

# **Guide to the Common Ground Collection**

## **RG 9.5.4**

**Finding aid prepared by Sarah Pinard**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

October 18, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Sarah Lawrence College Archives  
2008

Sarah Lawrence College Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Sarah Lawrence College Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Sarah Lawrence College. Common Ground.
<b>Title</b>	Common Ground Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	undated, 1969-present
<b>Extent</b>	3.0 linear feet 2 record cartons, 1 flat box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Carton]</b>	2
<b>Text [Carton]</b>	1
<b>Text [Flat-box]</b>	3

## Historical note

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Common Ground is a space used by students of color groups on campus. Located on the second floor of Bates, Common Ground functions as a place to hold events and meetings, as a lounge area, and a central location for resources that relate to the student of color groups that utilize the space. These groups include APICAD, Harambe, Unidad, Women of Color and others. The space currently known as Common Ground was not always located in Bates. Prior to its current location in the Student Space, a Students of Color Space existed in the basement of Westlands. The creation of a space for students of color dates to the Westlands sit-in of 1989. During the March 1989 Westlands sit-in by the student group Concerned Students of Color (CSOC) a series of demands were made that included the creation of a space for people of color on campus. The CSOC agenda defined this space as a place that would be a “non-residential center for political and social activity for students of color. It will be a place where growth, nurturing, assertion, and sharing of our ethnic identities will take place.” Four days after the agenda was put forth a panel composed of faculty and administration offered a document which stated that a “lounge space for students of color” would be an important part of forthcoming construction on campus. Approximately five years later, during the 1994-1995 academic year, Marilyn Katz noted in her Dean of Studies Report to the President that although students of color groups, including Asian Student Union, Harambe, and Unidad, had requested a space for a number of years, no such place had been provided. In the spring of 1995 the issue was discussed during a meeting of the Student Senate. It was decided by General Committee that there was a space in the basement of Westlands that could be used by these student groups on a trial basis. The first documentation of this space in the Student Handbook can be found in 2002-2003. The Students of Color Space “serves as a meeting room, gathering area and resource room for HARAMBE, APICAD, UNIDAD and other students of color organizations. The space is also used for speakers, discussions, movie nights and other activities. Mostly, however, it serves as an inviting, comfortable area for all students to relax, hang out and converse with one another.” This space was called Common Ground by students.

Common Ground moved to its current location in the Bates Center for Student Life during the 2004-2005 academic year after the remodeling of the student space was completed.

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection contains records and materials pertaining to the student space Common Ground. The collection also includes material concerning student groups that use Common Ground space. These groups are APICAD, Harambe, Unidad, Women of Color, and others. Records documenting the history of the creation of Common Ground, which include the student group Concerned Students of Color may also

be found in this collection. Material pertaining to these groups is mainly administrative. Certain groups' records, such as Common Ground, Harambe, and Students of Color, are more comprehensive than others.

In addition to administrative records this collection includes a series of research files. The records in this series were compiled as subject files by Common Ground before transfer to the archives and have been left in their original order.

Lastly, this collection includes material relating to events and programming on and off-campus, resources for student groups, information about regional and national organizations of interest to student groups, as well as student publications and external publications collected by the student groups represented in this collection.

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## Series description

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Series I. Administrative Sub-series A. APICAD

Series I. Administrative Sub-series B. Common Ground

Series I. Administrative Sub-series C. Concerned Students of Color

Series I. Administrative Sub-series D. Harambe

Series I. Administrative Sub-series E. QPOC

Series I. Administrative Sub-series F. Students of Color

Series I. Administrative Sub-series G. Unidad

Series I. Administrative Sub-series H. Women of Color

Series II. Research Files

Series III. Subjects Sub-series A. Events

Series III. Subjects Sub-series B. General

Series III. Subjects Sub-series C. Publications Sub-series I. External

Series III. Subjects Sub-series C. Publications Sub-series II. Student

Series I. Administrative consists of material relating to the administration of the student groups APICAD, Concerned Students of Color, Harambe, Students of Color, Unidad, Women of Color, and the student space Common Ground. These sub-series may contain meeting agendas and notes, budget information, correspondence regarding event planning, mission statements, documents about meeting space, programming resources, and flyers and posters announcing events sponsored by these groups. The records of these four sub-series: Concerned Students of Color, Students of Color, Harambe, and Common Ground provide brief but informative documentation about the development of the Common Ground student

