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Lawrence Paros Papers

1965-2015
6 boxes (7 linear ft.)
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- [About SCUA](#)
 - [SCUA home](#)
 - [Credo digital](#)
- [Scope](#)
- [Overview](#)
 - [Series 1. Yale Summer High School \(YSHS\)](#)
 - [Series 2. Post-YSHS and Alternative Learning Project \(ALP\)](#)
- [Inventory](#)
 - [Series 1. Yale Summer High School \(YSHS\)](#)
 - [Series 2. Post-YSHS and Alternative Learning Project \(ALP\)](#)
- [Admin info](#)
- [Download](#)
 - [xml version](#)
 - [print version \(pdf\)](#)

[Read collection overview](#)

The educator and writer, Lawrence "Larry" Paros was born in Springfield, Mass., in 1934. After undergraduate work at UMass Amherst (1958), Paros earned his masters degree from Yale in American Diplomatic History and Russian Studies, and began teaching high school in Connecticut, where he became a lightning rod for promoting discussions of the Vietnam War among his students. The Yale Summer High School came calling in 1967, giving Paros the reins to a three-year old program that brought underprivileged youth from across the country for rigorous pre-collegiate study at the Yale Divinity School. Begun as a progressive response to the federal "War on Poverty," Paros soon sought to move the school in a more radical direction. Along with a small group of concerned educators, he redesigned the curriculum to deal directly and deeply with the most challenging contemporary issues in America and to address fundamental questions about the human condition, race, and the future of the country. Paros subsequently founded and led two experimental schools in Providence, R.I., and has written prolifically on topics ranging from education to etymology.

The Paros papers are the product of an innovator in alternative education and a advocate for social justice, and are particularly rich in documenting the efforts of educators in the 1960s and 1970s to make education relevant to contemporary students. The collection includes a rich record of Paros's brief time as director of the Yale Summer High School (YSHS), including organizational, pedagogical, and administrative documents, dozens of photographs, and an important set of DVDs and transcripts of interviews with former students, teacher, and administrators from the 1968 cohort, recorded for the film Walk Right In. Paros's work in alternative education is also well represented, with materials from his two schools in Providence (School One and the Alternative Learning Project).

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Background on Lawrence Paros

Lawrence "Larry" Paros was born on February 21, 1934, in Springfield, Massachusetts. He is best known for his research and work in alternative education. Paros attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he received a B.A. in History and Political Science. Graduating with his M.A. in American Diplomatic History and Russian Studies at Yale University in 1958, he would later begin his career as a teacher in secondary education. As a teacher, his early goals included inspiring students in civil rights and anti-war activism.

One of Paros's most notable achievements is his work with the Yale Summer High School (YSHS) in 1968. He was appointed director and given the specific job to recruit and educate young students in impoverished areas across the nation. Using his authority as director, Paros began taking the newly developed school in a radical direction, and redesigned the curriculum of the school in the effort to help the students with their interests. In 2010, he released a film, "Walk Right In," which documents YSHS students. His book, *The Black and the Blue: The Story of the Other Yale*, interviews former students and notes their achievements at the school. After leaving YSHS, Paros created and directed two experimental schools in New England: the Alternative Learning Project (ALP) and School One. His goal was to focus on students' interests rather than grades. In 2019, Paros published *Dancing on the Contradictions*, which describes his research in alternative learning. It is grounded on interactions with students and their comments about what they face during their educations.

Larry Paros's work, research, and publications are a part of a strong trend amongst educators across the nation investigating new forms of learning, with a renewed collaborative focus on making a difference in student's lives. More information about Larry and his current projects is available at his website: www.LarryParos.com.

Scope of collection

The Paros Papers are a rich personal collection documenting the alternative education movement in the 1960s and 1970s and its successes and failures. The collection is in two donor organized series, one documenting Yale Summer High School and the other documenting Paros's work post YSHS, including at the Alternative Learning Project and School One. Many folder titles are retained from the original organizational scheme. Each series includes Paros's writings, correspondence, and news articles regarding his work, as well as administrative, outreach, and audiovisual materials documenting the various schools and their communities.

