

# 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 love sharing stories from the archives, whether it's through exhibits, presentations, tours and classroom visits, or pub trivia nights!

We kicked off Archives Month in October with a pop-up open house on the first floor of City Hall featuring an exhibit on Seattle's Open Housing Campaign. Archivists were on hand to answer questions and share information about the archives.

For #AskAnArchivist Day on October 11 we partnered with other public government archives in the Seattle area (King County Archives, Puget Sound Regional Archives, the National Archives at Seattle, and the Seattle Public Schools Archives) to host an Ask An Archivist webinar, highlighting our respective services and collections and answering questions from participants.

Inspired by this year's Washington State Archives Month theme of *Barchives: Food and Drink in Washington State*, we continued the partnership with our fellow local government archives to jointly organize and sponsor a local history pub trivia night. Two sets of first and second prize winners took home prizes of swag sourced from each archives, including bags, books, pencils, stickers, postcards, and coasters. The trivia night was partially funded by an Archives Month grant from Northwest Archivists, and we are grateful for their support.

Also in October we were happy to host student visits from the Bush School and UW, and enjoyed a field trip to Maple Elementary School to share materials related to the history of the school and surrounding area.



Archivists Libby Hopfauf and Jules Irick at SMA's pop-up open house.

## New Book: Heartbreak City

A new book written by Shaun Scott and published by the University of Washington Press explores how the history of sports in Seattle reveals past struggles for equality and patterns of injustice. *Heartbreak City: Seattle Sports and the Unmet Promise of Urban Progress* draws from materials held by local libraries and archives, including SMA. Textual records and photographs from SMA's collections inform and illustrate the book and highlight events and people in Seattle sports history.

Shaun Scott will be discussing the book at a History Café talk on January 17 at MOHAI. More information [here](#).



## New Exhibit: Discovery Park

Celebrating 50 years since Discovery Park officially opened to the public on October 28, 1973, SMA has produced a [new online exhibit](#) on the history and development of the park.

The exhibit explores how the park was planned and established, and how it has continued to evolve and grow over the years. Divided into three sections – Planning and Growth, Push and Pull of Proposed Uses, and Education and Interpretation – the exhibit is illustrated with photos, maps, and documents, and includes a comprehensive timeline and full bibliography.

Find the exhibit on SMA's website under [Exhibits and Education](#).



Docent/Volunteer teaches children about eagles, circa 1990s.  
[Image 206284](#), Series 5801-07, SMA.

## Newly Processed Collections

SMA recently received a collection of [Seattle Community Gardens Oral Histories \(Series 9970-01\)](#) from local historian Eleanor Boba. The collection includes both [transcripts](#) and [audio files](#) of oral history interviews conducted by Ms. Boba with people involved in community gardens in Seattle. Most of the gardens represented are P-Patches and city-sponsored gardens, although two non-city gardens (Meadowbrook Community Garden and Freeway Estates Community Orchard) are also included.

Recently transferred to SMA from the Puget Sound Regional Archives is a series of [Sanborn Insurance Maps \(Series 9965-01\)](#) created between 1905 and 1930 and corrected up to 1962, and one [Baist Real Estate Atlas \(Series 9965-02\)](#) dating from 1912. Both types of maps are excellent resources for researching property history in Seattle and we are grateful to add them to our holdings.



Page from 1912 Baist atlas showing part of downtown Seattle.



Sanborn and Baist atlases shelved in SMA's Immediate Access Vault.

Also newly processed are several series containing correspondence, memoranda, and findings of fact related to appeals from the Office of the Hearing Examiner. [Appeals of Director's Interpretations \(Series 3403-02\)](#) and [Housing Code Violation Appeals \(Series 3403-15\)](#) contain records related to decisions issued by the director of the Department of Construction and Land Use (later the Department of Planning and Development). [Appeals of Ethics and Elections Commission Decisions \(Series 3403-07\)](#) date from 1996-1998 and include appeals of decisions regarding ethics and campaign finance issues.

