, Robert Penn or Kevin McGruder.

In the **Early Members (1986-1996, .3 lin. ft.)**, subseries there are files for Colin Robinson and C. Ralph Wilson, both of whom served the organization in various capacities. Robinson, 1989-1993, along with Rev. Angel, co-chaired the first meetings of GMAD. This series is essentially a sampling of Robinson's records.

From its inception, Robinson has served the organization in various capacities as a board member, "Calendar/Newsletter" editor, managing director, and executive director before resigning in 1995. Arranged chronologically, these files includes (often heavily annotated) files dating back to 1986, board agendas and minutes, membership applications, newsletter working materials, program questionnaires, and a copy of the proposal to the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media, which funded the AIDS FILMS/GMAD collaborative HIV/AIDS awareness educational video, Party. (For more detailed information about

the Party video, see Program series description below). Materials found here include flyers and newsletters from the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and Gay Men's Health Crisis, another organization for which Robinson volunteered and worked. There are also letters Robinson penned in his capacity as a board member of the New York-based black gay writing collective, Other Countries.

The files for C. Ralph Wilson, 1995-1996, a former board member, are comprised of two folders of documents that were kept during his tenure as board secretary. The files include budgets for programs, correspondence, a listing of the board of directors, memoranda, minutes, organizational plans, reports, and notes. Some of the materials have annotations. Also included is a memorandum concerning Colin Robinson's lawsuit against GMAD for back pay in 1996.

Smaller categories in this series include biographies and resumes of former board members, contribution agreements, correspondence, executive committee reports, executive director search information, financial committee reports, lists of board members, memoranda, pledges of confidentiality forms, strategic reports and other related reports.

PROGRAMS, 1988-2001, (3.4 lin. ft.)

This series contains records for GMAD's programmatic activities including annual programs, Friday Night Forums, co-sponsored events, workshops and miscellaneous programs in which GMAD may have participated. The records here represent a sampling of programs and events held during 1986-1998, the totality of which provides valuable insight into the various issues engaging black gay men, including relationships, HIV/AIDS, literature and the arts. There are four subseries in this series; Calendar/Newsletter, Committees, Programs, and Oral History Project.

The **Calendar/Newsletter, 1988-1999 (.4 lin. ft.)** subseries provides the most comprehensive and detailed description of GMAD's activities found in the collection. The organization's newsletter (initially titled the Calendar, later renamed Angel Times and GMAD Newsletter, respectively) records the numerous activities and the development of the organization in the '80's and early '90's. There are gaps in publication, and it is unclear whether issues weren't produced for a particular month, or are simply missing. Additionally, there are production files, which include drafts, letters, clippings, calls for submission, memoranda, flyers, and other information for inclusion in the newsletters produced in 1995 and 1996. A list

of newsletters in the collection appears in the Appendix I.

The **Committees subseries, 1992-1997 (.2 lin. ft.)** represents a fraction of the various committees that came into being from the time of GMAD's inception. Judging from the scarcity of materials found here, compared with the information in the newsletter about committees that were formed, it is clear that several committees' files are missing. Arranged alphabetically by committee, this subseries contains agendas, flyers, job announcements, letters, reports, questionnaires, sign-up sheets, and notes related to each committee's objectives. Committees represented here include the Action Committee; "Harambee" Committee, Program Advisory Committee; Program Development Committee; Programming and Planning Committee; Steering Committee, and Whole Support Group Committee.

The **Programs subseries, 1988-2001 (2 lin. ft.)** contains files for a number of events, one-time and ongoing, that GMAD has conducted over the course of its existence. Arranged alphabetically, there is information about GMAD's 10th Anniversary, annual fashion show, Friday Night Forums, and Kwanzaa celebrations.

There are folders concerning fund raising events including a benefit for Black Is...Black Ain't, the late Marlon Riggs' last documentary, and the African-American Caribbean MSM Conference, both in 1995. Several files for the "Lifestyles Genesis Learning Series Program," a program that was funded by the Black Leadership Conference on AIDS, and the video Party can also be found here.