Series descriptions

[Series 1. Yale Summer High School \(YSHS\)](#)

1965-2010

4 boxes (4.5 linear feet)

Yale Summer High School was an effort at educating high school students who came from impoverished areas. During the 1966-1968 summers, Paros had discussions with the students regarding the world around them, particularly the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War.

This series contains correspondence, publications and news clippings, Paros's writings, and administrative materials from YSHS. The records reveal both the daily life of students and administrators at YSHS, and Paros's and others' attempts at alternative education reform. It is clear why the students valued Paros and their discussions in class - after leaving the school, Paros and his students would often continue a correspondence.

"Walk Right In," a documentary of YSHS students' oral histories, is of special note within this series. Students were interviewed around forty years after YSHS, and discussed the meaning of the school and the 1967-1968 school year during the Civil Rights Movement in America.

[Series 2. Post-YSHS and Alternative Learning Project \(ALP\)](#)

1967-2015

2 boxes (2.5 linear feet)

The Alternative Learning Project (ALP) and School One are Paros's two experimental schools in Providence, Rhode Island, after leaving YSHS. Series 2 contains administrative materials, correspondence, and publications, mainly related to ALP. They provide in-depth information about the foundation of ALP, from the original constitution to course catalogs. Student work from the schools is also within this series.

Series 2 provides critical information Paros used in regards to his research, work, and writing on alternative education. News articles, clippings, seminar notes, and publications on education styles hint at the issues at the core of ALP and School One. Paros's book, *Dancing on the Contradictions* is also within this series.

Inventory

Series 1. Yale Summer High School (YSHS)

1965-2010

4 boxes (3.5 linear feet)

Administrative

1965-1974

YSHS Graduation Schedule

1965 Aug 12

Box 1: 1

YSHS Internal Documents from School Year

ca.1967

Box 1: 2

YSHS Academic Year Follow-Up Evaluations

1967 Dec 13-1968 Aug 15

Box 1: 3

YSHS Notes on Interns

1968-1969

Box 1: 4

YSHS Teaching Materials

ca.1970

Box 1: 5

YSHS Evaluations Done by YSHS Students

ca.1970

Box 5: 1

YSHS Associate Director William R. Torbert: HGSE

ca.1974

Box 1: 6

Correspondence

1967-1970

YSHS Correspondence - Paros to Fleishman, Chauncey, Robinson, Edwards

1967-1968

Box 1: 7

YSHS Pre-YSHS Correspondence

1968 Apr 9

Box 1: 8

YSHS Correspondence

1968 Apr 11-15

Box 1: 9

YSHS Correspondence - re. demise

1968 July 3-1969 June 9

Box 1: 10

YSHS Correspondence - NEH Prospectus
1967 Mar 26-1968 Apr 2
Box 1: 11
YSHS Correspondence - NEH Prospectus
1968 Jan 1
Box 1: 12
YSHS Correspondence - NEH Prospectus
1967 Mar 26-1968 Mar 20
Box 1: 13
Paros and the Vietnam War - Teaching Material, Correspondence, and News Articles
ca.1967
Box 1: 14
YSHS - Paros and Students
1968 Sept 21-1970 July 8
Box 1: 15
Paros Writing
1966-2001
Duplicates
1966-1968
Box 1: 16
YSHS Black and Blue Draft - Student Consent Forms
ca.1967
Box 1: 17
YSHS Anthology Parts I-III
1968 Aug 7-1968 Aug 9
Box 1: 18
YSHS "Reflections on 'We and the Proposed Educational Corporation'"
ca.1968-1969
Box 1: 19
YSHS Pamphlets and Paros Writing
1969 June 20-1969
Box 1: 20
The Black and the Blue Draft - Post-Singer Report
ca.1969-1970
Box 1: 21
"The Black and the Blue: The Story of the Other Yale Marked Copy
ca.2001
Box 1: 22
The Black and the Blue: The Story of the Other Yale Marked Copy
ca.2001
Box 1: 23
The Black and the Blue: The Story of the Other Yale
ca.2001
Box 1: 24
The Black and the Blue: The Story of the Other Yale
ca.2001
Box 1: 25
Publications and Clippings
ca.1960-2000
YSHS - Reflections on Education: "Thoughts on the Possibility of an Educational Corporation"
ca.1960
Box 1: 26
Paros in the News by Linda Greenhouse; Pre-YSHS
ca.1960
Box 1: 27
The Ecumencial Institute: Pamphlets and Presentation Notes
Winter 1962-Spring 1965
Box 1: 28
YSHS - Newspapers/Media Pre-Paros on YSHS Education
1964-1967
Box 1: 29
Yale in the News: Bi-Weekly Digest Newspaper Clippings
1964-1968
Box 1: 30
Perspectives Discussion: Series of CT Discussion Groups
1964
Box 1: 31
Perspectives Discussion: Series of CT Discussion Groups
1964-1965
Box 1: 32
Perspectives Discussion: Series of CT Discussion Groups
1965
Box 1: 33
Perspectives Discussion: Series of CT Discussion Groups
1966-1967
Box 1: 34
Perspectives Discussion: Series of CT Discussion Groups
1967
Box 1: 35
Perspectives Discussion: Series of CT Discussion Groups
1968
Box 1: 36
YSHS - Alumni Newsletter Pre-Paros
Summer 1965
Box 1: 37
Philadelphia Co-Op Schools and Prospectus
1965-1966
Box 1: 38
YSHS - The Clinical School And Connecticut College; Schools Similar to YSHS
1965 Sept 22-1967 Oct 30
Box 1: 39
Klein and Gould Reports on YSHS (for Paros); Data on YSHS Students
1965-1966
Box 1: 40
YSHS - News Articles (Duplicates)
1965-1966
Box 1: 41
YSHS - News Clippings
1965 Sept 10-1966 Aug 15
Box 1: 42
YSHS Miscellaneous Documents and News Reports on Schooling
1967
Box 1: 43

