

Leon Brady Collection (AC67)

Introduction:

The Leon Brady Collection consists of a single series of awards, plaques, certificates, and proclamations from organizations, churches, and schools in City of Kansas City, KS, and the City of Kansas City, MO.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Leon Brady

Title: Leon Brady Collection

Date Range: 1972-2011

Size: 2 linear feet (2 book trays)

Collection Number: AC67

Donor Information:

Donated by Leon Brady, August 2023

Citation Note:

Leon Brady Collection (AC67), 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 along with 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:

[OS] indicates that the item is oversized and has been removed from the collection and placed in Flat File Cabinet #1 Drawer #2. All plaques and awards are located in the Art Tills. This collection also contains numerous trophies not currently listed in the catalog.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Certificates and Proclamations [OS]
- f. 2 Award for Outstanding Service from the Evangelist Temple C.O.G.I.C (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 3 Community Service Award from the K.C. Downtown Club (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 4 Distinguished Service Award from Sumner High School (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 5 "Music Clinic" Award, 1986 (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 6 Award from Sumner High School, 1985 (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 7 Award from the Central Avenue Betterment Association (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 8 Teacher of the Year Award (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 9 Distinguished Service to Youth Award, 1984 (AT 1.A.5 BACK)
- f. 10 Outstanding Small Business Award from the KCK Area Chamber of Commerce, 1996 (AT 1.A.5 BACK)
- f. 11 Kansas City Jazz Heritage Award from the Kansas City Jazz Commission (AT 1.A.6 BACK)
- f. 12 Honored Profession Award from the National Directory of Who's Who (AT 1.A.6 BACK)
- f. 13 Six Years of Leadership to the Graduating Class of 1969 (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)

- f. 14 Retail Firm of the Year, 1991 (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 15 Award from Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Links, 2001 (AT 1.A.3 FRONT)
- f. 16 Small Business of the Year from Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce, 1996 (AT 1.A.5 BACK)
- f. 17 In Recognition of Life Service, 2006 (AT 1.A.5 BACK)
- f. 18 Award from the Kansas City Kansas Human Relations Commission, 1972 (AT 1.A.5 BACK)
- f. 19 Achievement Award for performing in the KC Jazz Festival, 1973 (AT 1.A.5 BACK)
- f. 20 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wyandotte Community Coalition Foundation, 2010 (AT 1.A.5 BACK)
- f. 21 Sons of Thunder Award from the Fifth Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1994 (AT1.A.4 BACK)

Processed by Laura Darnell, Head Archivist, February 2024. Updated by Laura Darnell, Head Archivist, June 2024. Updated by Laura Darnell, Head Archivist, June 2026.

Sources:

“About Leon Brady Music - N1M,” n.d. <https://www.n1m.com/leonbradymusic/about>.
LinkedIn. Leon Brady. Accessed February 2024. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/leon-brady-a1200158>