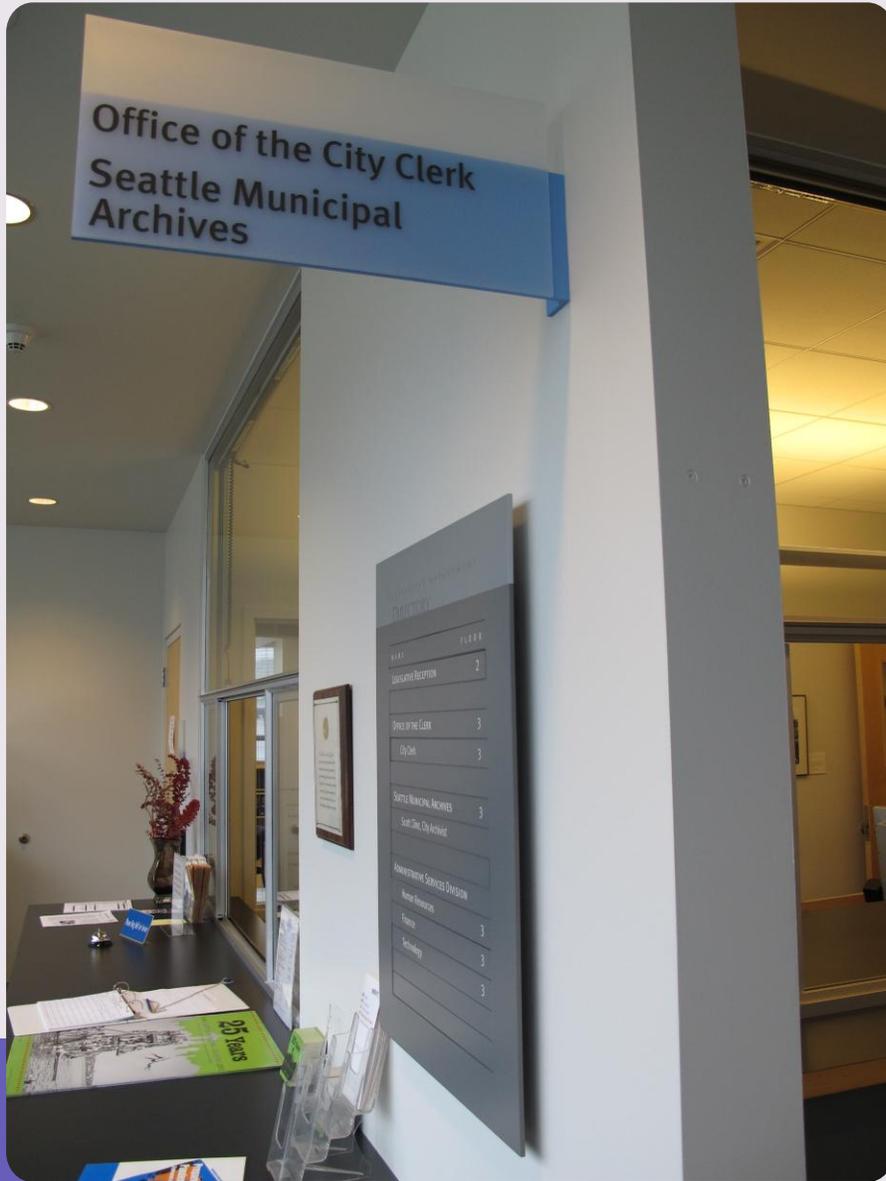


Get SMARt

How the Seattle Municipal
Archives can make history
interesting and help you
look like a genius





If you're not doing a research project, you may think the archives isn't for you. Not true!

This short course will demonstrate that the Seattle Municipal Archives (SMA) has a lot to offer, from reference sources for city facts to online exhibits to entertaining videos.