YSHS Yale Alumni Magazine
1967 Apr
Box 1: 44
YSHS Official Publication Materials; Alumni Magazine and Pamphlets
1967 Apr - 1968 Aug 9
Box 1: 45
YSHS Educational Studies for New Learning
1968 Mar 20
Box 1: 46
YSHS Upward Bound Materials for YSHS
1968 Dec 6
Box 1: 47
"Fuck You With Flowers" Copies of Drafts
1968
Box 2: 1
"All the Unwashed Populiasts and Wobblies are Dead" Copy by Thomas A. Billings of Upward Bound
1968 Dec 6
Box 2: 2
YSHS News Coverage: Paros's Termination and The Singer Report
1968-1969
Box 2: 3
YSHS Correspondence and News Articles Related to YSHS
1968-1969
Box 2: 4
YSHS News Article Duplicates (Singer Reports)
1969 Jan
Box 2: 5
Post-YSHS: "Special Issue on Alternative Schools" by Phi Delta Kappan
1973 Mar
Box 2: 6
"A dialogue on Race with President Clinton" Show Transcript
1998 July 9
Box 2: 7
YSHS Newsclippings/Articles
ca.2000
Box 2: 8
Student Work
1967-2000
YSHS "The Forum" Student Magazine - June Issue (Vol. 1)
1967 Jun 30
Box 2: 9
YSHS "The Forum" Student Magazine - July Issue (Vol. 2-5)
1967 July 7-1967 July 28
Box 2: 10
YSHS "The Forum" Student Magazine - August Issue (Vol. 6-7)
1967 Aug 4-1967 Aug 11
Box 2: 11
YSHS Student Produced Work
1967 July 25-1967 Aug 9
Box 2: 12
YSHS Comp-Comp Student Competition; Student Work and Evaluation of YSHS
1968 Aug
Box 2: 13
YSHS Comp-Comp Student Competition; Student Work and Evaluation of YSHS
1967 Aug
Box 2: 14
YSHS Comp-Comp Student Competition; Student Work and Evaluation of YSHS
1967 Aug
Box 2: 15
YSHS Comp-Comp Student Competition; Student Work and Evaluation of YSHS
1967 Aug
Box 2: 16
YSHS - "A Summer in the Life of Emma Wesson" Sociology Paper
1968 Dec 20
Box 2: 17
YSHS Wayne's Essay
ca.1990-2000
Box 2: 18
"Walk Right In"
1968-2010
Photographs - Students and Staff of YSHS
1968
Box 2: 19
Photographs - Students and Staff of YSHS
1968
Box 2: 20
Photographs - Students and Staff of YSHS
1968
Box 2: 21
Photographs - Students and Staff of YSHS
1968
Box 2: 22
Photographs - Students and Staff of YSHS
1968
Box 2: 23
Photographs - Students and Staff of YSHS
1968
Box 2: 24
Genet's "The Blacks" w/ M. Anclou (Curriculum)
ca.1960
Box 5: 2
Photographs
1968
Box 5: 3
Photographs
1968
Box 5: 4
Photographs
1968
Box 5: 5
Photographs
1968
Box 5: 6

