

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

When giving tours, trainings, or orientations to SMA, often we are asked the question: What's your favorite object in the archives? It's a harder question than you might think! Each of us on staff have more than one personal favorite we've discovered over the course of our work.

For Archives Month in October, we created a series of short videos highlighting some of our favorite items from the collections. Four video highlights are now available to view on [our website](#) and [our YouTube channel](#), featuring items that have informed, intrigued, amused, or otherwise made an impression on us.



Objects featured so far include an [anonymous, handwritten letter](#) sent to Mayor Wes Uhlman in 1970 complaining about hippies taking over Pike Place Market; a [1905 petition](#) calling for the end of a law limiting where cows could graze; a series of [original animated educational films](#) created by the Seattle Fire Department promoting fire prevention; and a collection of [early City personnel files](#) with eye-catching job titles like poisoner, milk inspector, herder, and quarantine officer.

We've decided to make the videos into an ongoing series, so stay tuned for more highlights, coming soon!

Anonymous SEPT. 17, 1970
SEATTLE MAYOR,
DEAR SIR :-
SEATTLE GOT SO BAD
WITH HIPPIES, I JUST HAD TO
GET OUT OF THAT CITY. I
COULDN'T TAKE IT. THAT
PIKE PLACE MARKET IS A
RATS NEST OF HIPPIES AND
PIKE STREET IS LIKE A
SKID-ROAD WITH HIPPIES.
ALL THE STORES CATER TO
HIPPIES WITH HIPPIE CLOTHES
IN THEIR WINDOWS. EVEN WITH
HIPPIE STORE CLERKS IN SOME
STORES ON 3RD AVENUE. THEY
ALL WRITE THEIR HIPPIE FRIENDS
TO "COME TO SEATTLE AND GET
ON WELFARE. THEY'LL FEED US
IN SEATTLE. IF THEY DON'T HIRE
US THEY'LL FEED US GOOD. BRING
YOUR FREE LOVING GALS, WE
CAN ALL LIVE IN THE PUBLIC
MARKET. THE GOP'S DON'T
BOTHER US HERE, THEY LOVE US.
OVER

Anonymous hippie complaint letter
sent to Mayor Wes Uhlman, 1970.
Box 9, Folder 3, Series 5287-02, SMA

New Online Exhibit: Urban Renewal

A new resource, "[Urban Renewal in Seattle: 1957-1974](#)," is now available on the SMA website.

Placing Seattle's urban renewal projects within the context of federal funding, state laws, and the City's identification of "blighted areas," the exhibit outlines and explores Seattle's Urban Renewal Program from its first project, Cherry Hill, to various Neighborhood Development Projects. When the Urban Renewal and Model Cities programs ended in 1974, their legacies were mixed; some infrastructure was improved while housing improvements and neighborhood revitalization fell short of the goal.

Explore the exhibit, timelines and bibliography to learn more.



Seattle Urban Renewal Enterprise Office, 1960.
[Image 63671](#), Record Series 2613-07

New E-Learning: Legislative History

Sometimes researchers want to know not just what the law is, but how and why it was written. SMA's new e-learning course on [Researching Legislative History](#) demonstrates research strategies that can help shed light on how decisions were made and who participated in making them.

All of our e-learning courses are free and generally take just 10-15 minutes to complete. Check out the full list of offerings on our [website](#).



Newly Processed Collections

Now processed and available for research are records from Councilmember Sally Bagshaw ([Record Group 4613-00](#)). Bagshaw was elected to City Council in 2009 and reelected in 2013. In 2015 when Council was reorganized to be based on districts, she was elected to represent District 7. She chose not to run again in 2019. During her tenure, Bagshaw chaired committees focused on parks, neighborhoods, and human services.

Bagshaw's **Subject Files** ([Record Series 4613-02](#)) contain 30.4 cubic feet (76 boxes) with the majority of the records covering 2010-2019. Park issues are heavily represented, especially Magnuson Park, park funding, and community centers. The Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement, SR 99 tunnel and central waterfront redevelopment are covered, as are the proposals for a new sports arena. Other significant issues include homelessness, SR 520, Seattle City Light, affordable housing, neighborhoods, public health, transportation, zoning, and Seattle Public Utilities.

