

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

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Blanco, Richard, 1968-
Title: Richard Blanco papers, circa 1980-2017
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1431
Extent: 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)
Abstract: Papers of Cuban-American poet and engineer, Richard Blanco, including correspondence, writings by Blanco, printed material, awards, memorabilia, audiovisual material, and born digital material.
Language: Materials in English and Spanish.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

In-process collection. As of October 2018, this collection is closed to researchers for processing.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

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.

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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 One linear foot of duplicate publications, extraneous memorabilia, and out of date engineering texts and equipment was removed from the collection and returned to Blanco.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.

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.

