



Finding Aid for

**FORD FOUNDATION SUBJECT FILE RECORDS, 1947-1977
(BULK 1966-1976)
Accession 1410**

Finding Aid Published: November 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1410

CREATOR: Ford, Benson, 1919-1978

TITLE: Ford Foundation subject file records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1947-1977

BULK DATES: 1966-1976

QUANTITY: 3 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: The Ford Foundation is a philanthropic organization founded in 1936. Benson Ford served as a trustee for the foundation from 1947 to 1976. This collection contains records from Benson Ford's office relating to his work with the foundation.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Donated by Robert A. Taub, Director of the Corporate Affairs Planning Office, Ford Motor Company, 1978
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1410, Ford Foundation subject file records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff, January 1979.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Benson Ford Research Center staff in January 1979.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, November 2011, and published in November 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Benson Ford, the second son of Edsel Bryan and Eleanor Clay Ford and grandson of Henry and Clara Ford, worked for Ford Motor Company in a number of different capacities before becoming a vice-president, director of its Lincoln-Mercury Division, and chairman of the company's Dealer Policy Board. Active in civic and community affairs, he was at various times a member of the board of trustees of the Edison Institute (now The Henry Ford), Seaboard Properties Company, Henry Ford Hospital, among others. He also served as a trustee of the Ford Foundation from 1947 to 1976. The Ford Foundation was created with \$25,000 in original capital by Henry and Edsel Ford in 1936 as a philanthropic, non-profit Michigan corporation. Its purpose as outlined in the articles of incorporation was to receive and distribute funds for scientific, educational, and charitable purposes or "for any purpose that will increase the welfare of mankind." In 1950, the foundation moved its headquarters to New York and began to provide grants on a national and international level. Divestment of the Ford Motor Company occurred between 1955 and 1974. The foundation no longer has ties to the Ford Motor Company or the Ford family. It is guided by an international board of trustees, who rely on an international staff to explore funding possibilities, evaluate grant applications, and recommend grants for approval.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The material, arranged alphabetically by subject, is comprised of records maintained in Benson Ford's office relating to his activities as a trustee of the Ford Foundation. While the bulk of the material consists of reports issued by the foundation and documents sent to trustees during the period, there is also a smattering of correspondence and memoranda. Among the reports are documents regarding a 1964 administrative organization survey with recommendations for reorganization, a debate over an affirmative action program in the mid-1970s, proposals for a real estate development program, and summary reports on policies and programs. Financial material includes audit summaries, budget documents, investment reports, and copies of the foundation's articles of incorporation and by-laws. Published material includes annual reports for 1974 to 1977 and bound copies of the "Report of the Study for the Ford Foundation on Policy and Program" printed in 1949. Of particular note is a transcript of a Benson Ford oral history conducted by the Ford Foundation in 1973. Also of interest is a binder containing photographs of trustees and others in attendance at December 1972 and March 1973 board meetings. Subjects in the photographs, however, are not identified.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Benson, 1919-1978

Ford Motor Company

Ford Foundation

Henry Ford (Organization)

Subjects

Ford Foundation--Finance

Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations

Charities

Foundations

Philanthropists

Genre and Form

Annual reports

Oral histories

Organizational charts

Publications

CONTAINER LIST

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Bundy, McGeorge
 1974-1976
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By-laws and articles of incorporation, 1950-1975
Conflict of Interest policy statement, 1961-1975
Council of Library Resources, Inc., 1974
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Cunninggen, Merrimon, 1973-1975
David, Donald K., 1963-1965
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Dressner, Howard R., 1967-1977
Edison Institute grant, 1969
Energy policy project, 1973-1977
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Heard, Alexander B., 1970-1976
Hoffman, Paul G., 1949-1975
Hutchins, Robert M., 1954
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Kennedy, Roger G., 1971-1976
Lenagh, Thomas H., 1969
Lowry, W. McNeil, 1970-1974

McCloy, John J., 1951-1965
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Metropolitan Fund (Detroit, Mich.), 1967
Michigan, special fund for, 1951-1974
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Real estate development program, 1967-1968
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Stratton, Julius A., 1966-1976
Student educational investment guarantees, 1971-1972
Survey of Administrative Organization, 1964
Tax Reform Act of 1969, 1969-1974
Webber, James B. Jr., 1956
Photographs of trustees in binder, 1972-1973
Report of the study for the Ford Foundation on policy and program, 1949 (2 volumes)