In addition, records from the committees Bagshaw chaired contain meeting materials and minutes and are excellent sources for legislative research. These include records from the **Parks and Seattle Center Committee** ([Series 4613-04](#)); **Committee on Parks Funding** ([Series 4613-05](#)); **Parks and Neighborhoods Committee** ([Series 4613-06](#)); **Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee** ([Series 4613-07](#)); **Human Services and Public Health Committee** ([Series 4613-08](#)); **Finance and Neighborhoods Committee** ([Series 4613-09](#)); **Select Budget Committee** ([Series 4613-10](#)); and **Select Committee on Utility Strategic Planning** ([Series 4613-11](#)).



Flyer for the Seattle Center Arena Design Open House, 2018. Box 44, Folder 8, Series 4613-02, SMA.



Archived Sally Bagshaw Facebook post from June 23, 2016.

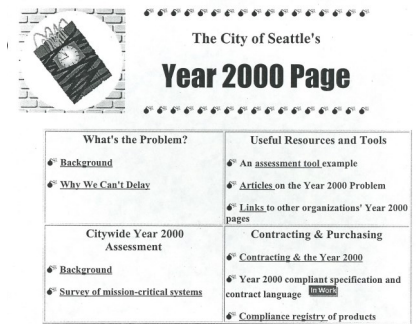
Pages and posts from Bagshaw's website, as well as from social media accounts such as Twitter, Facebook, and Flickr, are also archived. These pages are accessible through [Archive-It](#) and [ArchiveSocial](#).

(collections, cont'd)

Also processed is Bagshaw's **Electronic Correspondence** ([Series 4613-01](#)), containing 121,084 email messages (16.5 GB) from her 2009-2019 tenure. Major issues covered include parks, waterfront redevelopment, neighborhood development, taxis and for-hire vehicles and utilities. Constituent correspondence spans a wide range of subjects of concern to citizens, especially homeless encampments and ride-share regulations.

Other newly processed collections at SMA include: **Planning Commission Subject Files** ([Series 6200-03](#), 1980-2003); **Police Chief Search Records** ([Series 1802-N7](#), 1946); **Police Accountability Review Panel Records** ([Series 6350-01](#), 1999-2008); **Police Department Citizen Perception Surveys** ([Series 6350-03](#), 2005-2009); **Y2K Project Records** ([Series 3905-01](#), 1996-2000); **East District Neighborhood Service Center Records** ([Series 5752-12](#), 1995-2011); **Homelessness Policy and Programs Records** ([Series 3628-02](#), 1980-2009); **Drug Policy Records** ([Series 6350-02](#), 1999-2008); and **Tim Burgess Mayoral Records** ([Series 5218-01](#))

covering his term as Seattle mayor from September to November 2017.



For more information, click to send e-mail to Bob Kaye or Eric Svaren in the Enterprise Information Technology group.

[Return to Citywide Technology Page](#)

Questions? Comments? Contributions? Send e-mail to [Robert Kaye](#) or [Eric Svaren](#).

Last updated by R. Kaye, 7.21.1997

Content copy for Year 2000 website, 1997. Box 1, Folder 4, Series 3905-01, SMA.

New! Seattle Human Rights Day Virtual Collection

SMA's new virtual collection on [Seattle Human Rights Day](#) brings together moving images and photos of City events honoring the day, as well as textual materials documenting human rights work at the City of Seattle.

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on December 10th. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on December 10, 1948, the first global enunciation of human rights. The celebration of Seattle Human Rights Day provides an opportunity to honor a Seattle-area organization or individual who has advanced human rights locally, nationally, or internationally.



Human Rights Day celebration at the Dome Room, Arctic Building, 2000. [Item 108896](#), Series 0207-01, SMA.

Recently Processed Photos

Now available to view and download from our Digital Collections site are [over 80 recently scanned color slides](#) from the **Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection** (Series 1629-01). Useful for property research, this collection displays homes and commercial districts that were built in the early to mid 20th century. The newly cataloged slides date mostly from the 1970s and are of the Rainier Beach area. The images show street scenes, schools, churches, parks, and neighborhood homes, as well as local businesses like Borracchini's Bakery and Mutual Fish Co.



Atlantic City Park, 1970s. [Image 196844](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



Othello Playground, 1970s. [Image 197581](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



Remo [Borracchini's Bakery], 2307 Rainier Ave So., 1970s. [Image 197728](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

(Photos, cont.)



