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Chris Cherches Papers

Collection Summary

Title:	Chris Cherches Papers
Call Number:	MS 2017-01
Size:	24.5 linear feet (25 boxes)
Acquisition:	Donated by the family of Chris Cherches, December 2004
Processed by:	JZ, 7-2016
Restrictions:	None

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Content Note

This collection contains the professional and personal papers of long-time Wichita City Manager Chris Cherches, who also acted in the same capacity for other municipalities in Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Montana, and Nevada from 1960 through 1985. Record types include correspondence, budget reports, press clippings, speeches, academic studies, periodicals, newsletters, professional and corporate publications, audiovisual material, and ephemera. Bulk dates are from 1972-2004.

Biography

Christopher Eugene Cherches was born on September 14, 1932, in Boonville, Missouri, and later moved in-state with his family to Columbia. Prior to and following service in the United States Navy, Cherches attended the University of Missouri, earning his bachelor's degree in Public Administration

in 1957. He then received training at the School of City Management at the University of Kansas in 1958 before attaining an MPA from the same institution in 1963.

In 1958 Cherches also began his career in public administration as assistant to the village manager in Glencoe, Illinois. In 1960 he embarked upon a succession of city manager positions, serving Holton, Kansas, until 1963, and then moving to Mexico, Missouri (1963-1966); Gladstone, Missouri (1966-1968); St. Louis Park, Minnesota (1968-1977); Great Falls, Montana (1977-1980); and Reno, Nevada (1980-1985), before being hired as city manager for Wichita in 1985.

Cherches's time in Wichita saw his leadership and tireless work efforts revitalize the downtown area. During the 1990s and early 2000s Old Town, the Hyatt Regency Wichita, Exploration Place, and CityArts all came into being along with extensive remodeling of the Eaton Hotel, the Wichita Art Museum, and Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. Cherches also headed city-wide beautification projects, kept the city's mill levy unchanged for 11 years, and led in making over the Kellogg freeway and the K-96 bypass, along with other achievements in community matters.

Cherches resigned his position on December 31, 2003, and died from a fall on August 26, 2004, a few weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife Susan and four children.

Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1 FF 1-19	Academic and Early Professional Background. This series consists of Cherches's academic efforts as a student of public administration, as well as correspondence, legal and financial reports, writings, speeches, notes, and ephemera documenting his early career as a city manager, 1953-1970. Material is arranged chronologically by city served; academic papers precede professional records.
Series 2	Box 1 FF 20-Box 2 FF 26	St. Louis Park. This series houses correspondence, memoranda, brochures, newsletters, planning and financial reports, and ephemera relating to Cherches's time as city manager of St. Louis Park, 1957-1988. Material is arranged by subject.
Series 3	Box 2 FF 27-Box 3 FF 21	Great Falls. This series contains correspondence, memoranda, brochures, newsletters, planning and financial reports, and ephemera pertaining to Cherches's time as city manager of Great Falls, 1975-1980. Material is arranged by subject.
Series 4	Box 3 FF 22-Box 4 FF 13	Reno. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, brochures, newsletters, planning and financial reports, and ephemera relating to Cherches's time as city manager of Reno, 1966-1985. Material is arranged by subject.
Series 5	Box 4 FF 14-Box 15 FF 12	Wichita. This series consists of records pertaining to Cherches's time as city manager of Wichita and his involvement in local matters, 1971-2004.

This series contains 12 subseries.

Subseries 5.1	Box 4 FF 14-Box 5 FF 12	City Manager's Office and General Government. This series consists of correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, ephemera, notes, administrative material, and news clippings relating to the City Manager's Office and supporting administrative organizations, 1981-2004. Of note are the progress reports and correspondence reflecting the planning and implementation of projects overseen by Cherches.
Subseries 5.2	Box 5 FF 13-Box 6 FF 5	City Council. This subseries contains Wichita City Council agenda items, meeting minutes, ordinances, and writings on the history and role of the Council (known as the Wichita City Commission until 1987), 1971-2004. Also present are records produced by Council-appointed boards and commissions. Material is arranged by subject.
Subseries 5.3	Box 6 FF 6-Box 8 FF 11	Finance. This subseries consists of proposed and approved City budgets, notes, correspondence, financial plans, and meeting minutes, all relating to the Finance Department, 1986-2004. Budget material is arranged chronologically, followed by alphabetized items.
Subseries 5.4	Box 8 FF 12-33	Law Enforcement. This subseries contains correspondence, academic reports, consultant studies, presentation material, and notes on the Wichita Police Department, local community policing organizations, and court programs dealing with law enforcement, 1976-2003. Material is arranged alphabetically.
Subseries 5.5	Box 8 FF 34-Box 9 FF 4	Public Works. This subseries consists of reports, correspondence, and presentation material relating to traffic and street construction, waste management, air quality, and energy issues in Wichita, 1991-2003. Material is arranged alphabetically.
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Subseries 5.8	Box 9 FF 22-30	Environment. This subseries contains reports, correspondence, speeches, presentation slides, and notes relating to environmental issues in the Wichita area, 1992-2004. Of note is material on the Gilbert-Mosley Project, which documents Cherches's innovative approaches in solving the groundwater contamination issue in downtown Wichita through public-private partnerships. Material is arranged by subject.