In 1993, GMAD in collaboration with AIDSFILMS, produced Party, 1991-1995, a professional video for safe sex educators and community organizations to use as a guide in HIV prevention outreach. The files include contracts, correspondence, crew and funding information, mailing lists, production materials, steering committee minutes, submitted scripts, and notes. Considered the first safer sex videotape produced by black gay men for black gay men, Party, was written by Washington, DC, playwright, Alan Sharpe, and directed by Charles Sessoms. The half-hour video was designed to stimulate group discussion and encourage values classification and peer support among black men around a range of HIV and STD risk reduction issues.

The **Oral History Project, 2000-2001 (.2 lin. ft.)** series. The Oral History Project was initiated to coincide with the formal depositing of the organization's archival records at the

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. It was funded by the Borough of Manhattan President's Office for New York City (fiscal year 2000/2001.) The purpose of the project was to provide insight into GMAD's genesis by interviewing early members of the organization, and persons associated with Charles Angel, in order to augment the history found in the records. The interviews took place over in late 2000 and ended July 2001. Transcriptions of the following interviews are available: George Bellinger, Jr., Kevin Coleman, Bonnie Harrison, Jeff Haskins, Kevin McGruder, Philip Reed, Colin Robinson, Harold Robinson, Kenneth Tolbert, Derwin Keith Vega, and C. Ralph Wilson

GENERAL OFFICE FILES, 1991-1997 (3.2 lin. ft.) Records in this series consists of two subseries: Subject Files and Miscellaneous Alphabetical Files. Both sets of files were found as units and have been kept as they were organized by GMAD. **The Subject Files** subseries contains files pertaining to the day-today activities of GMAD. Categories within these files include Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual drafts, resumes, position announcements, consultant information, memoranda, minutes of staff meetings, and statistical information. **The Miscellaneous Alphabetical Files** are comprised primarily of flyers, letters, publications, notes, and general information sent to GMAD. Files range in size and depth, and provide a rich context to view GMAD's development, as well as its alliances within the black and gay communities. Notable black LGBTQ organizations include ADODI (New York chapter), African Ancestral Lesbian United for Societal Change, Audre Lorde Project, Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project, Caribbean-Identified Lesbian and Gay Alliance, Jacks of Colour, National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institute, Other Countries, People of Color in Crisis, S.H.A.D.E.S., Inc. The publications included are BLK, Black Leather in Color, Buti Voxx, Ebony Connections, JFY Magazine, and Rainbow Connections. The subseries also includes a file of miscellaneous non-GMAD programs.

FINANCIAL (1991-1998, n.d., 2 lin ft.)

The bulk of the financial records were not transferred to the Schomburg Center. There are two subseries in this collection, **Grants** and **General**. The files found in the **Grants, 1992-1997, (1.6 in. ft.)** subseries include those that deal with grant-funded projects related to GMAD's HIV/AIDS prevention outreach efforts. Leading this series are files dealing with GMAD's fiscal outreach to a number of large grant giving organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New York State Department of Health, and United States Conference of Mayors.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) files focus primarily on GMAD's efforts to secure a grant from that agency's "Cooperative Agreements for Minority and Other Community Based Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Projects," for two years without success. The files include drafts of the grant proposal, consultant information, correspondence, letters of support from GMAD supporters and meetings notes. Colin Robinson, who spearheaded the two grant-making efforts, heavily annotated many of these documents, particularly the grant proposals. The New York State Department of Health files are largely composed of a grant GMAD received in 1994 from the state's AIDS Institute program, "Peer Delivered HIV Outreach and Prevention Programs Targeting Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities." Files for GMAD's Peer Initiative Program, created by GMAD, consist of budgets, consultant information, correspondence, proposals, reports and surveys, and workplans. The United States Conference of Mayors files relate to a grant GMAD received, "Collaborative HIV Prevention Grants Program" which helped the organization to provide HIV prevention outreach through a number of program initiatives, among them film screenings, town meetings, and national conferences. Included in these files are budget summaries, correspondence, contracts, grant proposals, general information, meeting information, newsletters, program overview, reports, vouchers, and workplans.

The last subseries, **General, 1990-1997 (.4 lin. ft.)** consists of financial files that were found with the General Office Files, but were placed here for consistency. There are files for budgets, financial accounts, reports, IRS information, proposals, and payroll information for GMAD, as well as other miscellaneous files.

