

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

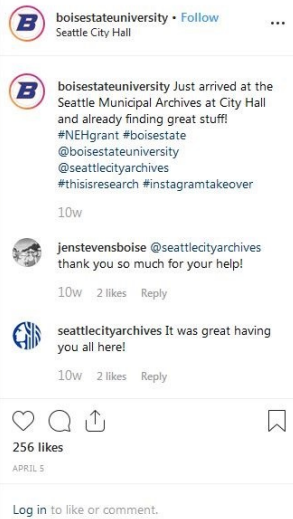
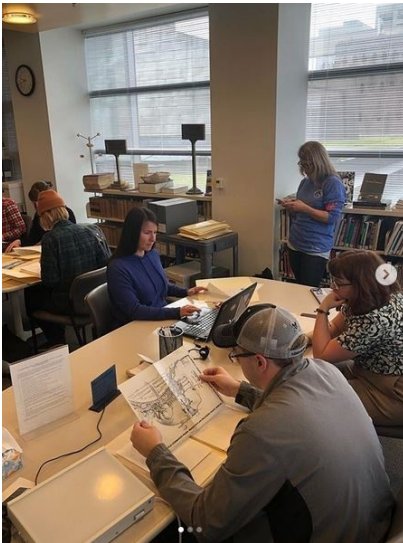
Number 68 Summer 2019

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

Providing access to records is a big part of what we do here at SMA. Our holdings are available to all, both city staff and the public at large. Although we continue to work to make an increasing amount of material available online via exhibits and digital collections on our website, visits to the archives are always welcome!

In April we were visited by students from Boise State University, who were in Seattle doing field research on how Seattle has redeveloped former industrial sites. Committee records, constituent correspondence, photos, and maps from the early 1900s to the 2000s were helpful resources and kept the students busy and engaged for much of the day.



Boise State Students in SMA's Research Room.
Photo credit: [BSU Instagram feed](#)

We also recently welcomed eighth graders in a summer school leadership class at Seattle Prep. The students enjoyed getting a behind-the-scenes tour of the archives, from the research room to the records vault.



Please let us know if you'd like to visit the archives. Appointments are encouraged! Email archives@seattle.gov to learn more.

Photo archivist Julie Irick shows Seattle Prep students an early map of Seattle in SMA's Immediate Access Vault.

(Out of the Archives, cont.)

In June, SMA archivists traveled to Seattle City Light's Skagit Valley Hydroelectric Project in the Skagit Valley to tour the site and learn more about how it continues to serve the City of Seattle since it began delivering power in 1924. City Light has continually offered seasonal tours of the project since the early part of the 20th century. After processing thousands of photos and other material documenting the planning, construction, and operation of the project, we were thrilled to see it in person!

We also took the opportunity to visit the neighboring "City Light town" of Newhalem, begun in 1918 as a construction camp for workers building the Skagit Project. Exhibits at Newhalem's Gorge Inn and Gorge Powerhouse examine the history and impact of the project, and feature photos and information from SMA's holdings.

SMA archivists at Ross Dam.



Seattle at 150 Years

Plans for celebrating the 150-year anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Seattle are well underway. SMA's new book exploring the history of the City through stories of objects held in the archives is due out in October, and a calendar of events is in the works. Be sure to look for us at these Seattle summer events:

- August 10: Live in D5! (details coming soon)
- August 17: [Big Day of Play](#) at Rainier Playfield and Community Center
- September 20: Parking Day (location TBD)

We'll be posting updates about the book and related events on our website and social media channels (especially [Instagram](#) and [Flickr](#)), so look for more information in the coming weeks!

An 1890 sewerage district map is photographed for SMA's upcoming book.



