

Interference Archive

Joyce Tam

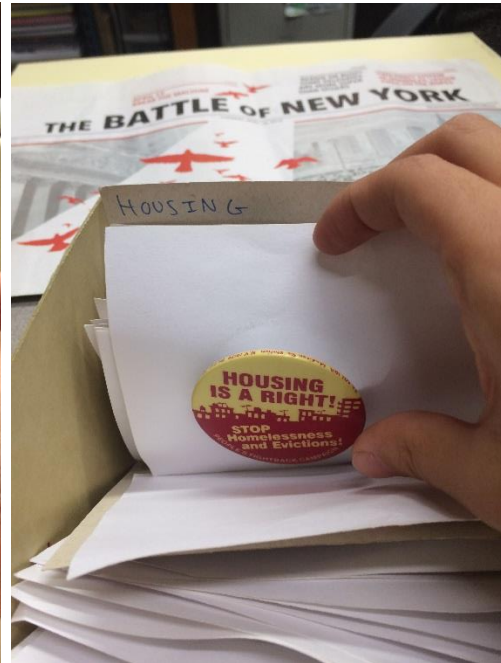
LIB2205

Professors: N. Almeida, K. Grace

Date Visited: December 11th, 2016



Since I was away at a conference at Boston, I went to the Interference Archive as a visitor with Professor Almeida. This was something new to me because when I think of archival spaces, I imagine the Brooklyn Public Library with their map rooms or the Morgan Library with their manuscripts. I also imagined that they were locked up, and requested. Instead, the materials were very readily accessible in a small room. I thought this was probably the most interesting aspect because we did not have to sign in or have our bags checked. It was very quiet and the activities were not monitored. When compared to the Morgan Library, it felt as if anyone can just come in. This archive visit seems as if the space was originally a warehouse for just pure functional purposes, but was renovated in a way where it was catered to being used for the archive center. Through talking to Professor Almeida, I found out that it originally started as a personal collection of ephemeras printed for social and political movements. It is all open-access and open-stacks through donations from people in the community. They also host many workshops, talks, and exhibits such as the most recent one, We Are What We Archive by Jen Hoyer and Nora Almeida. Some of the archival materials Professor Almeida pulled out from the collection includes the “WE WON’T MOVE!” (Tenants Organize In New York City) which was an exhibition catalog and resources for New York City tenants published in 2015.



This document on the left was produced for the exhibit to document the collective action of rent regulation in its history and problems such as tenant harassment, gentrification, and more in forms of newspaper clipping, audio recordings, and various materials in paper form. I think this was an important exhibition because many of the Brooklyn neighborhoods are being gentrified. Many life-long residents of these neighborhoods are being forced out of their homes because the rent around them are rising due to renovations of warehouses or old buildings. These causes the other owners of homes to also want to attract renters who is willing to pay higher rent for small rooms or apartments because it's in a "hip" neighborhood.

THE RENT STRIKE IS GAINING !!!

HERE'S PROOF:

1. Management is flooding the development with hundreds and hundreds of court notices, designed to frighten the tenants into paying the rent.
2. The rent strike is now in its third month and no one has been forced to pay.
3. Management had to drop 42 more cases on Friday, August 30, because their lawyers are too bogged down to handle the cases..
4. The Board of Directors has cowardly refused C.A.R.I.'s request that they call a public meeting to face the people on the 32% rent increase.

C.A.R.I. IS THEREFORE LAUNCHING A
PETITION CAMPAIGN!
TO COMPEL THE BOARD TO CALL SUCH A MEETING

We need 1500 signatures to force the Board out of hiding as required by Article II Section 11 of the By-Laws

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC GATHERING
WILL BE TO DEMAND THAT THE BOARD
GO BACK TO THE STATE AND ASK THAT
THE 32% INCREASE BE RESCINDED!

BECAUSE:

1. Most people living here on fixed income cannot afford this increase.
2. We were never consulted about the 32% increase.
3. None of us got a 32% increase in our income.
4. We are being asked this insane increase when services are less than ever before.

SIGN THE PETITION!!

FLUSH THE BOARD OUT OF HIDING!!!
EVEN IF YOU PAID JULY & AUG. RENT, YOU CAN
STILL JOIN THE RENT STRIKE IN SEPT.

Enclosed is my () three dollar membership fee or () dollar(s) contribution to help defend our homes. Membership Cards or receipts will be sent to you.

NAME _____ BLDG. _____ APT. NO. _____
Issued by C.A.R.I. (COOPERATORS AGAINST RENT INCREASES)
P.O. BOX 248, Rochdale Village Station, Jamaica, New York 11434
723-3159 or 723-2489

An original document stating “The Rent Strike is Gaining!!!” It speaks about how this statement is supported such as the rent strike being in its third month and no one has been forced to pay. They also asked for the public to gather and ask that the rent raise by 32% be rescinded through 1500 signatures, while providing reasons why. Towards the bottom of the document, it also asks for a 3 dollar membership fee or a one-time donation in any amount would help them defend their homes. It was issued by Cooperators Against Rent Increases (C.A.R.I.) sent to a P.O. Box in Jamaica, New York. I thought this was an interesting document because of the mix of typed text and written text on the document. I’m also assuming that the document was produced using a typewriter. It seems very different from the enveloped color printed letters we can find from different organizations asking to donate.

Questions:

1. When they first receive the archival material, what is the process that they go through to identify how to preserve it and how to categorize, if it needs to meet special conditions?
2. How do these archived ephemeras relate and affect to the society today? How can it be used for future social and political movements?