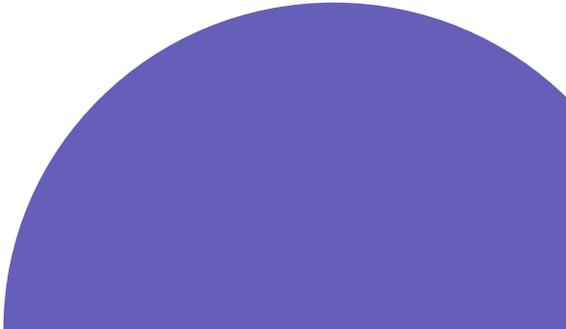


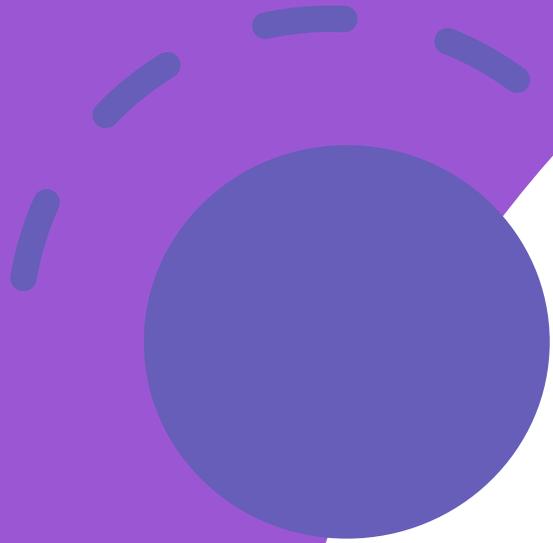
What is the Seattle Municipal Archives?

SMA's holdings document the history, development, and activities of the agencies and elected officials of the City of Seattle.

(That is, records created by or received by City government.)

See our Introduction to the Archives course for more information if you're not familiar with SMA.





So what can the
archives do for me?

Help me win Seattle pub trivia

Who's that mayor?