[Land Use Code Enforcement Appeals \(Series 3403-19\)](#) contains appeals of decisions regarding notices of violations of the City's land use code. The records date from 1982-1999 and include only decisions and findings of fact without supporting materials.

## Central Staff Electronic Records

With textual records comprising 867 boxes (and counting), [Central Staff Analysts' Working Files \(Series 4603-01\)](#) is one of the largest series of records

(Central Staff, cont'd)

held at SMA. But in addition to hard copy records, nearly 27,000 digital files in 15 different subseries are



Legislative Department Central Staff in 2002. [Image 152874](#), Series 4600-11, SMA.

also archived within the collection. The files can be searched using SMA's Electronic Records Search database, accessible on the city network or on computers in SMA's research room. Materials include

correspondence, memoranda, surveys, reports, studies, and hearings materials created by Central Staff analysts in support of the Council's legislative activities. Primary subjects relate to the major functions and issues of City government including land use, public utilities, housing, public safety, transportation, planning, parks, arts and cultural affairs, economic development, environment and sustainability, and general government administration.



Seattle Municipal Archives  
Electronic Records Search

### [Central Staff Analysts Electronic Correspondence \(Series 4603-04\)](#)

currently contains 8 subseries of emails with over 84,060 combined digital files. The emails can be searched on ePADD, a specialized delivery tool for email archives which is also accessible on the city network or on computers in SMA's research room.

Central Staff electronic records available in the Electronic Records Search database.

Similar to the working files, the emails relate to the functions and work of Central Staff Analysts and cover key issues of City government.

Central Staff Analysts Electronic Correspondence	
Tony Kilduff Electronic Correspondence, 2007-2018	
Bob Morgan Electronic Correspondence, 1999-2021	
Patricia Lee Electronic Correspondence, 1999-2019	
Bill Alves Electronic Correspondence, 1999-2006	
Scott MacColl Electronic Correspondence, 2002-2007	
Casey Hanewall Electronic Correspondence, 2006-2007	
Martha Lester Electronic Correspondence, 2009-2015	
Rebecca Herzfeld Electronic Correspondence, 2010-2015	

Processed Central Staff email collections.

Included are correspondence, memos, drafts, budget proposals, surveys, reports, and research in accordance with Central Staff Analyst functions.



## Recently Processed Photos

Newly scanned Engineering Department photos (Series 2613-07) document the activities of the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) program in 1971. NYC programs were established through the federal Economic Opportunity Act in 1964 to provide jobs for low-income youth between the ages of 14 and 22.

Seattle's NYC program operated under the Youth Programs Division of the Mayor's Office with funding from the US Department of Labor. During the summer, participants worked temporary jobs across multiple city departments intended to provide valuable work experience and instill job responsibility.



[Image 206565](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

Notes with the negatives indicate that the photos show NYC activities at various locations in the city, including an Information Center at 34<sup>th</sup> and Union, Collins Playfield at 16<sup>th</sup> and Washington, Roosevelt High School, Wallingford Playfield, Rainier Vista, and Yesler Terrace.

The images are available online at SMA's [Digital Collections site](#).



Images [206581](#) (above left); [206566](#) (above right); and [206574](#) (left), August 6, 1971. Series 2613-07, SMA.



## History Café with SMA

City Archivist Anne Frantilla and Reference Archivist Jeanie Fisher will be discussing [Records of Homelessness](#) at MOHAI's History Café on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:30pm.