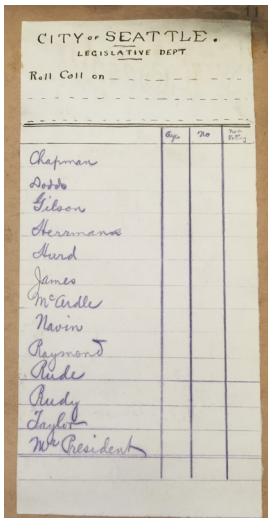
Newly Processed Collections

Several series of apprenticeship records from Seattle City Light are now processed and available for research. They cover different types of apprenticeship programs and functions within SCL, such as apprentice selection, training and safety, and standards and guidelines. The separate record series include: **Apprenticeship Program Records (1215-01)**, **Joint Apprenticeship Advisory Committee Records, 1971-2003 (1215-03)**; **Joint Labor Management Committee Minutes, 1995-2001 (1215-04)**; **Electrical Crafts Apprenticeship Committee Records, 1956-2005 (1215-05)**; **Laborers Apprenticeship Advisory Board Minutes, 1999-2003 (1215-06)**, and the **Hydroelectric Maintenance Machinist Committee Records, 1982-2007 (1215-07)**. Also included are **Equal Rights Opportunity Program Records, 1977-2000 (1215-02)** covering SCL's efforts to actively recruit women and minorities in response to the Federal 1972 Equal Rights Opportunity Act.

Among other recently processed records are those from the **Office of Film and Music (2101-03)**, containing communications and plans of action regarding the film and music industry in Seattle, mostly dating from the 1990s through the 2000s. In addition, records from three groups created under Mayor Nickels' administration to combat the effects of climate change are now available for research: **Green Building Task Force Records (9525-01)**; **Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection Records (9527-01)**, and **Urban Sustainability Advisory Panel Records (7905-01)**.



Apprenticeship curriculum booklet, 1990. Apprenticeship Program Records (Series 1215-01), Box 1 Folder 5, SMA.



For researchers interested in early city records, also newly processed is a **City Forms Scrapbook (1800-16)** containing a wide-ranging selection of blank forms demonstrating activities of different departments and agencies within the City of Seattle, circa 1890. These include licenses for the sale of liquor and cigarettes, pet licenses, oaths of office, library card applications, listings of meals provided to city jail prisoners, contract bids, and a handwritten roll call for City Council meetings (seen here).

Legislative Department Roll Call, from City Forms Scrapbook (Series 1800-16), SMA.

New Film on the Central District



A new documentary on Seattle's Central District features photos and video footage held at SMA.

The film *On the Brink* reaches into stories of the Central District to chronicle its recent history and ongoing transformation. The film includes the community's struggle to hold onto its cultural and financial center in the midst of the ripping apart of its social fabric.

UW Foster School of Business Professor partnered with filmmaker Steven Fong to produce a story told through interviews and supported by music and archival footage. Shulman made extensive use of SMA footage and stills in the film. Included are interviews with Esther Mumford and Homer Harris (Seattle Channel Record Series 3902-01) and stills of councilmembers, parks, and community events.

The film is scheduled to be shown at MOHAI on October 19. Upcoming screenings and more information about the film can be found at www.onthebrinkmovie.com.

Interns & Volunteers

Congratulations to long-time SMA volunteer Kelli Yakabu, who was awarded a 2019 Northwest Archivists Student At Large scholarship, as well as an archival fellowship at Princeton for this summer. We are looking forward to hearing about her adventures when she returns in the fall!

Our newest volunteer is Elizabeth Thompson, who is a rising junior at Seattle Pacific University and is double majoring in history and classics. She has taken some archives coursework and wanted to get some hands-on practice here at SMA. She is working on processing textual and photo collections.

Carla Ginnis is continuing to catalog our maps and published documents, making them accessible for use. Andrew Wagster has been processing a number of small collections, as well as writing descriptions for several previously uncataloged series. Jen Zook continues her good work on our video collection, ensuring we preserve the content on this medium that is prone to deterioration.

Finally, farewell and congratulations to our two graduating work-study students! Minying Feng and Fartun Jama were a pleasure to have at SMA and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Recently processed photos

Recently processed photographs include items from the **Clerk Files photograph collection (1802-0P)**. Clerk Files are documents that have been filed with the Office of the City Clerk since 1891. These files are items that may have been acted upon by the City Council or were filed due to legal requirements or City business practices. Some types of files include affidavits, agreements, audits, contracts, annual reports, petitions and policies.

