

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

News from the City Archives

After a national search, Anne Frantilla was selected as the new City Archivist for the Seattle Municipal Archives. An archivist with SMA since 1999, she worked primarily as a reference archivist and developed a deep knowledge of both the collections in the Archives and of the history of city government. She has researched and written many exhibits, including the frequently cited "Open Housing" exhibit on legislation related to housing discrimination. Promoting audio and audio-visual holdings through exhibits and the YouTube channel is one of her passions. She looks forward to working with a great staff, the Clerk's Office, City employees, the educational community and the broader public on increasing awareness about the SMA holdings.

A founding member of the Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound (MIPoPS), Frantilla will continue to support efforts to meet the magnetic media crisis within our local heritage community. She is grateful to be able to build on the strong foundation established by founding City Archivist Scott Cline. Together with a strong staff in both Archives and Records Management and support from the Office of the City Clerk and Seattle City Council, SMA will continue to find ways to contribute to the texture of the conversation on the City's history by making SMA's resources accessible to all.

65 Years Ago – Loyalty Oaths

During the 1950s Red Scare, Seattle city employees were required to sign oaths attesting that they were not "a subversive person," (i.e., a communist). A 1951 memo found in the Civil Service Commission Subject Files addressed the particulars of six employees who had not strictly followed instructions on the loyalty oath.

Corporation Counsel A.C. Van Soelen and his assistant J. Ambler Newton described one of the six cases as follows:

Jean E. Huot - Junior Cataloger in the Public Library.
The statement is signed, but there follows a type-written statement to the effect that she has signed because of "economic necessity" as she prefers not to lose her position. She also states that she reserves the right to her own understanding of the meaning of the law at the time of signing and to "defend it thereafter if necessary."

Huot and the other five employees were deemed not to have complied with the act's requirements and their statements about signing under duress were dismissed as being not in compliance with the law. Read the whole [Find of the Month](#) on the SMA website.

SMA Celebrates Archives Month

October is Archives Month in the United States, and archives in Washington State are celebrating by showcasing items from their holdings on parks.

The Washington State Archives' [Facebook site](#) is featuring images from all over the State.

King County Archives is featuring parks in its [blog posts](#).



The Seattle Municipal Archives is featuring a different parks related item every few days on its [website](#).

Recently Processed Photographs

Photographs from a 1975 neighborhood survey are being added to the photograph database. [West Seattle](#) is the first neighborhood to be showcased and although not all images are scanned yet, a good sample is available. Undertaken as part of the country's bicentennial, the project was administered by the Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the City of Seattle. The goal of the project was to create a visual inventory of urban design, historical and architectural elements that gave Seattle its unique character and identity. All of the images in this record group are black and white.



Diplomat Apartment Building, 4444 44th Ave SW, June 1976.

Item 179099, Record Series 9701-01, SMA



4508 46th Ave SW, June 12976

Item 179100, Record Series 9701-01, SMA

Work is proceeding scanning images in a related record series, 1629-01, with funds from a 4Culture grant. This collection includes color images of homes and businesses throughout the city between 1976 and 1979.

Archival Screening Night—A Success!

SMA participated in “Moving History,” an archival screening night sponsored by Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound (MIPoPS). Emceed by the co-founder of The Sprocket Society, Spencer Sundell, the sold-out crowd learned about magnetic media preservation and enjoyed clips from SMA, King County Archives, University of Washington Special Collections, Kubota Garden Foundation, Seattle Mime Theatre and Dance Heritage Coalition. The



event featured videotape digitized and preserved with funds from 4Culture. SMA presented clips from animation produced by the [Fire Department on fire safety](#) and a [1977 film](#) by the Parks Department, among other items. The event was part of a celebration of Archives Month in Washington State. Archives in all 50 states participate in Archives Month to remind people of the records being preserved, cataloged, cared for, and made accessible by archivists.



Interns and Volunteers

SMA has two new work-study students working with us. Jenn LaScala is an art student at the University of Washington who started at SMA during her summer quarter. Bryce Neal-Harris began with us this fall; she is a senior at Seattle University studying public relations. They help us behind the scenes in a number of ways, and we are glad to have them with us!

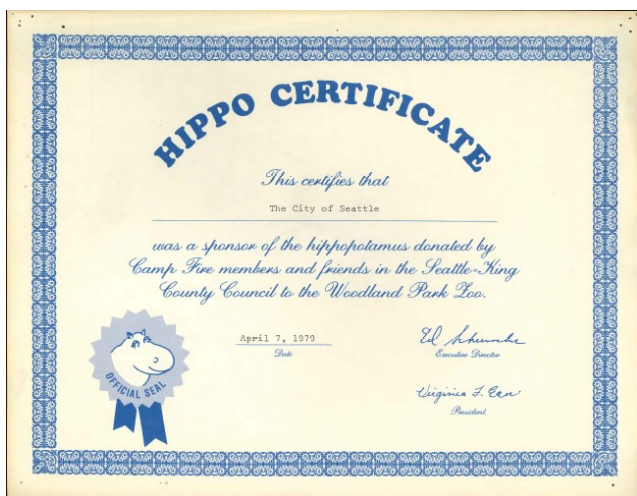
We also continue to benefit from volunteers assisting on multiple projects. Rae Brown has been working on Central Staff records and doing research for an upcoming exhibit.

Staci Crouch continues to make good progress toward our goal of getting our General Files collection scanned. She also has been working with our Model Cities records.