Empire Way So., 1970s. [Image 197712](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

74 Years Ago: Overdue Library Books

The Seattle Public Library was at one time quite aggressive in pursuing borrowers who had not returned their books on time. [Ordinance 37311](#) allowed for arrest and prosecution of those who held materials past their due date and had not responded to a written notice. The Overdue Department of the library periodically sent lists to the city prosecutor containing names and addresses of borrowers with overdue books, along with the titles they had checked out.

One request for prosecution came from the librarian at the Queen Anne branch, directed toward a woman "who has retained library books far beyond the legal time limits. She has had ample warning both from the library, and from your office, and has paid no attention to repeated phone calls." The files also include a handful of replies from borrowers. Some apologized for the oversight and enclosed the missing book or a check for its replacement.

One woman sent funds to replace a book lost by her son but added, "My honest opinion is that the book incident is merely another stupidity on the part of the lady at Yesler Library." Another writer said that his family had not lived in Seattle for almost three years and suggested that someone had forged his daughter's name or was using a card that was accidentally left behind when they moved.

Arrests for overdue books have not been library policy for quite a while, and the 2019 Library Levy allowed for the [elimination of late fines](#) beginning in 2020. Read more about [this story](#) and other Find of the Months on our website.

Warrant of Arrest	
THE CITY OF SEA TLE, Plaintiff,	vs.
ARDIS DALE	Defendant.
721 - 17th Avenue	
In the Justice Court, Seattle Precinct, Before the Undersigned, Sitting as Municipal Judge.	
WHEREAS, Helen Wright, has this day complained in Writing, under oath, to the undersigned, one of the Justices of the Peace and Municipal Judge in and for said Seattle Precinct, King County, State of Washington, that on the 13th day of February, 1947, the said Defendant in said City, County and State did commit the offense of willfully and unlawfully retaining a book belonging to the Seattle Public Library beyond the legal time limit.	
WHEREFORE, in the name of the State of Washington you are commanded forthwith to apprehend the said Defendant, and bring her before me to be dealt with according to law.	
Given under my hand this 10th day of February, 1947.	
STATE OF WASHINGTON,	as
THE CITY OF SEATTLE,	Municipal Judge.
Thereby certify that I have arrested the within named Defendant and have heretofore now in court.	
By,	Chief of Police.
	Police Officer.

[Arrest warrant](#) for overdue library book, 1947.
Box 2, Folder 13, Series 4401-02, SMA.

YouTube and Flickr News

Popular with our Flickr followers is [this recently posted photo](#) from 1962 showing two houses on 26th Ave E. between Lynn and Newton. A follower with a sharp eye helped us identify the house on the right as 2030 26th Ave.



[Image 71067](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

One of the most popular videos on [SMA's YouTube channel](#) is a [Seattle Fire Department recruiting commercial](#) from 1964, narrated by Chief Gordon Vickery and featuring footage of firefighters working in the field.



[Item 880](#), Series 2801-11, SMA.

Follow us for new content posted regularly on [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#)!

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SMA in the News

Records held by SMA were among the resources used for a [new HistoryLink article](#) on Redlining in Seattle. Also sourced for the article were SMA's online exhibits on [Redlining in Seattle](#) and [Seattle's Open Housing Campaign](#).

SMA assisted with research for an [article in the Seattle Times](#) on the mysterious origins of a flambeau monument installed at the Van Asselt Playground in the 1940s. The [Don Sherwood Parks History Collection](#) was a key source of information for the article.

A [recent Crosscut article](#) on the history of recall elections in Seattle features images from SMA's collections, with research drawing from sources in the archives.



The Van Asselt flambeau, undated.
[Image 31228](#), Series 5801-02, SMA.

84 Years Ago: Seattle Snow



Snowplow clearing snow from the streets of Seattle on January 21, 1937.
[Image 11389](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

Upcoming Events

- January 19:** History Café at MOHAI: Minoru Yamasaki's Place in Seattle Architectural History. Online, 6:30pm. Register [here](#).
- January 25:** AKCHO Annual Meeting, 1pm. Virtual. Registration and more information forthcoming at www.akcho.org.
- February 16:** History Café at MOHAI: Honoring Bainbridge Island's Indipino Community. Register [here](#).
- February 27:** MIPOPS presents Moving History: Doris Chase. Northwest Film Forum (in-person—subject to change), 4pm. Tickets and more information coming to the [NWFF website](#).