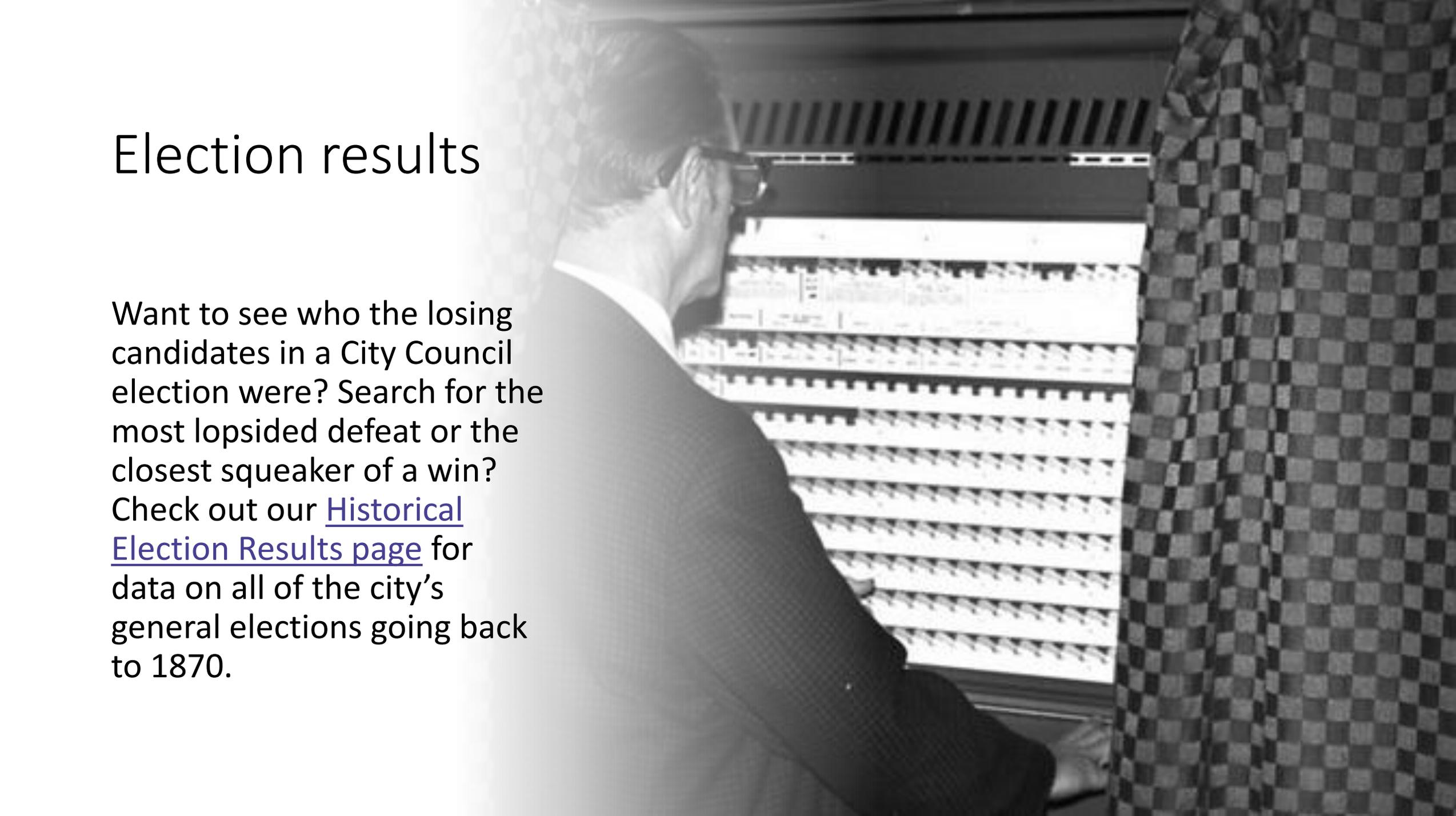
Allan Pomeroy, mayor from 1952 to 1956

City Officials

When did Bertha Knight Landes serve as Seattle's mayor? Who was on Seattle City Council in the 1970s? Who was the city's first fire chief? Was there really a time when Seattle had 25 councilmembers at once??

Our [City Officials pages](#) can answer all of these questions and more. You can even learn about defunct offices like the Superintendent of Streets and Sewers and the City Comptroller.

Election results

A man in a dark suit and glasses is seen from the side, looking at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a website with a grid of data, likely election results. The background is a checkered pattern, possibly a curtain or a wall. The overall image is in black and white.

Want to see who the losing candidates in a City Council election were? Search for the most lopsided defeat or the closest squeaker of a win? Check out our [Historical Election Results page](#) for data on all of the city's general elections going back to 1870.



Can you name
Seattle's official
city flower?



The dahlia was
named the city
flower in 1913.

Seattle facts

Our [city symbols](#) page can help you out with questions like this! And if you're in search of some [quick city facts](#), like population, land area, or first ordinances, our website may have what you're looking for.



Ballot measures

Did you know there was a proposed initiative about buying meat after 6 pm?

And several referenda about telegraph systems?

You can find complete lists of successful as well as unsuccessful ballot measures (including charter amendments) on our website.

Everybody eats at ANDY'S DINER: Seattle's finest and world's largest diner. Delicious steaks from our fabulous charcoal broiler, served in the quaint atmosphere of actual railroad dining cars. See Andy's collection of authentic railroad items and pictures.

Free parking for over 250 cars.

"Andy's friends park here"