space. The material in Sub-series B. Common Ground is more thorough than in other sub-series. This is partly due to the records kept by space managers during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Series I is divided into seven sub-series: Sub-series A. APICAD; Sub-series B. Common Ground; Sub-series C. Concerned Students of Color; Sub-series D. Harambe; Sub-series E. QPOC; Sub-series F. Students of Color; Sub-series G. Unidad; Sub-series H. Women of Color.

Series II. Research Files consists of subject files created and maintained by Common Ground. The majority of this material refers to off-campus events or topics such as housing, political prisoners, labor, immigration, international political sanctions, and police brutality. The research files provide documentation of the interests of student groups on campus.

Series III. Subjects consists of general subject files and records collected by Common Ground. This includes diversity resources, speakers, local organizations, and material about events on-campus that the student groups who use Common Ground were involved with. Also included in this series is information about LGBTQ, Solidarity Club, Gay Men of African Descent, Black Students Association, the Black Radical Congress, and the Black Alumnae/i Association. The material in these files is partial and does not reflect administrative activity. This series also contains flyers and posters that were used to publicize on and off-campus events. These items are housed with the oversized material. Sub-series C. Publications contains both student produced literature, including The Ninja, a publication of APICAD, and Common Ground Magazine, a publication of Common Ground, as well as external publications. External publications collected by student groups are arranged alphabetically in folders titled with the student group's name. All other external publications are arranged alphabetically by title in a folder titled General.

Series III is divided into three sub-series: Sub-series A. Events; Sub-series B. General; Sub-series C. Publications. Sub-series C is further divided into two sub-series: Sub-series I. External Publications; and Sub-series II. Student Publications.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Sarah Lawrence College Archives 2008

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

The collection is open to researchers. Restricted material is marked as such in the finding aid and on the folder itself. See archivist for further assistance with restricted folders.

### **Acquisition note**

This collection was donated by Aja Mujinga Sherrard '11, chair of Common Ground, in October 2008.

## Related Materials

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### See also

Archived Digital Files and the Photograph Collection for images and movies of 2005-2006 Common Ground events including the Ethnic Studies Campaign, Cultural Misappropriation, and the Ishle Yi Park Event; Guide to the APICAD Collection for additional material on the student group APICAD; the Student Life Collection for additional student group publications; Protest and Activism on Campus Collection for further information about the Ethnic Studies Campaign, Police Brutality, and the Westlands Sit-In of 1969. The Protest and Activism Collection also contains materials about the activities of the groups Concerned Students of Color and Harambe. See also the Alice Stone Ilchman Papers for further information on CSOC, Harambe, and the 1989 Westlands Sit-In including correspondence from the President's Office.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Gay Men of African Descent (Organization).
- Sarah Lawrence College. Asian Pacific Islander Coalition for Action and Diversity.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Asian Student Union.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Black Students Association.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Concerned Students of Color.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Harambee.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Queer People of Color.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Students of Color.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Unidad.
- Sarah Lawrence College. Women of Color Affinity Group.

