

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Out of the Archives

Here at SMA we're always looking for more ways to share our records and make them more easily accessible to everyone. One way we do this is through exhibits and displays exploring a variety of topics that highlight records in all kinds of formats, from documents and maps to audio recordings, photographs, and moving images.

Our recent exhibit on the [City of Seattle and the Seattle World's Fair](#),

created to coincide with the Fair's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, brings together research and material sourced from multiple SMA collections, including some recent acquisitions. For example, an indexing project to make additional Water Department negatives more accessible (see story on p. 2) unveiled photos showing the creation, testing, and opening of the International Fountain at the World's Fair site (today's Seattle Center). These were an exciting find, and give added visual value to the exhibit.



Water Department employee with handheld communication device adjusting the fountain's nozzles, March 12, 1962.

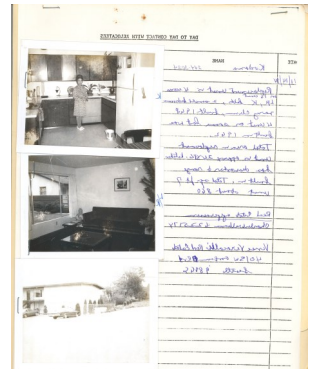
[Image 195611](#), Series 8200-13, SMA

Also included in the exhibit is a [recently donated silent home video](#), recorded by an unknown creator, documenting the Seattle World's Fair opening ceremony on April 21, 1962. The footage includes events we had not seen before, such as the Seattle Buddhist Church's Buddhist Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps (part of Boy Scout Troop 252, originally sponsored by the church and established in 1949) at King Street Station, performing alongside baton twirlers for a crowd of onlookers. Also shown in the footage are speeches, dance performances by Coast Salish tribes, and more. We were thrilled to digitize this footage and feature it in the exhibit.

Sometimes during research for exhibits we find already processed material that could be better described for easier future access. While preparing for another recent exhibit on [Urban Renewal in Seattle](#), we came across a collection of relocation services records ([Series 1642-08](#)). The collection holds files on residents who received relocation assistance from the city, and give valuable insight into how the city's relocation program was administered. Often including correspondence, agreements, and occasionally even photos, the records can give information on who had been displaced, when, why, and from where.

The collection's original file names include the names and addresses of people and businesses, but that information had not been entered into the online record, meaning a researcher would have to browse each box to see who was represented in the collection. We reprocessed the collection and added the file names to the online record, making it now much easier for someone to find a file tied to a particular person or address.

We hope these efforts can increase access to SMA's materials and the stories held within them.



Relocation notes for Huosoe Kodama. Box 1, Folder 7, Series 1642-08, SMA.

## Farewell Monica Martinez Simmons

The Office of the City Clerk (OCC) and the Legislative Department said goodbye to our City Clerk Monica Martinez Simmons last month. Monica was an enthusiastic supporter of the Archives Program, including championing the *Seattle at 150* project. With the OCC for twelve years, she signed thousands of pieces of legislation, oversaw the filing of 35 citizen initiatives, and swore in 126 City officials. She oversaw not only the Municipal Archives but the Records Management Program, the Public Disclosure functions, the legislative process, the Boards and Commission Program and Information and Research Services.

Most importantly, she led with confidence and compassion, upheld high standards for the OCC and the entire City, and pushed all staff to achieve more than they thought they could. We will miss her positive and hard working style as we savor the contributions she made to the City of Seattle during her tenure. Monica is pictured here with Council President Debora Juarez (l) and Councilmember Sara Nelson (r) as they presented her with a proclamation declaring June 28, 2022 Monica Martinez Simmons Day.



# Newly Processed Collections

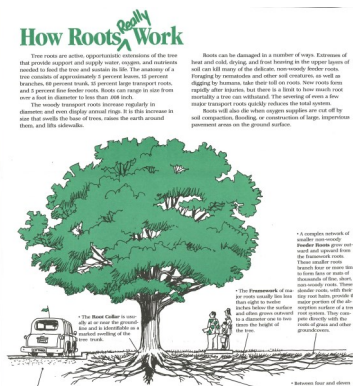
Now processed and available for research are **Lorena González's Subject Files** ([Series 4629-02](#)) comprising 7.8 cubic feet (20 boxes) of records from her office during her tenure on City Council. González was elected to City Council in November 2015 and took office that month, filling a seat vacated earlier in the year by Sally Clark. On council, she worked on a range of issues including public safety, labor rights, preschool, gender equity, and immigrant rights. She served as Council President from 2020 to 2021.

