

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

Among the newly processed photos in the City Light Negatives (Series 1204-01) are a series of images showing the artist Jean Cory Beall working on a large mural design. The mural was commissioned for the



Jean Cory Beall working on the mural design for the City Light Building, 1958.

[Image 197816](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

entrance of the former City Light building as part of the building's expansion and renovation in 1958. Intended to illustrate the harnessing of earth's elements for electric power, the mural was 32 feet long and made with over 300,000 pieces

of Venetian glass. The mural was unveiled to the public on December 24, 1958, and eventually moved to MOHAI when City Light left the building in the 1990s.

Notes on the original negative sleeve identified the artist as simply "Mrs. Beall." With a little research, we learned not only her full name, but that she was a well-known Seattle artist who studied in Paris and Mexico and exhibited widely. She was recognized many times by the Seattle Art Museum's Annual Exhibition of Northwest Artists (winning an honorable mention in 1943), and today her work can be found in museums and public buildings throughout the U.S.



Jean Cory Beall setting tile on mosaic mural for City Light Building, 1958.

[Image 196063](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

This is just one example of how archivists work to uncover some of the "hidden" stories of people in the archives, such as women who have been primarily identified by their husband's name. We were happy to be able to add her full name to the record and learn about her work as a major Northwest artist.

Find other photos of the mural being installed at the City Light building in 1958 at our [Digital Collections site](#).

New E-Learning: Moving Image Archives

SMA is home to over 30 moving image collections, which combined contain over 6,000 items in a wide variety of film, videotape, and born-digital formats. Nearly 4,000 items are cataloged and over 2,100 of these are currently digitized, available to stream and download on SMA's website. Our new e-learning course covers the types of moving images held in the archives, how to search for them, how to get copies, and explores online exhibits featuring moving image content.

Find this new course and all of our e-learning offerings [on our website](#).



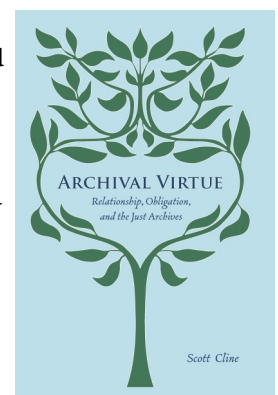
New Book: Archival Virtue

Former City Archivist Scott Cline's new book,

[Archival Virtue: Relationship, Obligation, and the Just Archives](#),

was recently published by the Society of American Archivists (SAA). In the book, Cline raises questions that grapple with the meaning of what archivists do and who they are. SAA's description of the book explains, "Embracing the language of moral philosophy and theology, such as relationship, obligation, care, faith, transcendence—what one commentator calls 'soul words'—*Archival Virtue* explores ideas of moral commitment, truth, difference, and just behavior in the pursuit of archival ideals." You can read more and purchase a copy of the book [here](#).

Scott Cline established the Seattle Municipal Archives in 1985 and retired from SMA in 2016 after 31 years as the Seattle's first City Archivist.

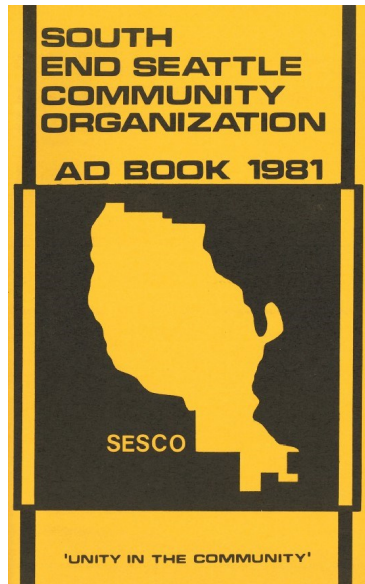


Newly Processed Collections

Several new collections have been processed and are now available for research at SMA.