### Genre(s)

- Annual reports
- Budgets
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence

- Minutes
- Photographs
- Posters

**Subject(s)**

- African American History Month
- Minority college students
- Race relations
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Student movements

Series I. Administrative

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I. Administrative</b>	
<b>Sub-series A. APICAD</b>	
<p>Agendas and Minutes 2011                  Agendas and Minutes, 2011</p> <p><a href="#">[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\APICAD\Agendas and Minutes]</a></p>	<b>Carton</b>
<p>Correspondence undated, 1997, 2011-2012</p>	1
<b>RESTRICTED</b>	
<p>Contains restricted information</p> <p>Correspondence, 2011-2012</p> <p><a href="#">[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\APICAD\Correspondence]</a></p>	
	<b>Flat-box</b>
<p>Publicity undated, 1996-1997, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2013                  Publicity, 2013</p> <p><a href="#">[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\APICAD\Publicity]</a></p>	3

**Sub-series B. Common Ground**

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Social Media 2007-2008

Social Media, 2007-2008

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\APICAD\Social Media\]](#)

**Sub-series B. Common Ground**

**Carton**

Agendas and Minutes 2006-2007

1

Budget 2000-2002, 2004-2007

1

Correspondence undated, 1998, 2006-2007, 2011-2013

1

Correspondence, 2011-2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\Common Ground\Correspondence\]](#)

Library undated, 2006-2007

1

Mission Statement 2006-2007

1

Programming undated, 2007-2008, 2013

1

**Flat-box**

Publicity undated, 2006-2008, 2011

3

Publicity, 2011

**Sub-series C. Concerned Students of Color**

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[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative  
\Common Ground\Correspondence\]](#)

**Carton**

Space undated, 2006, 2011, 2013

1

**RESTRICTED**

Contains restricted information

Space, 2011, 2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative  
\Common Ground\Space\]](#)

Space Manager 2006-2007, 2012

1

**RESTRICTED**

Contains restricted information

Space Manager, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative  
\Common Ground\Space Manager\]](#)

Student Information 2006-2007

1

**RESTRICTED**

Contains restricted information

**Sub-series C. Concerned Students of Color**

**Carton**

**Sub-series D. Harambe**

Agendas and Minutes 1991, 1993-1994	1	
Correspondence 1989, 1994	1	
Mission Statement 1989	1	
News Clippings 1991	1	
Publicity 1989	1	
<b>Sub-series D. Harambe</b>		
		<b>Carton</b>
Agendas and Minutes undated, 1997, 2000, 2005-2006	1	
Budget 1996, 1999, 2001	1	
Correspondence 1989, 1996, 1999, 2002	1	
<b>RESTRICTED</b>		
Contains restricted information		
Harambee Summit 2006	1	
Mission Statement undated, 1994-1996	1	
		<b>Carton      Flat-box</b>

**Sub-series E. QPOC**

Publicity undated, 1991, 1996, 1998-1999, 2001-2002, 2011  
 Publicity, 2011

1

3

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground  
 \Administrative\Harambe\Publicity\]](#)

**Carton**

Reports 2001

1

Student Information undated, 1995

1

**RESTRICTED**

Contains restricted information

**Sub-series E. QPOC**

Agendas and Minutes 2012  
 Agendas and Minutes, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\QPOC\Agendas and  
 Minutes\]](#)

**Sub-series F. Students of Color**

**Carton**

Community Resources undated, 1997-1998

1

Correspondence 1999

1

**Sub-series G. Unidada**

Diversity Issues 1990-1995, 1997-2001	1
Internships and Volunteering undated, 1991-1995	1
Library 1999	1
Programming undated, 1995-1998	1
Publicity 1998, 2002	1
Space 1994-1999, 2001	1
"Student of Color Activism and Selected Activities 1989-1998" 1998	1
<b>Sub-series G. Unidada</b>	
Agendas and Minutes 2011-2013 Agendas and Minutes, 2011-2013 <a href="I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\Unidada\Agendas and Minutes">[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\Unidada\Agendas and Minutes]</a>	
	<b>Carton</b>
Correspondence undated, 1992, 1996, 1998-2000, 2012-2013 Correspondence, 2012-2013 <a href="I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\Unidada\Correspondence">[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\Unidada\Correspondence]</a>	1
Programming undated, 1996, 1998-1999	1