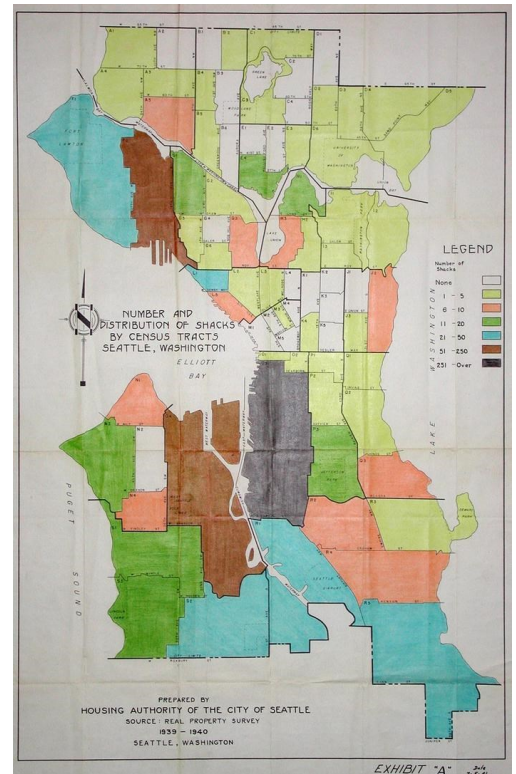
Homelessness is a long-standing and complex issue in Seattle. The talk will address how Seattle's government and residents' response to homelessness through the decades is reflected in records in the archives, including Hoovervilles of the Great Depression and Nickelsvilles of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

More information and registration details may be found on [MOHAI's website](#).

One of the many materials related to homelessness in the archives is this 1941 map documenting the number and locations of so-called "shack dwellings" throughout Seattle. Color coding denotes the number of shacks counted in each area of the city, with the greatest concentration in the city's south-central Hooverville encampment. The term "shacktown" was used as early as 1904 to describe homeless encampments within Seattle.

Learn more with [SMA's newest Favorite Archival Object video](#) exploring the history behind the map.

[Map 1036](#), Series 1801-02, SMA.



## Volunteers

UW junior Hetty Meissner joined SMA as a work-study student this fall. Hetty has been processing civil rights case files and Water Department photographs, as well as reshelving records pulled for researchers.

We also welcomed two new volunteers: Vanessa Granger, who is working on projects with Engineering Department negatives and our audio database, and Erin Kelly, who has been processing Central Staff records and completing inventories of videotapes and photo collections. They join our longtime volunteer Janet Ness, who continues her work to make early council bills more accessible.

We are grateful to our work studies and volunteers for all they do!



## YouTube and Flickr News

A popular photo recently posted to [SMA's Flickr site](#) is this image showing the intersection of Fourth and Pike on October 4, 1956.



[Image 53827](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

Recently uploaded to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) is B-roll video footage showing various neighborhoods in Seattle circa 2003-2004, including Capitol Hill, Pioneer Square, Queen Anne, and the University District. Street scenes include shots of businesses, traffic and public transit, parks, and pedestrians.



B-roll, Broadway Capitol Hill. [Event 12962](#), Record Series 3902-01, SMA.

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## SMA in the News

A [recent article](#) in *The Stranger* on the history of urban planning in Seattle is illustrated by photos and maps held by SMA. A [KUOW story](#) related to the streetcar's potential for revitalizing Seattle's art scene includes photos and documents from SMA's collections.

Crosscut featured a photo of the first P-Patch in a [recent piece](#) on the history of the Seattle P-Patch program. And a [1909 City Light photo](#) held by SMA showing the interior of the Georgetown steam plant was included in a [Seattle Times Halloween-themed article](#) about ghost stories inspired by the history of the building.



Streetcar at the dedication of University Bridge, July 1, 1919.

[Image 12667](#), Series 2625-10, SMA.

## 107 Years Ago: 1916 Snowstorm



Snow is piled high along Marion Street in downtown Seattle on February 8, 1916 after a major snowstorm hit the region.

The storm severely impacted services and communications and caused thousands of dollars in damage. Visit our new lobby exhibit on **Snow in Seattle** to see more photos of this storm and others, on display on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at City Hall.

[Image 192022](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

## Upcoming Events

**Jan 17 History Café:** [Seattle Sports and Urban Progress](#) with Shaun Scott. 6:30pm, MOHAI.

**Feb 21 History Café:** [Records of Homelessness](#) with Anne Frantilla and Jeanie Fisher from SMA. 6:30pm, MOHAI.