Private parties • Banquets • Cocktails

2963 4th Avenue South

Seattle 4, Washington Phone MAIn 4-4097



Meat

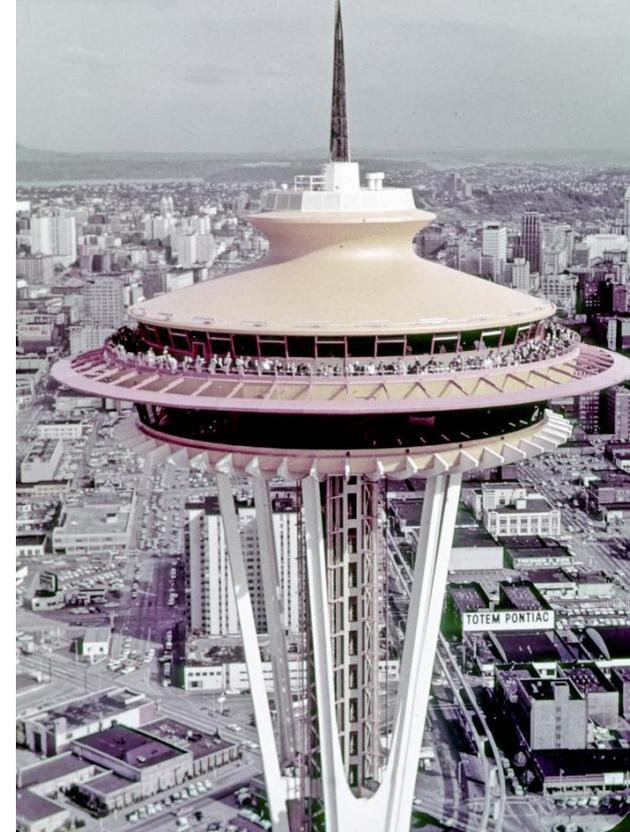
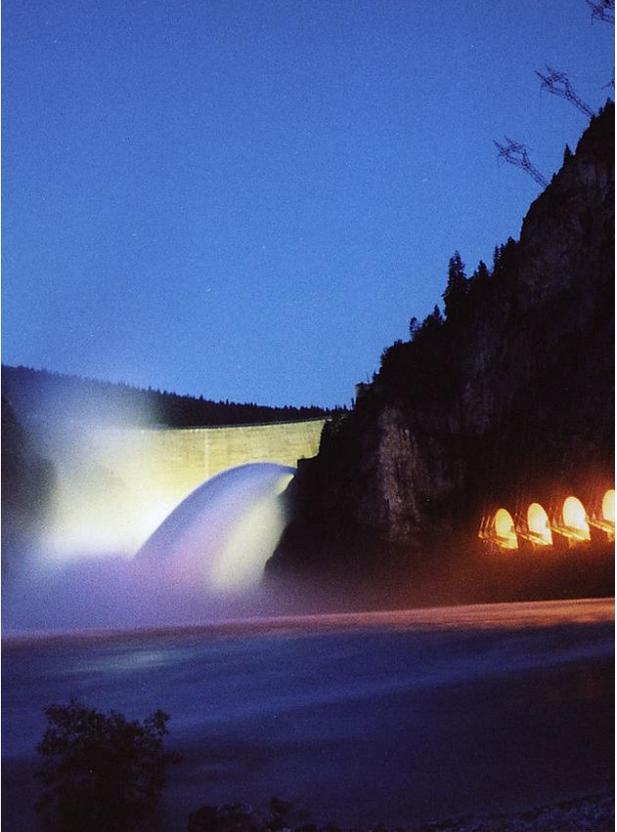
Yes



Show me Seattle history



Interested in stories from Seattle's past? Pull up a chair and check out the [Exhibits & Education section of our website](#), where records from SMA collections are showcased in many different ways to tell tales from the city's history.



Online exhibits focus on images and text, with topics ranging from the development of the Pike Place Market to the history of police accountability efforts in Seattle. Other exhibits highlight urban renewal programs, Seattle's city halls, the effects of redlining, and the founding of the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, among many other subjects.

Our [Digital Document Libraries \(DDLs\)](#) are a type of online exhibit that focus on providing access to primary sources. They include lots of links to source documents where you can see Seattle's history for yourself. The DDLs were originally designed to help students with research projects but can be useful for anyone who wants to dig into primary sources.

HOOVERVILLE COMMITTEE OF TWENTY-FIVE

(Mailing Address) 94-West Main Street,
Seattle, Washington,
October 19th 1938.

City Council
~~Mr. Arthur B. Langlie,~~
Mayor of Seattle,
County-City Building,
Seattle, Washington...

Dear Mr. Mayor;

This will introduce to you a committee of three who were democratically elected by a majority of the residents of what is commonly called Hooverville and they are instructed to take up with you as soon as possible the desperate situation of eviction from our humble homes. We are victims of unemployment and have no other home that we can move into, and the State Department of Welfare has officially informed us that they can do nothing about the matter as they have no funds for any purpose of this kind.