**Sub-series H. Women of Color (WoCo)**

**RESTRICTED**

Contains restricted information

**Carton      Flat-box**

Publicity undated, 1996-1998, 2000, 2007-2008, 2011-2012  
 Publicity, 2011-2012

1

3

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground  
 \Administrative\Unidad\Publicity\]](#)

Social Media 2012  
 Social Media, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\Unidad\Social  
 Media\]](#)

**Carton**

Student Information 1995-1997, 1999-2000

1

**RESTRICTED**

Contains restricted information

White Privilege Meeting 2012

1

**Sub-series H. Women of Color (WoCo)**

**Carton**

General undated

1

Agendas and Minutes 2012

**Series II. Research Files**

Agendas and Minutes, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\WoCo\Agendas and Minutes\]](#)

**Carton**

Publicity 2006, 2011-2012  
Publicity, 2011-2012

1

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Administrative\WoCo\Publicity\]](#)

The Vagina Monologues 2011

1

**Series II. Research Files**

**Carton**

Films - American Indian 1993

1

Films - Black and African American 1994-1996, 1998

1

Films - International 1993-1994

1

Films - Latino 1994, 1996-1997, 2006

1

**Carton**

**Flat-box**

Films - Women 1992-1993, 2006

1

3

**Carton**

Financial Aid and Tuition 1996-1999

1

## Series II. Research Files

Housing undated	1
Immigration undated, 1992-1995	1
Iraqi Sanctions 1998	1
Jena 6 2007	1
Labor undated, 1997	1
Labor - Workfare Workers Organize undated	1
Native American Issues 1997	1
Police Brutality undated, 1997-1998	1
<b>See also</b>	
Protest and Activism Collection	
Political Prisoners - General undated, 1992, 1997-1998	1
Political Prisoners - MOVE undated, 1997-1998	1
Political Prisoners - Mumia Abu Jamal undated, 1995-1997	1
Political Prisoners - Puerto Rican undated, 1994, 1997-1998	1

Series III. Subjects

Politics 1997 1

**Series III. Subjects**

**Sub-series A. Events**

	<b>Carton</b>	<b>Flat-box</b>
Black History Month undated, 1990-1991, 1997-1998, 2001-2002	1	3

	<b>Carton</b>	
Block Party 1996		1

C3 Conference Caffeine Community 2011-2013  
 C3 Conference Caffeine Community, 2011-2013  
[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\C3 Conference Caffeine Community\]](#)

	<b>Carton</b>	
Color Struck 2010		1

Common Ground Graduation Dinner 2012  
 Common Ground Graduation Dinner, 2012  
[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Common Ground Graduation Dinner\]](#)

Dances 2012  
 Dances, 2012

Sub-series A. Events

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[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Dances\]](#)

**Carton**

1

Ethnic Studies Campaign 2004-2005

**See also**

Common Ground Collection - Ethnic Studies Campaign; Protest and Activism Collection

**Separated Materials note**

Photographs are located in the Photograph Collection

Ethnic Studies Direct Action 2004

**Separated Materials note**

Photographs are located in the Photograph Collection

Ethnic Studies Direct Action, 2004

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Ethnic Studies Direct Action\]](#)

Event List 2013

Event List, 2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Event Lists\]](#)

Faculty Student Staff of Color and Allies Luncheon 2009-2013

Faculty Student Staff of Color and Allies Luncheon, 2009-2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Faculty Student Staff of Color and Allies Luncheon\]](#)

**Carton**

## Sub-series A. Events

Fall Collective 1998, 2000

1

**See also**

Dean of Studies Records

Film Viewings 2011-2013

Film Viewings, 2011-2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Film Viewings\]](#)

Finding Common Ground 2012

Finding Common Ground, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Finding Common Ground\]](#)

**Carton**

FLIK Appreciation Dinner 1996-1999, 2006-2007

1

Hunger Strike 1994

1

Lectures 2011-2012

Lectures, 2011-2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Lectures\]](#)