Photographs
1968
Box 5: 7
Photographs
1968
Box 5: 8
Photographs
1968
Box 5: 9
Photographs
1968
Box 6: 1
DVD copies of "Walk Right In"
2010
Box 2: 25
Itinerary for Interviews
2007 Jun 26
Box 2: 26
Correspondence for Interviews
2007 July 18-2008 Aug 17
Box 2: 27
DVDs of Interviews (Originals)
2008-2010
Box 6: 2
DVDs of Interviews (Copies)
2008-2010
Box 6: 3
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Individual Students; Tonda
2008-2010
Box 2: 28
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Diversity
2008-2010
Box 2: 29
Oral History/Transcripts, r: The Times; Selection
2008-2010
Box 2: 30
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Demise
2008-2010
Box 2: 31
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Discipline and Order; Last Days and Departure
2008-2010
Box 2: 32
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Sweet Memories; Personal Impact of YSHS
2008-2010
Box 2: 33
Oral History/Transcripts, r: '67-'68
2008-2010
Box 2: 34
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Why a Film?
2008-2010
Box 2: 35
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Extracurriculars
2008-2010
Box 2: 36
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Interim '67-'68
2008-2010
Box 2: 37
Oral History/Transcripts, r: School '66-'67; Influence of Kids
2008-2010
Box 2: 38
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Race: First Experiences
2008-2010
Box 2: 39
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Educational Philosophy; Teachers at YSHS
2008-2010
Box 2: 40
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Core Curriculum and Essay
2008-2010
Box 2: 41
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Race and Reality (Past and Present) and Essay
2008-2010
Box 2: 42
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Genet's "The Blacks;" "Huck Finn"
2008-2010
Box 2: 43
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Student Backgrounds; Early Schooling
2008-2010
Box 2: 44
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Challenges; Updates; Reflections
2008-2010
Box 2: 45
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Trip and First Impressions
2008-2010
Box 2: 46
Oral History/Transcripts, r: Students Post-YSHS; Views on Education; Health
2008-2010
Box 2: 47
"Walk Right In" Screening Questions and DVD Reserve Form
2009-2010
Box 2: 48
YSHS Screening - "Walk Right In" Film Questions
2009
Box 2: 49
Independent Feature Project (IFP) Documents for LP
2003 Feb 20-2008 Sept 25
Box 2: 50
Independent Feature Project LP Duplicates
ca.2010
Box 2: 51
Series 2. Post-YSHS and Alternative Learning Project (ALP)
1967-2015
2 boxes (1.5 linear feet)
ALP