We propose that you do the following to help us save our homes;

- 1- That you and the City Council petition the Port of Seattle to withdraw the present WPA project there in Hooverville, which they have sponsored.
- 2- That you and the City Council petition the Works Progress Administration to withdraw this project until such time as we are provided with other housing which all human beings must have in the Winter months...
- 3- That you aid us in requesting that the City Council as whole receive our duly elected Committee next Monday, October 24th 1938, 2 PM., so we can give all of them a true picture of our situation...

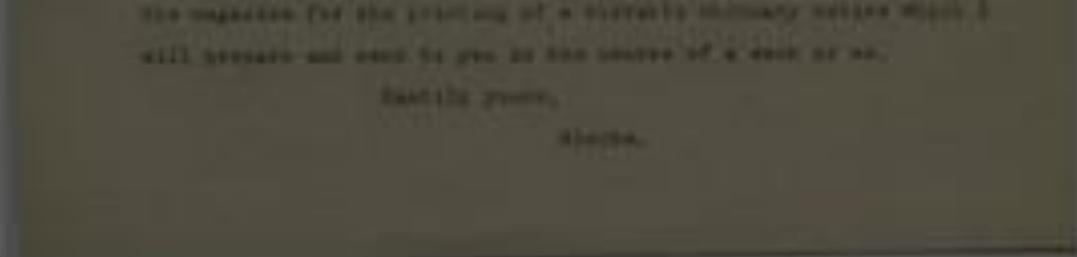
The Committee and all residents will appreciate your cooperation in this civic matter and will do everything possible to cooperate with you as our chief Executive of Seattle in any plan you may devise that will give us roof over our heads...

Very Sincerely Yours;
Executive Committee;

