

# BLANCO, RICHARD, 1968- Richard Blanco papers, circa 1980-2017

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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## Collection Stored Off-Site

All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Blanco, Richard, 1968-
<b>Title:</b>	Richard Blanco papers, circa 1980-2017
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection No. 1431
<b>Extent:</b>	13 linear feet (14 boxes), 4 oversized papers boxes and 4 oversized papers folders (OP), 1 bound volume (BV), AV Masters: .5 linear feet (1 box), and Born digital material: .25 linear feet (1 box)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Papers of Cuban-American poet and engineer, Richard Blanco, including correspondence, writings by Blanco, printed material, awards, memorabilia, audiovisual material, and born digital material.
<b>Language:</b>	Materials in English and Spanish.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Special restrictions apply: Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact the Rose Library at least two weeks in advance for access to these items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.

Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance for access to unprocessed born digital materials in this collection. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to unprocessed born digital materials.

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

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**Separated Material**

The Rose Library holds books and periodicals formerly owned by Richard Blanco. These items may be located in the Emory University online catalog by searching: Blanco, Richard, former owner.

**Source**

Purchased from Richard Blanco, 2017.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Richard Blanco papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Appraisal Note**

Acquired by Rosemary Magee, Director of the Rose Library and Curator of Literary Collections, as part of the Rose Library's holdings in poetry. One linear foot of duplicate publications, extraneous memorabilia, and out of date engineering texts and equipment was removed from the collection and returned to Blanco. Appraisal decisions were made by Manuscript Archivist Sarah Quigley and Head of Collection Services Carrie Hintz.

**Processing**

Arranged and described at the box level by Sarah Quigley, February 2017. Richard Blanco packed and inventoried the collection before transferring the material to the Rose Library. Quigley retained much of the original order with the exceptions of consolidating material into fewer boxes; removing books and periodicals for cataloging; and removing audiovisual material, born digital material, awards, memorabilia, and oversized material from their original locations and organizing them separately. Some material is described in the container list without dates because the material in the box spans the date range for the whole collection, circa 1980-2017.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Richard Blanco (1968-) was born in Madrid, Spain, on February 15, 1968. His parents were Cuban exiles and had been in Spain for two months when he was born. The family immigrated to the United States when Blanco was a month old, eventually settling in Miami, Florida. Blanco attended Florida International University (Miami, Florida), earning a bachelor's degree in engineering in 1991. Writing was a creative outlet for Blanco during his early career as an engineer, and he returned to Florida International University for graduate school, receiving a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing in 1997. He published his first book of poetry, *City of a Hundred Fires*, in 1998, winning the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize from the University of Pittsburgh Press. Blanco's other award-winning collections of poetry include *Directions to the Beach of the Dead* (2005) and *Looking for the Gulf Motel* (2012). His memoir, *The Prince of Los Cocuyos: A Miami Childhood* (2014), won the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Memoir in 2015.

In 2012, President Barack Obama selected Blanco as the fifth presidential inaugural poet. Blanco is the youngest, first Latino, first immigrant, and first openly gay person to serve in this capacity. At the inauguration on January 21, 2013, he read his poem, "One Today," written especially for the occasion. The experience also led to the publication of a memoir, *For All of Us, One Today: An Inaugural Poet's Journey* (2013), and a children's book, *One Today* (2015). Blanco has written poetry in commemoration of other nationally important events, including the poem, "Boston Strong," following the bombing during the Boston Marathon (2013); "One Pulse--One Poem" following the shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida (2016); and "Matters of the Sea" for the reopening of the American Embassy in Havana, Cuba (2015).