Issues related to the Police Department and public safety are heavily represented, including a great deal of documentation of the process leading up to the 2017 legislation overhauling the City's police accountability system and establishing the Office of Inspector General. Related issues include police staffing and overtime, surveillance, and the north precinct project. Other significant topics include homelessness and encampment sweeps; labor issues; the proposed employee head tax; arena development; education and early learning; campaign finance reform; Sound Transit and other transportation projects; affordable housing, and issues related to immigrants and refugees.



Affordable Housing Opportunities, Yesler Community Collaborative and Futurewise, June 2016. Box 7, Folder 3, Series 4629-02, SMA.

UW MLIS candidate Oscar McNary processed the **Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Records** ([Series 8108-02](#)). The majority of materials date from 1993-2006 during the tenure of Liz Ellis as arboriculturist and tree stewardship program coordinator. Ellis was heavily involved in training volunteers, partnering with citizens, and doing education and outreach. Materials include printed and handwritten records, photographs, and drawings related to the planning and care of Seattle's street trees and street side plantings.



Two record series from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations have also been recently processed.

**Tribal Relations Records** ([Series 4007-01](#)) date from 1991-2011, with the majority of material found within

"How Roots Really Work" from Tree City USA Bulletin No. 3, 1994. Box 1, Folder, Series 8108-02, SMA.

(collections, cont'd)

1999-2006. The records cover a range of topics relating to issues involving Native American tribes, including Discovery Park, Skagit Mitigation Lands, Sand Point, and the Endangered Species Act. Other topics covered in the files include hunting rights, water rights, and the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement project. **Seattle Indian Services Commission Meeting Materials** ([Series 4006-02](#)) cover 2015-2017 and include agendas, minutes, resolutions, financial updates, and other items under discussion. The Seattle Indian Services Commission is a public development authority chartered through the City of Seattle.

## Water Department Negatives

Over 3,500 negatives created by the Water Department from the [1890s to the 1940s](#) were previously scanned and made available online. They depict the construction of Cedar River Pipelines Nos 1 and 2, construction of reservoirs, events and work life with employees and elected officials, Landsburg, water tanks, various views of the Cedar River Watershed, sewer outfalls, various water main breaks and landslides, water main construction, and Water Department facilities.



I-5 construction, August 10, 1966. [Image 192804](#), Series 8200-13, SMA.

In 2016, an additional 8,000 (approximately) negatives were transferred to the Municipal Archives from Seattle Public Utilities. Primarily 4x5 black and white negatives, they portray many of the same topics but date from the late 1940s to 1978. In order to provide some level of access to these negatives, titles for the negative sleeves were entered into the [SMA database](#), making them searchable by topic and date. Staff are able to scan negatives for researchers by request.

Subjects include the Lake Forest Park Reservoir and pump station, the Tolt Regulating Basin Headquarters and Screenhouse, pipeline work required for the construction of I-5, various personnel, construction of Seattle First National Bank in 1967, the South Shop and Operations Control Center, Cedar River Pipeline #3 and work relating to the 1962 World's Fair.

A few selected images from this addition were scanned and include: construction of water art for the Operations Control Center at Ted Johnson's shop on Lake Union, 1974 ([Item 196636](#)); the International Fountain near the time the World's Fair opened in 1962 ([Item 195652](#)); and the construction of I-5 Freeway in 1966 ([Item 192804](#)).

## Recently Processed Photos

The Historic Building Photograph Survey slide collection ([Series 1629-01](#)) continues to be digitized and cataloged. The latest additions are of the Broadview



Pedestrian overpass at 103rd and Aurora Ave N., circa 1954.  
[Image 202498](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

neighborhood, located between the Puget Sound and Greenwood Ave N and bordered by the city boundary at N 145<sup>th</sup> St. Home to Carkeek Park, Llandover Woods, and the Interurban trail,



Webster School at 3014 NW 67th St.  
[Image 202821](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

Broadview gained its name from the sweeping views of the Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.

The [newly added photographs](#) show commerce development of Aurora Ave N, the Oak Lake school built in the 1890s (which served as the first public school for the entire north end of Seattle), street and neighborhood scenes, a drive-in movie theater, city facilities, schools, and the Broadview branch of the Seattle Public Library. The area was annexed in 1954, the same year that many of these photos were taken by the City Planning Commission.



