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## Guide to Mark Porsche Papers

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## Guide to the Mark Porsche Papers

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## Guide to the Mark Porsche Papers

### Collection number: MSS-2003-04

SJSU Library Special Collections & Archives  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library  
San Jose State University  
San Jose, California

Processed by:

Danelle Moon and Deb Sica

Date Completed:

2005

Encoded by:

Karla Aleman

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Mark Porsche papers

**Dates:** 1989-1992

**Bulk Dates:** 1991

**Collection number:** MSS-2003-04

**Creator:** Porsche, Mark

**Collection Size:** 1 linear foot

**Repository:** San Jose State University. Library.

San Jose, California 95192-0028

**Abstract:** The Mark Porsche Papers (1989-1992) document Porsche's organization of the Gay Pride Parade Celebration of San Jose and his work on the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose and the California Association of Pride, Inc. The collection includes correspondence, financial and community organization records, press releases, news clippings and other miscellany. The collection highlights his service as president of the groundbreaking 1991 Gay Pride Celebration of San Jose, an annual event that continues today.

**Physical location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

One restricted folder of financial records is contained within this collection. Written permission is required to access folder 67. Usage of the materials is subject to approval by the Director of Special Collections.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

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### Processing History

Processing completed by Danelle Moon and Deb Sica, 2005. EAD encoding by Karla Aleman, 2006.

### Biography / Administrative History

Mark Porsche (1951-1993) was a leader, peacemaker and outspoken dignitary for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community of Santa Clara County. He believed that GLBT visibility would promote a legacy of safety, acceptance and equality for the gay community. Porsche reflected on the purpose of the Pride Parade by stating in a press release that, "Although the Festival is held at the

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Fairgrounds, only those who attend see our celebration. When we celebrated in the downtown parks, everyone saw us. I look at the Parade as a chance to once again become more visible to the entire community." It was this belief that promoted the first ever city-sanctioned Gay Pride Parade in San Jose.

**Personal History:**

Porsche was born on February 17, 1951 in Olympia, Washington. In his short life, Porsche was father to four children, Lisa Moore of Idaho, Tiana and Sean Porsche of Washington and John Porsche of Alaska. He was brother to four siblings, Robert Porsche of California and Vickie Van Ness, Kimberly Stevens and Connie Shumate of Washington and son to Laura Porsche. Mark Porsche went to high school in Lacey, Washington and later received an Associates Degree in Arts from Tacoma Community College. In Porsche's personal life, he played piano and organ and performed with the musical groups Interstate 5 and Sounds Feasible. He moved to San Jose in the late 70s and worked as an electrician and maitre d'. In 1982, he founded Prestige Electric, located in the Koll Center in San Jose and contracted with companies such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, American Airlines, Swenson Construction and Club St. John. The family business motivated both of his sons to become electricians. Porsche and his partner, Danny Webster, had a commitment ceremony at the Metropolitan Community Church. Later, Danny Webster died of an AIDS related illness. Caregiver and ARIS Project volunteer, Mark Gillard, took care of Porsche in his final days. Porsche died at the age of 42 on April 12, 1993 in Redwood City, California from AIDS-related complications.

**Community Work:**

Porsche played an integral role in planning the 1991 Pride Parade including obtaining permits, securing insurance, fund raising and promotion. During his presidency of the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose, Porsche removed many logistical obstacles by convincing both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer to issue a proclamation that granted the week of June 3-9th Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. Porsche served as the Director of the California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) and as a board member at the Billy DeFrank Center. At the state level, Porsche worked for the passage of AB2601, landmark legislation that protected GLBT people from employment discrimination. In spite of all of his public efforts, Porsche was a recovering alcoholic and member of Alcoholics Anonymous with four and a half years of sobriety at his time of death. He continued to work tirelessly as a fundraiser for the ARIS Project and was active in the Metropolitan Community Church.

**History of the Pride Parade in San Jose:**

On June 26, 1971, Morris Kight, the founder of the Gay Liberation Front, spoke to a group of over 100 people that provoked an impromptu march down First Street in San Jose. Following this historic event, the GLBT community of Santa Clara County did not march on the streets of San Jose for several years. As an alternative, rallies were held regularly starting in 1976 in St. James Park. In the following years, the rallies were hosted at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, the Stockton GLBT bar area and the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center. In 1991, the parade and festival become a city-sanctioned event as a result of the efforts of Mark Porsche and the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose. On June 8 & 9, 1991, the festival was held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds and the parade was held on the morning of June 9 at 11:00 am. In the years after Porsche's death, his legacy and dedication continues as San Jose is now home to the largest Pride Parade in the South Bay Area.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Mark Porsche Papers (1989-1992) document Porsche's organization of the Gay Pride Parade Celebration of San Jose and his work on the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose and the California Association of Pride, Inc. The collection includes correspondence, financial and community organization records, press releases, news clippings and other miscellany. The collection highlights his service as president of the groundbreaking 1991 Gay Pride Celebration of San Jose, an annual event that continues today. San Jose State University acquired this collection from Robert Porsche, on April 7, 2003.

