

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Little Miss Black Joliet Pageant Collection

Collection Number: MSS.19

Date Range: 1976-1999

Size: 1.5 Linear Feet

Location: RR.6.3

Creator: Robert Johnson, Executive Director of the Little Miss Black Joliet Pageant

Abstract: The Little Miss Black Joliet Pageant Collection includes programs from the Little Miss Black Joliet pageant from 1984 until 1999. The collection also includes programs from subsidiary pageants and Black Pride events, including its predecessor, Miss Black Joliet as well as Miss Black America of Illinois, Miss Black Illinois, and Ms. Will County Senior Citizen.

Acquisition Information: The Executive Director of the Little Miss Black pageant, Robert J. Johnson, loaned the materials to the Joliet Area Historical Museum in 2002 to be copied for research purposes. None of the materials in this collection are original.

Separated Materials: None

Citation: Item Description. MSS.19 Little Miss Black Joliet Pageant Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History: The Little Miss Black Joliet Pageant was organized in January of 1983 at the Hill Memorial Center under the director of Robert J. Johnson and the Hill Memorial Center's Advisory Board. The pageant was intended to be a supplement to the Miss Black Joliet Pageant as well as a fundraiser. Johnson organized the pageant as a way for young black women to gain experience.

The first Little Miss Black Joliet pageant was held in March of 1983 at Bicentennial Park Theater with 15 contestants competing, and the first Little Miss Black Joliet was Felise Stevenson. By 1985 the Joliet Pageant Committee was organized, and the group continued to hold the Little Miss Black Joliet pageant at Bicentennial Park. Eventually they outgrew the space and relocated the pageant to the Joliet Job Corps Center in 1987, and relocated again in 1994 to the Joliet West Campus.

Scope and Content Arrangement: The Little Miss Black Joliet Pageant Collection includes programs from the Little Miss Black Joliet pageant from 1984 until 1999. The collection also includes programs from

subsidiary pageants and Black Pride events, including it's predecessor, Miss Black Joliet as well as Miss Black America of Illinois, Miss Black Illinois, and Ms. Will County Senior Citizen.

It should be noted none of the materials in this collection are original. The Executive Director of the pageant, Robert J. Johnson, loaned the materials to the Joliet Area Historical Museum in 2002 to be copied for research purposes.

The materials in this collection have been arranged alphabetically by pageant title, and then chronologically. Due to the small size of the collection the materials have not been arranged by Series.

Related Materials:

Content Listing:

Scope: Divided into two sub-series based on record type.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Black Pride Weekend, Mrs. and Ms. Black Pride, 1988	1	1
Black Pride Weekend, 1989	2	1
Black Pride Weekend, 1990	3	1
Little Miss Black America, 1984	4	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1984	5	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1987	6	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1989	7	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1992	8	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1993	9	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1994	10	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1995	11	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1996	12	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1998	13	1
Little Miss Black Joliet, 1999	1	2
Miss Black America of Illinois, 1984	2	2
Miss Black Illinois Pageant, 1978	3	2
Miss Black Joliet, 1976	4	2
Miss Black Joliet, 1978	5	2
Miss Black Joliet, 1984	6	2
Ms. Will County Senior Citizen, 1983	7	2