ca.1970-2000
ALP Informational Packet
ca.1970
Box 2: 52
ALP Core Curriculum
ca.1970
Box 2: 53
ALP Index of College References
ca.1970
Box 2: 54
ALP Original Proposals
1970 Jun 14-1973
Box 2: 55
ALP Intern Documents and Social Contracts (Post-YSHS)
1971-1972
Box 2: 56
ALP Application
1971-1972
Box 2: 57
ALP Interium Committee w/ Donald J. Driscoll
1971 Apr 1
Box 2: 58
Final Report Conducted by LP; YERT at Harvard
1971 July 31
Box 2: 59
ALP Minutes to Draft a Constitution
1971 July 1-1972 May 2
Box 2: 60
ALP Newsletters and Meeting Information
1971 Sept 15-1972 May 19
Box 2: 61
ALP Proposals, Approval, and Newsletter
1971 Oct 8-1973 Apr 17
Box 2: 62
ALP Misc News Coverage
1971 Oct
Box 2: 63
ALP Media Coverage
1971 Apr 13-1974 May 31
Box 3: 1
ALP News Articles
1971-1974
Box 3: 2
ALP Media and Report
1971
Box 3: 3
ALP Misc
1971 Sept 28
Box 3: 4
Paros's Journals - ALP Intern Observations
1971-1972
Box 3: 5
Paros's Journals - ALP Intern Observations
1971 Sept 28-1972 Oct 28
Box 3: 6
Paros's Journals - ALP Intern Observations
1971 Oct 28-1972 Dec 17
Box 3: 7
Paros's Journals - ALP Intern Observations
1971 Aug 23-1972 May 23
Box 3: 8
Paros's Journals - ALP Intern Observations
1971 Jan 31-1972 Mar 27
Box 3: 9
ALP Final Report
1972 July 1-1973 Jun 30
Box 3: 10
ALP Catalog of Possibilities (Course Catalogs) and Introduction
ca.1972
Box 3: 11
ALP English and Course Materials
ca.1972
Box 3: 12
ALP Evaluations and Information
ca.1972
Box 3: 13
ALP Course Catalog
1972-1973
Box 3: 14
ALP Course Catalog and Information
1972-1973
Box 3: 15
ALP Request for a Continuation Grant: Providence Public Schools
1972-1973
Box 3: 16
ALP Evaluations
1972-1974
Box 3: 17
ALP in the Media (Originals and Copies)
1972-1974
Box 3: 18
ALP/School One - Student Produced Work
1973-1974
Box 3: 19
ALP Learning Packet
1973-1974
Box 3: 20
ALP Information Packet Papers
1973-1974
Box 3: 21
ALP Outline of Purpose
1973-1974
Box 3: 22

ALP Graduation Information
1973-1974
Box 3: 23
ALP Course and Curriculum Outlines
1973-1974
Box 3: 24
ALP Proposal and Validation
1973 Feb 15-1973 Jun 19
Box 3: 25
ALP Implementation, Pre-Testing Report
1973 Nov 30
Box 3: 26
ALP/School One - Notecards on Class
1974 Feb 22-1974 Mar 5
Box 3: 27
ALP Governance
1974 Feb 8
Box 3: 28
ALP Staffing
ca.1974
Box 3: 29
ALP Site Placements
ca.1974
Box 3: 30
ALP Counseling
ca.1974
Box 3: 31
ALP Parent Involvement
ca.1974
Box 3: 32
ALP Inferium Report; Social-Political Awareness (Curriculum Research and Development Center)
ca.1974
Box 3: 33
Notes on Paros's School
1974 Jan 15-1974 Mar 5
Box 3: 34
ALP in the Media (Copies)
1974 May 5-1979 Oct 29
Box 3: 35
ALP Natalie Robinson Statement and Poem by Adelina Azevedo
1976 May 29
Box 3: 36
Notes by Paros on ALP
ca.2000
Box 3: 37
The Learning Center
ca.1970
The Learning Center Original - Robert Gelbach, S. Torrey Orton III, and Larry Paros
ca.1970
Box 3: 38
The Learning Center: "A Design for Secondary Education in New Haven" (Copies)
ca.1970
Box 3: 39
Paros Writing
ca.1960-2010
Manuscript - Paros and YSHS Conclusions (Portion)
ca.1960-1970
Box 3: 40
"A Proposal for a Demonstration Social-Action High School" (Original)
ca.1970
Box 3: 41
"A Proposal for a Demonstration Social-Action High School" (Copies)
ca.1970
Box 3: 42
Educational Corporation: Paros and Others (Copies and Originals)
ca.1970
Box 3: 43
Post-YSHS: Rejection Notice, Freshman Assembly
1969 Sept 15-1970 Oct 19
Box 3: 44
The Creation of Settings and Check from Paros
1973 July 16
Box 3: 45
Paros and Grass Roots: Press Statements and Applications
1977
Box 3: 46
Paros and Grass Roots: Press Release and Applications
1976 Dec 16-1977
Box 3: 47
ALP
ca.1970-1980
Box 3: 48
ALP and Alternative Education
ca.1970-1980
Box 3: 49
Columns - Post-YSHS
1987 Mar 9-1988 May 9
Box 3: 50
Overview of Interviews Post-Career and List of Names
ca.1990-2000
Box 3: 51
Personal Reflection on Career
ca.2000
Box 3: 52
The Learning Society Proposal
ca.2000
Box 3: 53
"Dancing on the Contradictions: The Joy, Pain, and Important of Being a Controversial Educator" (Marked Copy)
ca.2010
Box 3: 54
Publications and Clippings
1967-2015
Educational Studies Applied to ALP