Blanco has continued to work periodically as an engineer and has taught at Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, Connecticut) and Georgetown and American Universities (Washington, D.C.). He currently lives in Maine with his partner, research scientist, Mark Neveu.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Richard Blanco from circa 1980-2017 and includes writings by Blanco, correspondence, printed material, awards, memorabilia, audiovisual material, and born digital material. Writings by Blanco consist of both poetry and prose and document his progression as a writer from his graduate course work through his poetry collection, *Boundaries* (2018). Material for each publication may include drafts; notes; correspondence with agents, editors, and others; contracts; reviews and publicity; and contest submittals. The collection also contains drafts of unpublished writing by Blanco, including *Promise of Paradise*, the precursor to *The Prince of Los Cocuyos*. Printed material relating to readings, events, lectures, and media appearances contains fliers, posters, and articles. Correspondence includes letters between Blanco and other authors, including Sandra Cisneros, Nikki Moustaki, Darden Pyron, and Spencer Reece; letters from luminaries such as Norman Lear and Nancy Pelosi; personal correspondence between Blanco and artist Carlos Betancourt, Mark Neveu, and Christy Rivera; and fan mail. The collection also contains teaching files, journals and notebooks, and material documenting Blanco's education and work as an engineer. Audiovisual material consists primarily of recordings of Blanco's work. Born digital material includes one external hard drive and nine floppy disks containing writings, correspondence, and photographs.

### **Arrangement Note**

The original order created by Blanco while packing the collection has been maintained.

### **Finding Aid Note**

Richard Blanco's original inventory is available from the repository by request.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	-	Florida International University Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, circa 1994-1997 Contains coursework, unpublished poems, grade reports.
1	-	Collected poems: <i>City of a Hundred Fires</i> , circa 1998
1	-	Collected poems: <i>Looking for the Gulf Motel</i> , circa 2012
2	-	Collected poems: <i>Directions to the Beach of the Dead</i> , circa 2005
2	-	Collected poems: <i>Nowhere But Here</i> , circa 2004
2	-	Uncollected poems, circa 1998
3	-	Memoir: <i>The Prince of Los Cocuyos: A Miami Childhood</i> , circa 2014
4	-	Memoir: <i>For All of Us, One Today: An Inaugural Poet's Journey</i> , circa 2013
4	-	Children's book: <i>One Today</i> , circa 2015
4	-	Collected poems: <i>Boundaries</i> , circa 2017
4	-	Awards and memorabilia: Lambda award for <i>The Prince of Los Cocuyos</i> , 2015
5	-	Occasional and commissioned poems: "One Today," "Boston Strong," "To the Artists of the Invisible," and "Matters of the Sea," 2013-2015
BV1	-	Occasional and commissioned poems: Panels for unidentified work that includes "One Today," undated
OP5	-	Occasional and commissioned poems: "One Today" print by Lawrence Green, 2013
OP6	-	Occasional and commissioned poems: "One Today" print by Sasio Baadat, 2013
6	-	Occasional and commissioned poems: "Until We Could," "The Genius of Stars and Love," "Leaving Limerick," "Cuban Overture," "One Pulse--One Poem," and "Election Year," 2013-2016
6	-	Unpublished prose, undated
6	-	Uncollected and unpublished poems, undated
6	-	Articles, essays, introductions, forewords, book reviews
6	-	Printed material relating to readings, events, lectures and media appearances
7	-	Printed material relating to readings, events, lectures and media appearances
8	-	Printed material relating to readings, events, lectures and media appearances
OP1	-	Printed material relating to readings, events, lectures and media appearances
OP2	-	Artwork, scrolls, rolled poster
OP7	-	Posters
OP8	-	Posters
8	-	Correspondence
8	-	Juvenilia
9	-	Correspondence
9	-	Teaching files

- 9 - Journals and notebooks, 1988 and 1992
  - 10 - Journals and notebooks, 1993-2017
  - 11 - Engineering and architectural material
  - OP3 - Engineering and architectural drawings
  - OP4 - Engineering and architectural drawings
  - 11 - Correspondence (fan mail)
  - 12 - Correspondence (fan mail)
  - 13 - Correspondence, subject files, printed material, and photographs
  - 14 - Awards and memorabilia
  - AV1 - Audiovisual material [11 CDs; 2 audiocassettes; 4 VHS; 2 DVD; 1 microcassette]
  - BD1 - Born digital material
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