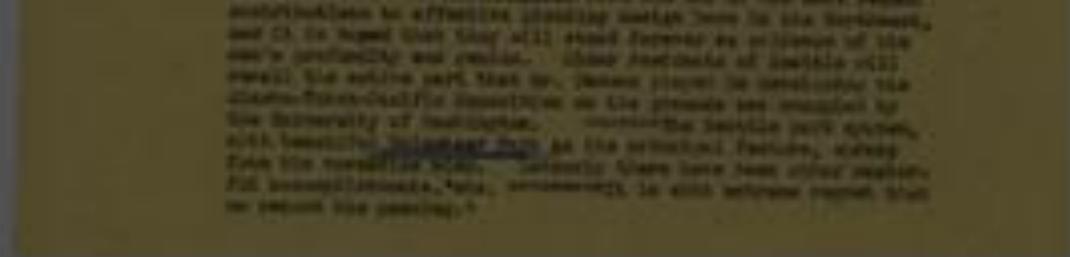
Geo Parish Hooverville

Frank Mabner

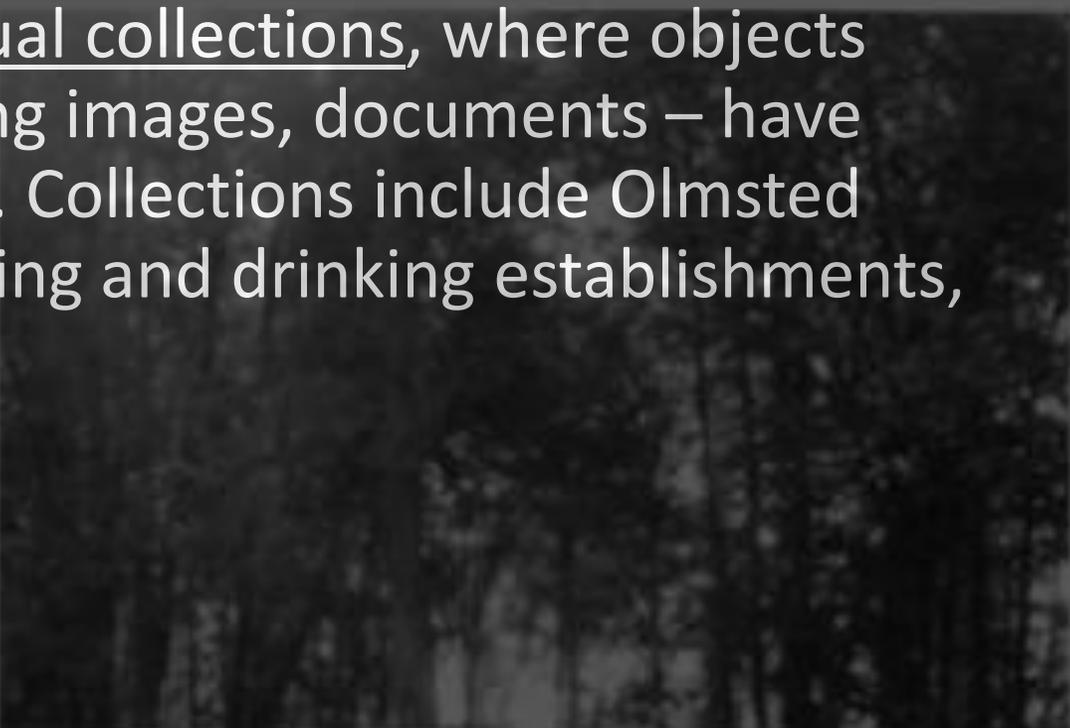
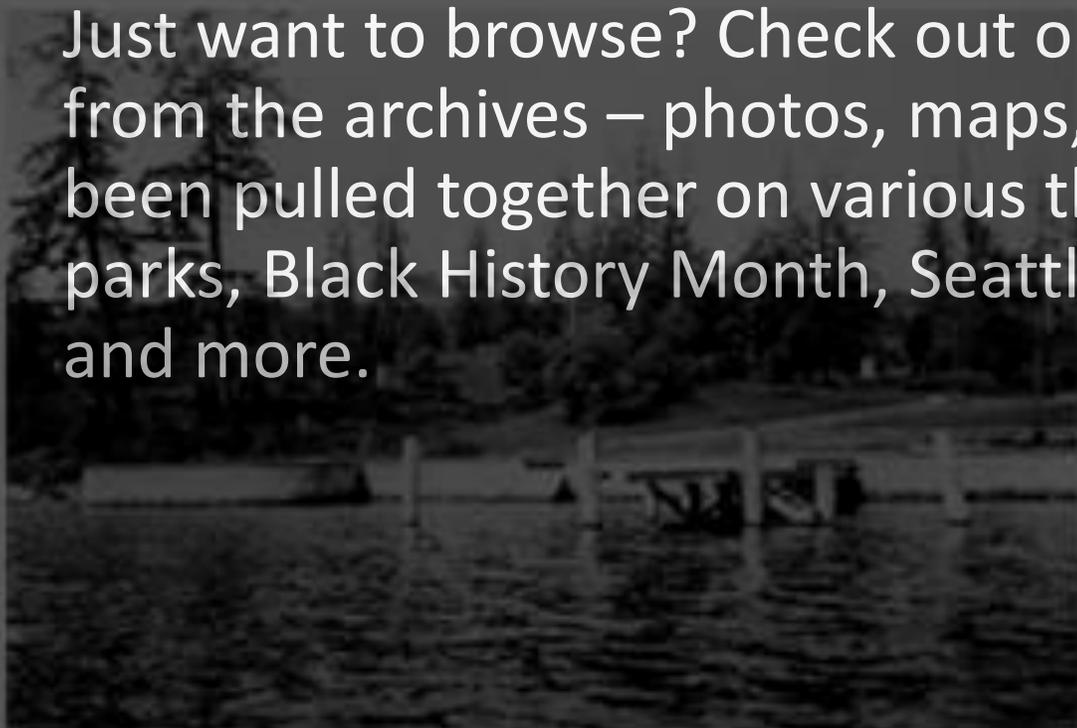
Russell L. Hayden



5801 01 53 19 005
Letter from Emanuel Tillman Mische to J. W. Thompson
March 1 1920



5801 01 53 19 006
Excerpt from article entitled "In Memoriam" in the
Arboretum Bulletin for May 1941 (Vol. IV No. 5) on
death of James Frederick Dawson



Just want to browse? Check out our [virtual collections](#), where objects from the archives – photos, maps, moving images, documents – have been pulled together on various themes. Collections include Olmsted parks, Black History Month, Seattle’s eating and drinking establishments, and more.