Safe Harbors Records ([Series 3628-03](#)) document an information system designed to collect data about people served by emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in order to learn more about Seattle's homeless populations. The goal was to use that information to prevent homelessness and assist those needing help with housing and support. The records date from 2001-2009 and cover the development of the system, guides for use, and evaluations and enhancements.

The Southwest/Southeast Neighborhood District Coordinator Records ([Series 5752-17](#)) date from 1979-2016 and document activities and issues relating to the work of the Southwest/Southeast District neighborhood coordinators. Issues covered in the records include community initiatives and organizations, City projects and initiatives in the neighborhoods, public safety, development, and parks.



South End Seattle Community Organization (SESCO) Ad Book, 1981. Box 3, Folder 22, Series 5752-17, SMA.

Georgetown Steam Plant Logbooks ([Series 1209-04](#)) span 1907-1973 and contain notes and data about upkeep and maintenance of the plant from both when the plant was privately owned and after it was taken over by City Light. Some of the logs narrate tasks taken on each day, such as checking meters, making repairs to pumps and valves, painting, and loading coal. Other books consist of grids of various numbers/readings tracked hourly or daily.



Same Sex Marriage Records ([Series 4405-01](#)) contain Law Department files relating to a 2004 executive order directing City departments to recognize same sex marriages in the same manner as opposite sex marriages. The records date from 1999-2004 with the majority of found in 2004. At that time, same sex marriage was outlawed in Washington State, but the policy was meant to apply to couples married in other states. Files cover Mayor Nickels' executive order and public statements, implications for employee benefits and retirement, and development of related legislation.

(collections, cont'd)

Zoning Code Revision Records ([Series 1615-01](#)) date from 1971-1982 and relate to revisions and amendments to Seattle's zoning code. Issues include parking requirements, downtown development, definitions of particular terms in the code, and specific allowable uses such as pharmacies and printing shops.



Photos illustrating parking at Center Park, 1976-1977. Box 1, Folder 11, Series 1615-01, SMA.

City A Go-Go

SMA has cataloged and digitized episodes of the Seattle Channel's [City A Go-Go](#), a weekly feature produced and hosted by Nancy Guppy from 2002-2007. The show aired on the Seattle Channel and KCTS-9 and has been cited by Guppy as the "impetus" for Art Zone with Nancy Guppy. In 2003, the series was modified to air monthly installments.



In their annual reports, the Seattle Channel describes the show's content as focusing "on Seattle's arts and cultural communities giving viewers great tips on where to go and what to do. The program highlighted the activities of dozens of Seattle's cultural institutions and some special 'finds' off the beaten path that only Nancy could come up with!"

Episode features have included poetry slams, wine tastings, film festivals, readings, art museums, dance performance, tapestry weavers, theater, jazz, rap and classical music, and even a yoga singalong. Each episode, shot in handheld digital video, highlights two or three events in the coming week, and gives a quick calendar of other arts happenings.

The episodes are cataloged in our Digital Collections site and also uploaded to SMA's [YouTube channel](#).

Recently Processed Photos

Recent additions to the Historic Building Survey Photograph collection come from Queen Anne. Mid-century images of the historic neighborhood show scenes of commercial districts, schools and playgrounds, streets, parks, residences, and multi-family buildings.



N&S Foundry, 1140 Elliott Ave West, circa 1970.
[Image 199441](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

Some notable homes include the Stimson, McFee, and Judge Robertson houses, Mayor Floyd C. Miller's home, and the Handschy, J.C. Black, and Hager residences.

Other buildings, including apartments such as the Chelsea, Donaphilita, Marqueen, Villa Castella, and the Aloha Terrace buildings, stand beside street scenes of daily life. Also shown are the King



Stimson House -- 405 W. Highland Dr., circa 1970.
[Image 198682](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

County Hospital, the KOMO building, the Seattle Children's Home, and the Telephone Exchange. Iconic images of the TV towers long known to Queen Anne Hill, the Queen Anne Bowl, and Queen Anne Boulevard are also available in this wide ranging collection of Seattle's neighborhoods.