Subseries 5.9	Box 9 FF 31-Box 10 FF 2	Other Departments in City Government. This subseries contains material relating to other departments in City government, 1986-2003. Material is arranged alphabetically.
Subseries 5.10	Box 10 FF 3-19	Business and Commerce. This subseries consists of correspondence, reports, newsletters, conference material, notes, and promotional material on business and commercial development in Wichita, 1978-2004. Material is arranged alphabetically.
Subseries 5.11	Box 10 FF 20-Box 11 FF 24	Speeches and Presentations. This subseries contains speeches and presentations given by Cherches and others involved in local government, industry, and education, 1980-2003. Also included are related correspondence, ephemera, and conference proceedings. Material is arranged alphabetically.
Subseries 5.12	Box 11 FF 25-Box 15 FF 12	Other. This subseries consists of correspondence, reports, ephemera, and presentations relating to industry, education, health care, community affairs, city employee matters, Wichita/Sedgwick County relations, and various proposals and projects concerning governance and revenue, 1978-2004. Material is arranged by subject.
Series 6	Box 15 FF 13-Box 21 FF 15	Subject Files. This series contains press clippings, magazines, newsletters, memoranda, reports, and journals collected by Chris Cherches. These items center on issues pertaining to public administration, organizational management, local government, and related matters. Material is arranged alphabetically by subject.
Series 7	Box 21 FF 16-Box 24 FF 2	Publications. This series consists of various publications collected by Cherches and is made up of two subseries.
Subseries 7.1	Box 21 FF 16-Box 22 FF 17	Periodicals. This subseries contains issues of journals, magazines, and newsletters; topics include public administration, management, and government, 1973-2004. Material is arranged by title.
Subseries 7.2	Box 22 FF 18-Box 24 FF 2	Other Publications. This subseries contains research manuals, reports, and handbooks relating to public administration, government, budgeting, and other topics, 1966-2004. Material is arranged alphabetically.
Series 8	Box 24 FF 3-Box 25 FF 2	Audiovisual. This series consists of VHS tapes, CDs, and cassette tapes, 1985-c. 2002. Topics include leadership and management, criminal justice, local and state government, and local economic initiatives. Material is arranged by format.
Series 9	Box 25 FF 3-8	Other. This series contains supplementary material with respect to Cherches's life and career in city management, 1980-2004. Material is arranged alphabetically.

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Box 21	FF 17	<i>City Journal</i> , 2004
Box 21	FF 18	City newsletters, 1975-1980
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Box 21	FF 25	<i>IGNewsletter</i> , 1999-2001
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Subseries 7.2 – Other Publications

Box 22	FF 18	Annual Report of University of Kansas' Graduate Program in Public Administration, 1998
Box 22	FF 19	<i>City Manager Form of Government for Cities of the Third Class and the Law of Missouri</i> (photocopy of master's thesis by Gladstone City Attorney William Shinn), 1966
Box 22	FF 20	<i>City Manager's Desk Reference</i> (part 1 of 2), 2000
Box 22	FF 21	<i>City Manager's Desk Reference</i> (part 2 of 2), 2000
Box 22	FF 22	<i>City Manager's Desk Reference</i> , 2001
Box 22	FF 23	Clusters of Innovation Initiative, 2001
Box 23	FF 1	<i>Community Appearance</i> (ICMA publication), 2000
Box 23	FF 2	<i>Debris Management Guide</i> (FEMA publication), 1999
Box 23	FF 3	<i>An Elected Official's Guide to Procurement</i> , 1995
Box 23	FF 4	<i>Elected Officials Handbook</i> (Handbooks 1 and 2), 1988
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Box 23	FF 7	Final Report of the Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry
Box 23	FF 8	<i>Forms for Various Municipal Occasions</i> (handbook), n.d.
Box 23	FF 9	Fundamentals of Printing
Box 23	FF 10	<i>Governing Body Handbook</i> (for League of Kansas Municipalities)