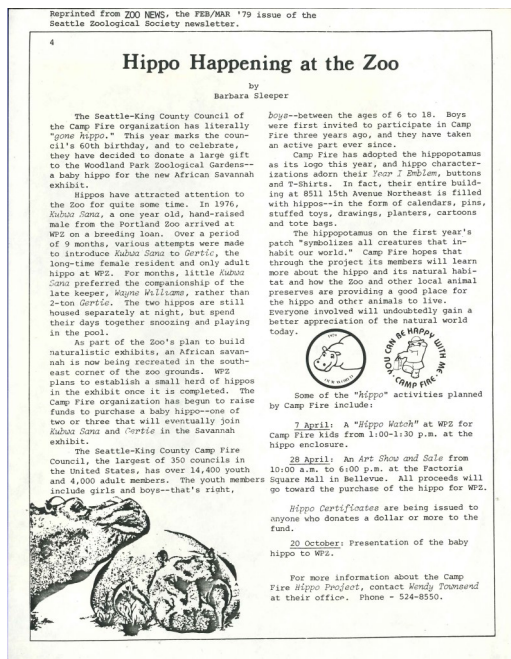
Our newest volunteer, Kelli Yakabu, will be starting soon. She is interested in seeing what archives work is all about. Volunteering at a repository is a great way to get a feel for the work!

Newly Processed: Woodland Park Zoo Records

Volunteer Alexandra Swast recently processed several accessions from the Woodland Park Zoo. One new record series is the Director's Records (8602-01), covering 1967 to 2004 and including materials from directors David Hancocks and David Towne. Subjects include all components of zoo operations (animals, budget, foreign exchanges, neighborhood relations, work plans, and facilities improvements) and both external and internal communications. Significant volume was also added to the Historical and Administrative Records (8601-01), including topics ranging from Tusko the elephant to neighborhood relations. Materials were also added to the Animal Management Records (8610-02), as well as several series of newsletters and other publications.



The Camp Fire Girls contributed to the Zoo's hippopotamus in 1970.
Box 2, Folder 1, Record Series 8601-01, Seattle Municipal Archives



The Zoo publication "Zoo News" describes the relationship of the Camp Fire organization with the hippos. 1979

(Processed cont.)

Weights and Measures

Two small collections were transferred by the Finance Department from the city's Weights and Measures unit. One record series (2705-02) covers inspections and scales, with some information on taxi regulation.

The other record series (2705-01) includes four volumes of Consumer Protection Scrapbooks dating from 1911-1967, primarily containing news clippings relating to the work of the consumer protection office. Early clippings mainly relate to weights and measures and inaccurate scales.

Photographs from Weights and Measures were also transferred to the Archives.



It is unlawful to remove, alter or deface official seals or condemnation tags. Condemned scales must be repaired in 10 days, and may neither be used or disposed of without approval of department.—Sections 6 and 12, Ordinance 41014

PEDDLERS and HUCKSTERS must have their scales and measures tested and approved by the Weights and Measures Division, City Hall, before using them.

Sec. 9 and 21, City Ordinance No. 28720

Undated ephemera

Box 1, Folder 7, Record Series 2705-02, Seattle Municipal Archives

New Research Guide!

Check out the new [guide to legislative research!](#)

YouTube and Flickr News

One of the most popular images on [SMA's Flickr site](#) from 1928 showing a line of 1920s vehicles in front of a University District apartment building.



University District apartments, April 17, 1928
[Item 2906](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*



Construction and opening of the Ballard Bridge, 1940
[Item 524](#), *Record Series 2613-09*, *Seattle Municipal Archives*

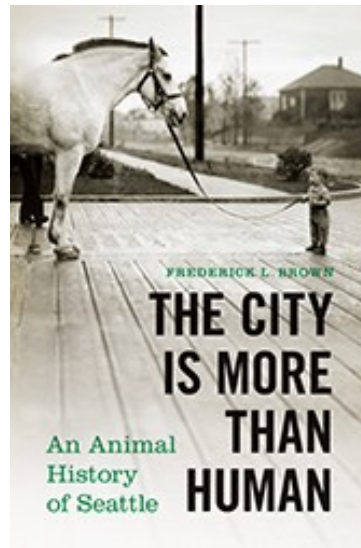
The Ballard Bridge continues to be the most popular video on SMA's YouTube site.

Seattle Municipal Archives

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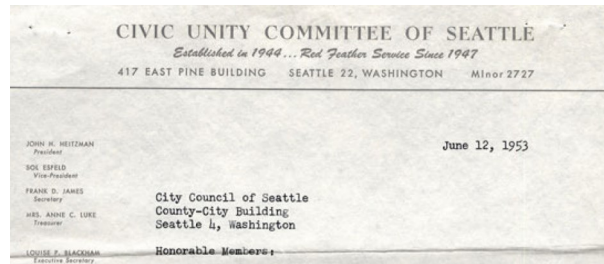
SMA in Print and in the News

Based on research completed for his dissertation, much of it done at SMA, Fred



Brown is publishing his book *The City is More than Human: An Animal History of Seattle* (University of Washington Press, 2016). Brown earned his PhD in History at the University of Washington.

In a recent piece on racism, titled [“Why is Seattle so racially segregated?”](#), KUOW cited two exhibits created by SMA, one on [open housing](#) legislation and the other on [redlining](#).



Letter from Civic Unity Committee to City Council, June 12, 1953, CF 221329, SMA

Upcoming Events

- October 25 AKCHO Meeting
Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive 10-1:30 AM
425 SW 153rd Street, Burien
- October 27 History Happy Hour 7-9 PM
Parks Trivia Challenge -Three Magnet Brewing Co
600 Franklin St SE, Olympia
- October 28 Seattle Area Archivists Meeting: [MIPoPS](#)
Room 370, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle
2-4 PM
- October 29 Basics of Historical Research—Free
Kitsap regional Library, 612 Fifth St, Bremerton
10 AM - 1:30 PM