Queen Anne Boulevard, circa 1970.
[Image 199443](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

(Photos, cont.)



Kerry Park -- W. Highland Dr, circa 1970.
[Image 198392](#), Record Series 1629-01, SMA.

80 Years Ago: Rowdiness in Laurelhurst

The Seattle Sunday Times of December 11, 1942, ran on its front page an article titled, "Pupils lose school bus because of rowdiness." Roosevelt High School students from Laurelhurst had been behaving badly enough to warrant a warning two weeks prior that they risked losing bus service if their conduct did not improve. The paper reported that boys "have been pelting bus drivers with missiles, on occasion have lighted 'stink bombs' made of photographic films which generate poisonous chlorine gas, and their behavior generally is reported to be disgraceful."

Roosevelt's principal attributed most of the trouble to a "hazing spirit" among sophomores who felt they "must show their authority" to new freshmen. (He said most older boys came home later due to sports and activities so were not on the bus.) With busses urgently needed for transportation of workers in war industries, the principal said the boys should recognize the privilege of having a bus provided for them.

A citizen named Donald Haas (who was also a regional vice president of the National Apartment Owners Association) [sent the news clipping to City Council](#) along with a letter decrying the "appalling rowdiness" and declaring it "a shock to the citizens of our fair city." He continued, "However, for such rowdiness amongst juveniles there is always a definite cause and a definite cure. When youth becomes a problem to the community and juvenile delinquency rears its ugly head the cause is always SUB-STANDARD HOUSING! The cure would of course be obvious, nothing less than a SLUM CLEARANCE PROJECT for Laurelhurst."

Haas closed his letter by asking Council to act so that "the slums of Laurelhurst may be cleared away and these poor unfortunates cured so that they will grow into honorable citizens!"

Find this Find of the Month and others on [SMA's website](#).

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular photo recently posted on SMA's Flickr site is an aerial view of downtown Seattle and the waterfront taken on December 14, 1960.



[Image 199144](#), City Light Negatives (Series 1204-01, SMA).

One of the more popular additions to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) is a recently digitized recording of a live broadcast from the Space Needle observation tower, originally aired just prior to its official opening on April 21, 1962. At the time, the Space Needle was the tallest structure in Seattle and contained the world's highest revolving restaurant.



[World of Tomorrow: Space Needle](#). Item 12803, Seattle Channel Moving Images (Series 3902-01), SMA.

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SMA in the News

Photos in SMA's collections have been featured in several news stories recently. A [Seattle Times / Pacific NW Magazine article](#) about the "Wilcox Walls" supporting a promenade portion of Queen Anne Boulevard features an Engineering Department photo ([Image 156](#)) of the wall being constructed in April 1914. Another Engineering photo showing Fire Station 26 ([Image 2725](#)) was used for a [Daily Journal of Commerce article](#) about the station's historic landmark nomination. A 1975 photo from the Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection showing Ray's Boathouse in Ballard ([Image 179334](#)) was used in a guide to [Seattle's 15 Grunge Landmarks](#) to highlight Chris Cornell's stint working at the restaurant.

Also, maps from SMA's collections were used to illustrate a piece in [The Urbanist](#) on Seattle's "infuriating maps," highlighting stories behind both historical and contemporary maps of the city.

60 Years Ago: Seattle Monorail



A group of people try out the interior of the new Seattle Monorail on March 20, 1962. The Monorail would open to the public a few days later on March 24.

[Image 165723](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

Upcoming Events

- April 20:** History Café at MOHAI: Expanding What is Worth Preserving. Online, 6:30pm. Register [here](#).
- April 28:** PNW Historian's Guild: Lowell Skoog and Northwest Ski Culture. Online, 7pm. Register [here](#).
- May 2-May 5:** [Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting](#) (Virtual).
- May 18:** History Café at MOHAI: The Democratizing Power of Radio. Online, 6:30pm. Register [here](#).