1967 Sept
Box 3: 55
The Clinical School
1967 Oct 30
Box 3: 56
"A Proposal for the Creation of an Institute of Social Science" Yale University
1968 June 10
Box 3: 57
"A Proposal for the Creation of an Institute of Social Science" Yale University (Reprint)
ca.1969
Box 3: 58
The New School of Education Journal (US Berkley)
ca.1970
Box 3: 59
"Education Improvement" in New Haven, CT
1970 Jan
Box 3: 60
News Articles, re: Education in RI
1970-2003 Aug 24
Box 3: 61
"The Black Panther" Newspaper
1972 Jan 8
Box 5: 10
"Education in Rhode Island" Newspaper
1972 Apr
Box 3: 62
"Skoolbreak" Paper
1972 Nov
Box 3: 63
"Skoolbreak" Paper
1973 Jan
Box 3: 64
"Skoolbreak" Papers
1973 Feb
Box 3: 65
"Skoolbreak" Papers
1973 Apr
Box 3: 66
"Skoolbreak" Papers
1973 June
Box 3: 67
National Advisory Council on Supplementary Centers and Services - Title III Quarterly
1973
Box 3: 68
UMass Amherst School of Education: NASP - Public Alternative Schools
1973 Jun
Box 4: 1
Rhode Island and URI: Publications and Correspondence Regarding Education
1977 Mar 14
Box 4: 2
Grass Roots Issues 1-5
1997 Jun-1977 Oct 1
Box 4: 3
Stepping Out Periodical
1977 Oct 1
Box 4: 4
Grass Roots Periodicals
1977 Nov 17-1977 Nov 30
Box 4: 5
Grass Roots Periodicals
1977 Nov 17-1977 Dec 20
Box 4: 6
Grass Roots Periodicals
1977 Nov 1-1977 Dec 13
Box 4: 7
Stepping Out Periodicals
1977 Nov 17-1977 Dec 6
Box 4: 8
Stepping Out Periodicals
1977 Dec 7-1977 Dec 13
Box 4: 9
The Providence Corporation Documents
1977-1978
Box 4: 10
UMass School of Education Discussion Draft: A Framework for Planning the Alternative School
1970-1980
Box 4: 11
"The Radical Teacher" News Article and Lesson Plans for an Education Course
1977 Jul-1978 Jan
Box 4: 12
David Lewis: "Tarrytown Conference - Education in the Year 2000 (Lecture Notes)
ca.1984
Box 4: 13
The Progressive Periodical (w/ Jonathan Kozol)
1991 Dec
Box 4: 14
UW/RAND Program
1996 Oct
Box 4: 15
News Articles - Teaching
1997 Dec 8-2009 Jan 23
Box 4: 16
News Articles - Teaching
ca.2000
Box 4: 17
News Articles - Teaching
1997 Aug-2007 Jul 11
Box 4: 18
News Articles - Teaching
ca.2000
Box 4: 19
News Articles - Teaching
2000 Mar 13-2001 Feb 9

Box 4: 20
Articles on Education: Diane Ravitch and David Brooks
1968 Apr-2015 Mar 17
Box 4: 21
School One
1973
School One Outline for Mr. John Trombi
1973 Jun 11
Box 4: 22
School One "Catalog of Possibilities"
1973
Box 4: 23
School One - News Articles
1973-1981
Box 4: 24

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Lawrence Paros, 2019.

Processing Information

Processed by Claire Gagnon, October 2021.

Related Material

For related materials in Special Collections and University Archives see the other collections in the Irma McIaurin Black Feminist Archive.

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

- African American high school students
- Alternative education--Connecticut
- Alternative education--Rhode Island
- Civil rights movement
- Paros, Lawrence
- Yale Summer High School

Contributors

- Paros, Lawrence [main entry]

Genres and formats

- Oral histories (literary works)
- Photographs
- Video recordings (physical artifacts)

Link to similar SCUA collections

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