Often these files have photographs associated with them; once the photographs are cataloged and available online they can be cross-referenced by CF number in the [Clerk Files Index](#). Some highlights of those recently processed photos are:

[Clerk File 249419](#) which relates to a variance application for 4347 Brooklyn Ave. [[photos](#)]



View from Freeway Bridge [University Bridge]
[Item 193162](#), Clerk File Photographs (1802-0P), SMA.

[Clerk File 227841](#) is a petition for rezoning property at 34 N.E. and E. 75th. [[photos](#)]



Lot for sale—school traffic and business corner [34th Ave NE and NE 75th St.]
[Item 193164](#), Clerk File Photographs (1802-0P), SMA.

(Photos, cont.)

[Clerk File 226735](#) relates to the establishment of a mortuary. [[photos](#)]



Manning and Sons Mortuary—1634 11th Ave
[Item 193158](#), Clerk File photographs (1802-0P), SMA.

[Clerk File 204499](#) dives into the need for subsidized public housing. [[photos](#)]



Tenement and Playground—Maynard Ave.
[Item 193139](#), Clerk File Photographs (1802-0P), SMA.

See the entire collection of more than 2,000 Clerk File photographs on our [Digital Collections site](#).

New! Online Exhibit

SMA has a [new online exhibit](#) featuring selected materials highlighting the work and achievements of the Seattle Design Commission. The exhibit was created in cooperation with the commission in honor of their 50-year anniversary. The Design Commission was established in 1968 to advise the City on the aesthetic, environmental, and design principles of City-funded capital projects.

You can find the exhibit under Featured Galleries on our [Digital Collections site](#).

YouTube and Flickr News

On [SMA's Flickr site](#) you can browse not only selected photos from our cataloged collections, but also interesting graphics found in various textual records such as brochures, posters, letterhead, and business cards—like this recently posted business card for the Fremont Tugboat Company, circa 1960.



Fremont Tugboat Company business card, circa 1960.
[Item 28](#), folder “Business Cards,” Ephemera Collection (Series 9900-01), SMA.

Uploaded to [SMA's YouTube Channel](#) earlier this year is the short public information film “[Transportation Planning: In the Neighborhood](#)” produced by the Engineering Department in 1973. It includes views of Seattle streets, explanations of the City’s street transportation planning process, and examples of how residents are encouraged to participate.



Transportation Planning: In the Neighborhood.
[Item 466](#), Motion Picture Film, Engineering Services, Engineering Department (Series 2613-09), SMA.

Seattle Municipal Archives

600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 3,
PO Box 94728
Seattle, WA 98124-4728
206 233-7807 archives@seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov/CityArchives

SMA in the News

SMA archivists were recently in Bozeman, MT to present at the Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting in May. City Archivist Anne Frantilla participated in the session *Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competency: Learning From Each Other*, and Audiovisual Archivist Libby Hopfauf participated in *You Got This! Empowering Archivists to Use Open Tools to Process A/V Materials*. In addition, footage of film held by SMA from Seattle Parks and Recreation ([Series 5802-08](#)) was selected to be part of the always-popular MIPoPs movie night held at the NWA meeting.

Earlier this year, we were happy to work with Seattle Channel on another video project, this one exploring the [History of Homelessness in Seattle](#). Check it out on the Seattle Channel website.



44 Years Ago: Planning for Freeway Park



Model for Freeway Park, 1975. Featured in SMA’s [new online exhibit](#) highlighting the 50-year anniversary of the Seattle Design Commission. The commission reviewed the Freeway Park project in 1972, and the park opened to the public on July 4, 1976.

[Item 77833](#), Forward Thrust Photographs (Series 5804-04), SMA.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 10 Live in D5! Look for SMA’s table at this event sponsored by [Councilmember Juarez’ office](#). Location and time TBD.
- Aug 11 [Moving History X: Breaking News](#). Presented by MIPoPs at the Northwest Film Forum, 5:00pm.
- Aug 17 [Big Day of Play](#), Rainier Playfield and Community Center, 11am—5pm. Look for us at the SMA table!