

Leon Brady Collection (AC57)

Introduction:

The Leon Brady Collection contains twenty awards and certificates bestowed to Leon Brady.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Leon Brady

Title: Leon Brady Collection

Date Range: 1979-2011

Size: 2.0416 linear feet (2 boxes)

Collection Number: AC57

Donor Information:

Donated by Leon Brady, August 2023

Citation Note:

Leon Brady Collection (AC57), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: unrestricted

Access Restrictions: unrestricted

Biographical Sketch:

Leon Brady, originally from Louisiana, is a jazz musician and music teacher in Kansas City, Kansas. He joined the US Air Force in 1949 after graduating high school. After his military service, Leon earned his Bachelor of Science from Tennessee State University in 1957. Leon moved to Kansas City, KS in 1959, when he accepted a position as band director at Dunbar Elementary and Northeast Junior High Schools. He then transferred to Sumner High School in 1966. Three years later, he opened Progressive Music Studio in the Quindaro neighborhood in KCK. And in 1976, Leon opened a music store called Brady & Sons Music Company; it closed 2000. In 2001, he started the Kansas City Youth Jazz program.

In addition to teaching and operating a small business, Leon was a member of the KC Jazz Quintet George Salisbury, Milt Abel, Carmel Jones, Herman Bell and later Frank Smith and Tony Swisher. He has also performed with many other famous jazz musicians over the course of his life. At one time, he was an Elder Statesman of Kansas City Jazz and served on the Advisory Committee of the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra.

Scope and Content Note:

The Leon Brady Collection consists of a single series of twenty awards certificates in recognition of service, and proclamations from the city of Kansas City, KS and the city of Kansas City, MO in honor of Leon Brady.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Certificates and Proclamations
- f. 2 Award for Outstanding Service from the Evangelist Temple C.O.G.I.C
- f. 3 Community Service Award from the K.C. Downtown Club
- f. 4 Distinguished Service Award from Sumner High School
- f. 5 “Music Clinic” Award, 1986
- f. 6 Award from Sumner High School, 1985
- f. 7 Award from the Central Avenue Betterment Association
- f. 8 Teacher of the Year Award
- f. 9 Distinguished Service to Youth Award, 1984
- f. 10 Outstanding Small Business Award from the KCK Area Chamber of Commerce
- f. 11 Kansas City Jazz Heritage Award from the Kansas City Jazz Commission
- f. 12 Honored Profession Award from the National Directory of Who’s Who

Processed by Laura Darnell, Archivist, February, 2024.

Sources:

LinkedIn. Leon Brady. Accessed February 2024. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/leon-brady-a1200158>

Accessed February 2024. <https://www.n1m.com/leonbradymusic/about>