

Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2014085946>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014081>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Revised 2023 October

Collection Summary

Title: Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1964-1998

Bulk Dates: 1964-1970

ID No.: MSS85946

Creator: Martínez, Elizabeth Sutherland, 1925-2021

Extent: 100 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 0.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2014085946>

Summary: Civil rights activist. Correspondence, memoranda, notes, a speech, lists, and a reprint of a newspaper article pertaining chiefly to Martínez's work as a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and her endeavors in helping James Forman, also a civil rights activist and SNCC member, with some of his writing projects.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Barry, Marion, 1936-2014--Correspondence.

Bond, Julian, 1940-2015--Correspondence.

Forman, James, 1928-2005--Correspondence.

Forman, James, 1928-2005.

Forman, James, 1928-2005. Making of Black revolutionaries; a personal account.

Forman, James, 1928-2005. Sammy Younge, Jr.: the first black college student to die in the black liberation movement.

Marable, Manning, 1950-2011--Correspondence.

Martínez, Elizabeth Sutherland, 1925-2021.

Robinson, Betty Garman--Correspondence.

Organizations

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)

Subjects

African American civil rights workers--Interviews.

African Americans--Civil rights.

African Americans--Societies, etc.

Black power--United States.

Civil rights movements--United States.

Civil rights workers--United States--Interviews.

Civil rights--United States.

College students--Political activity--History.

Discrimination--United States.

Race relations.

Racism--United States.

Radicalism--United States.

Reverse discrimination--United States.

Places

United States--Race relations.

Occupations

Civil rights activists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez, civil rights activist, were given to the Library of Congress by her daughter, Tessa Koning-Martínez, in 2013.

Processing History

The papers of Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez were arranged and described by Connie L. Cartledge in 2014. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez can be found at the Department of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, California, and at the Library Archives Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

Related Material

A related collection in the Manuscript Division is the [James Forman Papers](#).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Elizabeth Sutherland Martínez Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1925, Dec. 12	Born, Washington, D.C.
1946	Graduated, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.
1947-1954	Worked for the United Nations as a translator and later as a researcher and office administrator
1956-1958	Administrative assistant, Photography Department of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y.
1958-1964	Editor, Simon and Schuster, New York, N.Y.
1964	Books and art editor, <i>The Nation</i> Participated in the Mississippi Summer Project
1965	Edited, <i>Letters from Mississippi</i> . New York: McGraw Hill

1965-1967	Member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and also served as administrative secretary of the New York Office
1968-1973	Founding editor of <i>El Grito del Norte</i> , a bilingual movement newspaper
1973	Founded the Chicano Communications Center, Albuquerque, N. Mex., and served as director until 1976
1976	Moved to California and joined the Democratic Workers Party
1982	Ran for governor of California on the Peace and Freedom Ticket Party
1997	Co-founded the Institute for MultiRacial Justice, San Francisco, Calif.
2004	Served on the advisory board for the group 2004 Racism Watch
2021, June 29	Died, San Francisco, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elizabeth (Betita) Sutherland Martínez (1925-2021) span the years 1964-1998 with the bulk of the material dating from 1964 to 1970. The majority of the collection documents Martínez's activities as a civil rights activist while a member of the Student Nonviolent Committee (SNCC), during the 1960s and her endeavors in helping James Forman, also a civil rights activist and SNCC member, with some of his writing projects. The papers are in English and are arranged by type of material.

The collection consists chiefly of correspondence between Martínez and Forman. The correspondence provides insight into the internal workings of SNCC, particularly the New York office where Martínez mainly worked, and conveys details about the difficulties in doing public relations and fund-raising for the organization, the future direction of SNCC, and discussions about anti-white feelings of some of the African American members of SNCC toward white members of the organization. The correspondence also includes copies of diary entries that Forman would send as letters to friends and members of SNCC. Some of the letters from 1968-1970 relate to exchanges between the two about the writing of Forman's autobiography, *Making of Black Revolutionaries: A Personal Account*, and other writing projects. The papers also contain a few outgoing letters from Martínez to Marion Barry, Betty Garman Robinson, and Julian Bond. Also in the papers is a 1998 letter from Martínez to Manning Marable about Black radicalism. The papers include notes by Martínez about writing projects and a small amount of material relating to Forman's book, *Sammy Younge, Jr.: The First Black College Student to Die in the Black Liberation Movement*. The miscellany file consists of a speech by Forman and a reprint of an article about him from the *Times of Zambia*.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1964-1974, 1998, undated (14 folders)
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1967
BOX 1	Notes, 1970, undated
BOX 1	<i>Sammy Younge, Jr.: The First Black College Student to Die in the Black Liberation Movement</i> , by James Forman, 1968