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**MS 1265
South Park Avenue Improvement Project
2000****DESCRIPTION**

This small collection consists primarily of a binder prepared by Natalie W. Josef documenting improvements for bus and pedestrian amenities in the South Park Avenue area of Tucson Arizona. The binder was organized into five sections highlighting the improvement project planing, artistic aspects of the improvements, and the people who live in the South Park Avenue location. The original organization of the binder has been maintained including page numbering and placement of photographs. Oral history interviews with local residents on their reactions to the project along with photographs of the people highlight the collection.

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The South Park Avenue neighborhood of Tucson has history going back to the early 1940s. In 1942, 19 people were listed as living on South Park Avenue between 18th and 36th Street. Many individuals lived with their families in Army tents and the community sometimes went by the name "Tent City." By 1948 the first businesses were established in the area with Bob's Drive Inn, Lloyd's Grill, the South Park Political Club, and Payton Water Company. South Park Avenue occupies a special place because it was one of the few places in Tucson where African-Americans could purchase land, build homes, own a business, and create a community in the 1940s.

The Tucson South Park Avenue Improvement Project was selected as part of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Livable Communities Initiative. The project consisted of providing improvements related specifically to bus stop and pedestrian amenities for the South Park Area along Park Avenue between 18th Street and 36th Street. The project had a strong public art component to focus on community involvement as well as to represent the unique qualities and values of the South Park neighborhood.

ACQUISITION - Donated by Robert Peterson and City of Tucson Transportation in 2005.

ACCESS - There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING - The collection was processed by Dave Tackenberg in November 2005.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1	South Park Avenue Improvement Project	2000
f.2	South Park Project Phrases and Quotes	
f.3	Project Binder Introduction and Table of Contents	
f.4	Project Binder Section 1: Newspaper Clippings	(pp.1-33)
f.5	Project Binder Section 2: The Faces of South Park	(pp.34-55)
f.6	Project Binder Section 3: Oral Histories	(pp.56-77)
f.7	Project Binder Section 4: Project Artist – To-Ree-Nee Keiser	(pp.78-86)
f.8	Project Binder Section 5: South Park Avenue Project	(pp.87-113)
f.9	Project Binder Appendix	