**Subject Headings**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Porsche, Mark, 1951-1993.

Gays--California--San Jose--Political activity--History--20th century.

Gay liberation movement--California--San Jose--History--20th century.

Gays--California--San Jose--Identity.

**Index Terms Related to this Collection**

San Jose State University. Library. Special Collections & Archives.

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Box 1

Series 1: **Personal Papers 1989-1992****Physical Description:** 1 carton**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The contents of the collection includes documents relating to the California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI), the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose, the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors Gay Pride Proclamation, International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (IAL/GPC) planning records for the 1991 San Jose Gay Pride Festival and Parade and other financial and administrative records related to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Santa Clara County community.

**Arrangement**

This series is organized by date: 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992. Within each year, the folders are arranged alphabetically according to the subject heading assigned by Porsche. Within each subseries folder, the documents are arranged chronologically with undated documents placed at the end.

**Access Note**

One restricted folder of financial records is contained within this collection. Written permission is required to access folder 67. Usage of the materials is subject to approval by the San Jose State University Special Collection & Archives Director.

Box 1

**1989**

Folder 1

**Bylaws 1989**

Folder 2-3

**California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) 1989**

Folder 4

**Correspondence 1989**

Folder 5

**Dyketones 1989**

Folder 6

**Entertainment 1989**

Folder 7

**Program 1989**

Folder 8

**Rally Committee Meeting Records 1989**

Folder 9

**Schedules and Sound 1989****1990**

Folder 10

**California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) 1990**

Folder 11

**Clippings 1990**

Folder 12

**Entertainment Lists 1990**

Folder 13

**Ephemera 1990**

Folder 14

**Interpride '90 1990**

Folder 15

**Mailing Lists 1990**

Folder 16

**Photographs 1990****1991**

Folder 17

**Board of Directors 1991**

Folder 18

**Budget 1991**

Folder 19

**Bylaws 1991**

Folder 20

**California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) 1991**

Folder 21

**Clippings 1991**

Folder 22

**Community Sponsorship 1991**

Folder 23

**Corporate Grants 1991**

Folder 24

**Entertainment 1991**

Folder 25

**Event Planning 1991**

Folder 26

**Festival Applications 1991**

Folder 27

**Festival Information 1991**

Folder 28

**Financial Records 1991**

Folder 29

**Fundraising 1991**

Folder 30

**Grants Records 1991**

Folder 31

**Hate Crimes Workshop 1991**

Folder 32

**International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (IAL/GPC) 1991**

Folder 33

**Loan Documents 1991**

Folder 34

**Magazine Advertisements 1991**

Folder 35

**Media 1991**

Folder 36

**Meeting Documents 1991**

Folder 37

**Merchandise 1991**

Folder 38

**Newspapers 1991**

Folder 39-40	<b>Other Pride Organizations 1991</b>
Folder 41	<b>Parade Planning Documents 1991</b>
Folder 42	<b>Participants Information 1991</b>
Folder 43	<b>Permits 1991</b>
Folder 44	<b>Planning Documents 1991</b>
Folder 45	<b>Post Event Documents 1991</b>
Folder 46	<b>Presentation Transparencies 1991</b>
Folder 47	<b>Press Releases 1991</b>
Folder 48	<b>Prestige's Pride Booth 1991</b>
Folder 49	<b>Pride Planning Documents 1991</b>
Folder 50	<b>Proclamations and Political Documents 1991</b>
Folder 51	<b>Program 1991</b>
Folder 52	<b>Receipts 1991</b>
Folder 53	<b>Storage 1991</b>
Folder 54	<b>Timeline 1991</b>
Folder 55	<b>Valentine's Kiss-In 1991</b>
Folder 56	<b>Volunteers 1991</b>
	<b>1992</b>
Folder 57	<b>Board of Directors 1992</b>
Folder 58	<b>Clippings 1992</b>
Folder 59	<b>Customer List 1992</b>
Folder 60	<b>Directory 1992</b>
Folder 61	<b>Financial Records 1992</b>
Folder 62	<b>Hawaiian Festival Ephemera 1992</b>
Folder 63	<b>International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (IAL/GPC) 1992</b>
Folder 64	<b>Parade Planning Documents 1992</b>
Folder 65	<b>Photograph 1992</b>
Folder 66	<b>Program 1992</b>
Folder 67	<b>Restricted Financial Records 1989-1992</b>

**Access Note**

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