Traffic in front of Oak Lake School, circa 1954.  
[Image 202548](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

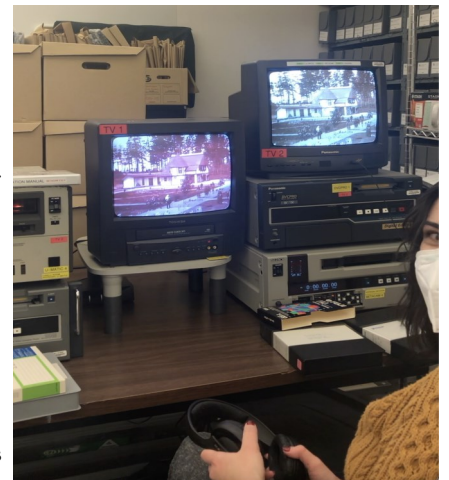


Trailer Park on Aurora Ave, circa 1954.  
[Image 202521](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

## Woodland Park Zoo Moving Images

From February to May 2022, Simmons University MLIS candidate Annalise Nicholson worked to preserve videotape materials from the [Woodland Park Zoo Moving Image](#)

[Collection](#) (Series 8601-08) held at SMA. The project was a collaboration by SMA and Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound (MIPoPS). The collection consists of film and videotape materials created by the zoo between 1938 and 2000, capturing various construction projects, related news coverage and



television programming, conservation efforts and campaigns, fundraisers and events sponsored by the zoo, b-roll footage of animals, interviews with employees, field recordings, and much more.

Here are some of Annalise's favorite finds in the collection: [People of the Forest](#) videos ("These are great educational forestry videos I couldn't stop watching"); [Woodland Park Zoo TV spots](#) ("Brief and silly commercials for the zoo"); [Hancocks' Zoo](#) ("TV news program about David Hancocks' career and his resignation over the state of the elephants at the zoo"); [Promo for 1995 AAZPA Conference](#) ("Quirky and fun. Includes Mayor Norm Rice and a lot of very dated stand-up comedy about Seattle which is a delight"); and [KIRO "Save our Elephants" and "Elethon"](#) ("Just such a great time capsule of local news personalities, local music, various businesspeople and phone bank volunteers, and random time-filling antics").

Visit the [SMA website](#) or the [YouTube playlist](#) to view all of the newly available videos from the collection.

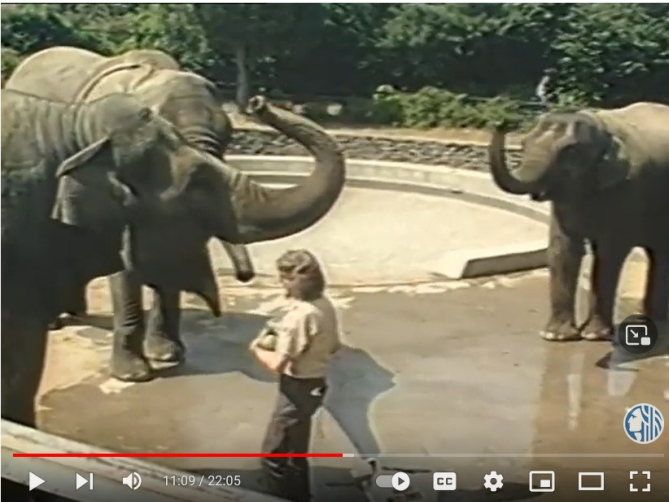
## YouTube and Flickr News

Popular with our Flickr followers is [this image](#) of women (possibly City Light home economists) posing with an array of food at the Gala Holiday Program in 1971.



[Image 202102](#), City Light Negatives (Series 1204-01, SMA).

One of the most popular videos recently posted to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) is this video documenting the work of the Woodland Park Zoo staff and their daily routines working with and caring for the animals at the zoo.



[Woodland Park Zoo: A Family Portrait](#). Item 12892, Woodland Park Zoo Moving Images (Series 8601-08), SMA.

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## SMA in the News

A recent feature in the Seattle Times on [some of the most-requested images from local archives](#) includes a popular photo from SMA's collections, showing divers leaping off of a high platform at Green Lake in June 1936.

King5 News ran a story on [Seattle baseball's Dugdale Field](#), which burned to the ground due to arson in July, 1932. The arsonist was Robert Driscoll, who confessed to the crime three years later. Original documents found in [SMA's Fire Department file on Driscoll](#) were used for researching the story, as was archivist Julie Kerksen's [Favorite Archival Object video](#) featuring the infamous, self-professed "firebug."

My Ballard drew from SMA's [Annexed Cities online exhibit](#) for their recent article marking the [115th anniversary of the annexation of Ballard to Seattle](#). Also, SMA images were used for an [article on the West Seattle Bridge](#) from KNKX, as well as an article on [The Rise and Fall of World's Fairs](#) from Smithsonian Magazine.

## 52 Years Ago: Seattle Center Fun Forest



An evening shot of the Fun Forest amusement park at Seattle Center, showing the carousel, Ferris wheel, and Kiddieland.

[Image 73201](#), Series 7613-05, SMA.

## Upcoming Events

**August 25-27:** Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. More information [here](#).

**September 21:** History Café at MOHAI: Sidewalk Stories with Seattle Walk Report, 6:30pm. Register [here](#).