Provenance: Gay Men of African Descent, Inc.
 Donated by: Gay Men of African Descent, Inc., 2000
 MG 736, SCM00-31
 Processed by: S. G. Fullwood
 June 2004

Appendix I - Leadership

Charles Angel and Colin Robinson co-chairs, 1986
 Harold Robinson, President, 1988
 Elbert Gates, Executive Director, 1989-1991
 Joe Pressley, Executive Director, 1991-1992
 Colin Robinson, Managing Director 1993-1994
 Colin Robinson, Executive Director, 1995
 Lawrence Abrams, Managing Director, 1995
 Cary Alan Johnson, Managing Director, 1995

Cary Alan Johnson, Executive Director, 1996
Robert Penn, Interim Executive Director, 1996
Kevin McGruder, Executive Director, 1997-2000, 2001?
William Peters, Executive Director, 2000-2002?
Tokes Osubu, Executive Director, 2002-present

Appendix II - Calendar/Newsletter

There are newsletters for the following months and years
(arranged chronologically):

1988 (March, April, May, June, July, September, October,
November, December)
1989 (February, March, April, May, June, July, August/September,
September/October, November, December)
1990 (March, October/November)
1991 (June, August, September)
1992 (January/February, March, April, September, October,
November, December)
1993 (January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August,
September, October, November, December)
1994 (January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August,
September, October, November, December)
1995 (February, March, April, July, August, September, October,
December)
1996 (March, April/May, June, July, August, September, October,
November, December); January, February, March, April, May [note:
cover says "April" with picture of Bayard Rustin], June, July,
August, September, October, November, December)
1998 (January, February, March, April, June, July, August,
October, November, December)
1999 (January).

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	EARLY DOCUMENTS Early Historical Documents, 1986- 1990 BOARD of DIRECTORS
	2	501 (c) (3) Certificate of Incorporation, 1990-1992 By-Laws
	3	1985-1995
	4	Draft, 1996 Agendas and Meeting Materials
	5	1991, 1993, 1995
	6	1996-1997 Election (Restricted)
	7	1989
	8	1991
	9	1992
	10-11	1993
	12-14	1994
2	1-3	1995
	4	1996
	5	1997 Committees
	6	HIV Programs Initiatives, 1991-1992
	7	Strategic Planning Committee, 1991-1992, n.d. Managing/Executive Director Colin Robinson
	8	Retreat, October 22, 1994 Reports, Correspondence, Memos, Notes
	9	1994
	10	1995
3	1	Vision Statement, 1994-1995
	2	Management Report - July 8, 1995 Early Members Colin Robinson
	3	1986-1989
	4	1990, n.d.
	5-6	AIDS Films/ <u>The Party</u> - Notes, 1991- 1992
	7-8	Co-Chair, Chair, 1991-1992

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
3	9	Notes - Board of Directors, October 1992 - September, 1993
	10	Programming and Planning Restructuring Committee - Proposals and Notes, 1993
	11	Reports, Correspondence, Memos, Notes C. Ralph Wilson
	12	1995
	13	1996
	14	Biographies and Resumes, ca. 1995
4	1	Constituency Questionnaire, January 1997
	2	Contribution Agreement, 1995 Correspondence
	3	Incoming, 1996, 1997, 1999
	4	Outgoing, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997
	5	Executive Committee Meeting Reports, November 4, 1996
	6	Executive Director Search, 1995-1996
	7	Financial Committee Reports (February and March, 1996); Other Information, 1996 General
	8	1991
	9	Computer System Information, November 1996
	10	Training Notes, n.d.
	11	n.d.
	12	List, 1996-1997
	13	Memorandum, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997 Minutes
	14	1991-1993 (Incomplete) March - December
	15	1994
	16	1995
	17	January - June, 1996
	18	July - December, 1996
	19	January - August, 1997
	20	Organizational Plan
	21	Pledge of Confidentiality Forms, 1996

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
4	22	Proposal for Program Evaluation, Haftan Eckholdt, June 5, 1995
	23	Reports, 1994-1997
	24	Retreats - Rainbow Mountain Resort, November 1, 1996
	25	"Staff Orientation for the Board of Directors" - Manual, September 9, 1995
	26	Volunteer Projects, n.d.
5		PROGRAMS
		Calendar/Newsletter
	1	1988
	2	1989
	3	March, October - November, 1990
	4	June, August, October, September, November, 1991
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