

Fiorello H. LaGuardia Collection

Fiorello H. LaGuardia was first elected Congressman representing Greenwich Village as a Republican in 1916. In his seven terms in Congress, LaGuardia established a reputation as a progressive leader, spearheading the Norris-LaGuardia Act, which restricted anti-union tactics by employers and the courts. Defeated in his first attempt at the mayoralty in 1929, LaGuardia returned to win in the 1933 mayoral election against a divided Democratic party mired in corruption scandals. Serving from 1934 to 1945 he was one of only three modern day mayors to serve three consecutive terms in office.



LaGuardia worked tirelessly to uproot corruption and organized crime, and break the stranglehold of the Tammany machine. He lobbied successfully for a new city charter, balanced the budget and guided the city through the Great Depression. Although a Republican, he worked closely with the Roosevelt administration to channel millions of dollars in New Deal programs that put New Yorkers to work building hospitals, housing, transportation and other infrastructure. A figure of strength and compassion, LaGuardia also helped guide the city through World War II. During the war, he served as Roosevelt's director of the Office of Civilian Defense and created national programs for rationing. Upon leaving the mayoralty in 1946, as Director General, LaGuardia headed the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, assisting millions of Europeans displaced by the war. LaGuardia died the following year of pancreatic cancer. He remains perhaps the most important and beloved mayor in New York history.

The La Guardia Collection spans the years 1882-2007 (bulk 1925-1945) and consists of more than 18,400 folders across fifty document series, over 3,000 photographs, more than 240 artifacts, over 60 videos, and more than 150 recordings within the La Guardia Oral History collection. All series and folder titles are fully searchable using the Advanced Search button on the La Guardia Collection page.

The Archives holds content (in print or on microfilm) across 34 of these 50 document Series. Working jointly with the Municipal Archives, the La Guardia and Wagner Archives has processed and microfilmed more than 12,000 folders of documents from the La Guardia Mayoral Papers, which includes the following document Series: Departmental Correspondence, Correspondence with Federal Officials, Subject Files, and Office of Civil Defense Files, as well as more than 250 volumes of Mayoral Scrapbooks. Material from these Series is available on microfilm at the La Guardia and Wagner Archives. The original documents of this portion of the collection are housed at the NYC Municipal Archive of the Department of Records and Information Services, located at 31 Chambers Street, NY, NY. The original Congressional documents are housed at the New York Public Library, located at 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY.

The Archives also holds the photograph series, artifact series, video series and the LaGuardia Oral History Project. The photograph series contains over 3000 images covering the full range of LaGuardia's personal, public and professional lives. The

artifact series consists mainly of items collected by LaGuardia or presented to him in his career as a leading public official. The video series consists of newsreels, documentary films and other video footage of or about LaGuardia. The Oral History Project consists primarily of recorded interviews with LaGuardia's associates, historians, and others knowledgeable about his life and career.