**Carton**

Million Woman March 1997

1

Off Campus 1992-1997, 2008, 2012-2013

1

Sub-series A. Events

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Off Campus, 2008, 2012-2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Off Campus\]](#)

Poetry 2012

Poetry, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Poetry\]](#)

Potluck Meals 2011-2012

Potluck Meals, 2011-2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Potluck Meals\]](#)

Remembering the 1989 Westlands Sit In 2009

Remembering the 1989 Westlands Sit In, 2009

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Remembering the 1989 Westlands Sit In\]](#)

**Carton**

Sit-In 1989-1990

1

Solidarity Retreat 2001

1

Spring Collective 2012

Spring Collective, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Spring Collective\]](#)

Town Hall Meetings 2011-2013

Town Hall Meetings, 2011-2013

**Sub-series B. General**

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Town Hall Meetings\]](#)

**Carton**

Women's History Conference 2008, 2012

1

Women's History Conference, 2012

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Womens History Conference\]](#)

Worker's Appreciation Dinner 2012-2013

Worker's Appreciation Dinner, 2012-2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Events\Workers Appreciation Dinner\]](#)

**Sub-series B. General**

**Carton**

Academic Resources (published and unpublished) undated, 1996, 1998, 2007-2008

1

Activism at other Colleges undated, 1990, 1998

1

Black Alumnae/i Association 1994-1995

1

Black People United 1999

1

**RESTRICTED**

Contains restricted information

**Carton**

**Flat-box**

**Sub-series B. General**

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Black Radical Congress 1998	1	3
		<b>Carton</b>
Black Students Association 1969, 1972		1
Board of Trustees Long-Range Planning Committee Draft Report 1992		1
Diversity Resources undated, 1994-1995		1
Diversity Resources 1997-2001, 2005-2007		2
Gay Men of African Descent undated, 2004-2005		2
LGBTQ - Program Resources undated, 1995-1996		2
Local Organizations undated, 1995, 1997		2
OAR Report 1997		2
		<b>Flat-box</b>
Publicity - Off-Campus Events undated, 1997, 2005-2008		3
		<b>Carton</b>
Publicity - On-campus Events 1995, 1997-2001, 2007-2008		2
Speakers - Black and African American 1994-1999		2
	<b>Carton</b>	<b>Flat-box</b>

**Sub-series C. Publications**

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Solidarity Club 2008	2	3
		<b>Carton</b>
Student Group Resources undated, 1995-1996, 1999-2000, 2008		2
Students for Jericho 1998		2
<b>Sub-series C. Publications</b>		
<b>Sub-series I. External</b>		
		<b>Carton</b>
General undated, 1972, 1989, 1991, 1994-1997, 1999, 2007		2
LGBTQ undated, 1989, 1992-1993, 1996		2
Students of Color 1979, 1996, 1998		2
Unidad undated, 1988-1991		2
Unidad 1992-1993		2
Unidad 1994-1998, 2002		2
<b>Sub-series II. Student</b>		
		<b>Carton</b>

## Sub-series II. Student

411 1992-1993

2

**See also**

Student Life Collection - Student Publications

Common Ground Magazine undated

2

**See also**

Student Life Collection - Student Publications

D 1989

2

**See also**

Student Life Collection - Student Publications

Dark Phrases 2007-2008, 2011-2013

2

**See also**

Student Life Collection - Student Publications

Dark Phrases, 2011-2013

[\[I:\Archives\Archived Digital Files\Student Life\Common Ground\Subjects\Publications  
\Student\Dark Phrases\]](#)

Left Jab Poetry Magazine 1996

2

**See also**

**Sub-series II. Student**

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**Student Life Collection - Student Publications**

The Ninja 2003, 2007-2008

2

**See also**

Student Life Collection - Student Publications

The Phoenix 2005-2006

2

**See also**

Student Life Collection - Student Publications

The Sadie Lou Standard 2006

2

**See also**

Student Life Collection - Student Publications

Student Papers undated

2