Box 23	FF 11	<i>Innovations in State and Local Government</i> (Ford Foundation publications), 1994, 1997
Box 23	FF 12	<i>Kansas Rail Plan 2002-2003</i> , 2004
Box 23	FF 13	<i>Management 18: A Short Course for Managers</i> , 1974
Box 23	FF 14	<i>Metropolitan Governance: A Handbook for Local Government Study Commissions</i> , 1980
Box 23	FF 15	Municipal Leadership Academy – Guidebook for Governing, 2000
Box 23	FF 16	An Operating Budget Handbook for Small Cities and Other Governmental Units, 1978
Box 23	FF 17	Program Budgeting (part 1 of 2), c. 1975
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Box 23	FF 19	<i>Public Administration: Clashing Values in the Administration of Public Policy</i> (photocopies of Chapters 13 and 14), 2001
Box 23	FF 20	<i>The Public Executive's Complete Guide to Employment Agreements</i> , c. 1999
Box 23	FF 21	<i>The State of the American Community</i> , 1994
Box 23	FF 22	<i>Strategies for Cities and Counties: A Strategic Planning Guide</i> , c. 1984
Box 23	FF 23	A Student's Guide to Municipal Government in Bloomington, Illinois, c. 1958
Box 23	FF 24	<i>Telecommunications: Local Options, Local Action</i> (ICMA publication), 1998
Box 24	FF 1	<i>Visual Dallas: A Public Art Plan for the City</i> , 1987
Box 24	FF 2	<i>Working Together: A Guide for Elected and Appointed Officials</i> , 1999

Series 8 – Audiovisual

Box 24	FF 3	Cassette tapes – "Principle-Centered Leadership," 1992
Box 24	FF 3	Cassette tapes – "Juvenile Justice in the '90s: A Frank Discussion," 1995
Box 24	FF 3	Cassette tapes – "Markets Not Mandates: Prescriptions for Cities," 1995

Box 24	FF 4	Cassette tapes – "Election '96: Getting Your City Involved," c. 1996
Box 24	FF 4	Cassette tapes – "Cultivating the Arts in Your City," 1997
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Box 24	FF 5	Cassette tapes – "Oldest or Youngest: Understanding Birth Order," 1997
Box 24	FF 5	Cassette tapes – "Service Delivery: You Get What You Pay For," 1997
Box 24	FF 6	Cassette tapes – "Road Map: How to Understand, Diagnose, and Fix Your Organization," 2000
Box 24	FF 6	Cassette tapes – "Public Comment on Downtown Plan," n.d.
Box 24	FF 6	CDs – <i>EPA's State and Local Climate Change Outreach Kit</i> , 2000
Box 24	FF 6	CDs – NAITCP presentation, 2001
Box 24	FF 7	VHS tape – Kelly workshop, 1985
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Box 24	FF 8	VHS tape – Keynote address for 80th ICMA annual conference, 1994
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Box 24	FF 9	VHS tape – <i>Participation, Partnerships, Protection: Local Governments, & Superfund</i> , c. 1995
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Box 24	FF 10	VHS tape – "The Future of Capitalism: How Today's Economic Forces Shape Tomorrow's World," 83rd ICMA annual conference, 1997
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Box 24	FF 11	VHS tape – "Banishing Bureaucracy: The Five Strategies for Reinventing Government," 83rd ICMA annual conference, 1997
Box 24	FF 11	VHS tape – "Eldon Fields Colloquium," 83rd ICMA annual conference, 1997
Box 24	FF 12	VHS tape – "Marketing Change in Your Community," 83rd ICMA annual conference, 1997
Box 24	FF 12	VHS tape – Keynote address for 88th annual conference of Kansas Municipalities, 1998

Box 24	FF 13	VHS tape – "Wichita: A Wonderful Place to Live," 2000
Box 24	FF 13	VHS tape – "Clusters of Innovation," 2001
Box 25	FF 1	VHS tape – The Wichita River Corridor Improvement Project, c. 2002
Box 25	FF 1	VHS tape – <i>Knowing How Your Customers Define Quality and How You Measure Up</i> (tape 1), n.d.
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Box 25	FF 7	Post-resignation plans, 2003-2004
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