Have you ever wanted to hear what Seattle residents in the past had to say about questions of their day? Our [Seattle Voices audio exhibits](#) include clips from public hearings and City Council meetings, where people testified about how issues being discussed would affect their families and neighborhoods. SMA's audio collections allow us to hear the voices of those not found elsewhere, such as activists, buskers, doctors, real estate agents, mothers and more.



Listen to an audio clip from 1963 about the push for open housing



Monthly features from the archives

In our Views from the Vault videos, SMA staff members highlight an item from the collections and tell its story.

The Find of the Month series presents short narratives based on letters, reports, and other records in the archives.

All of these features are meant to introduce some of the stories that can be told using SMA's collections. For a deeper dive into the topics, contact an archivist!



Provide resources for research

Research guides

Planning to do some research and could use some help on how to proceed? Our [research guides](#) outline SMA holdings on various topics and what kinds of information they can provide. Topics include:

Property research

Parks

Legislative history

Genealogy

Land use and zoning

Seattle's comprehensive plan

Can you identify this park?



This is Lincoln
Playfield,
now known as
Cal Anderson
Park.



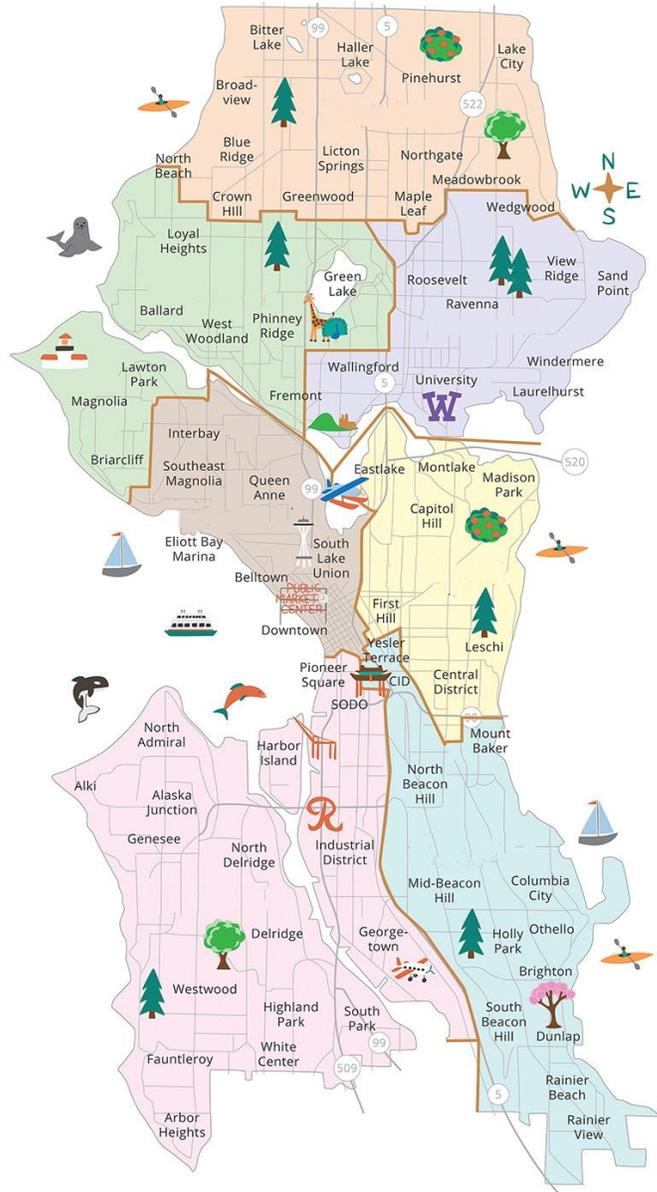
Park history

If you're looking into when a park was created or how it developed, the [Don Sherwood Parks History sheets](#) are a great resource!



Seattle City Council Districts

Updated boundaries below take effect January 2024

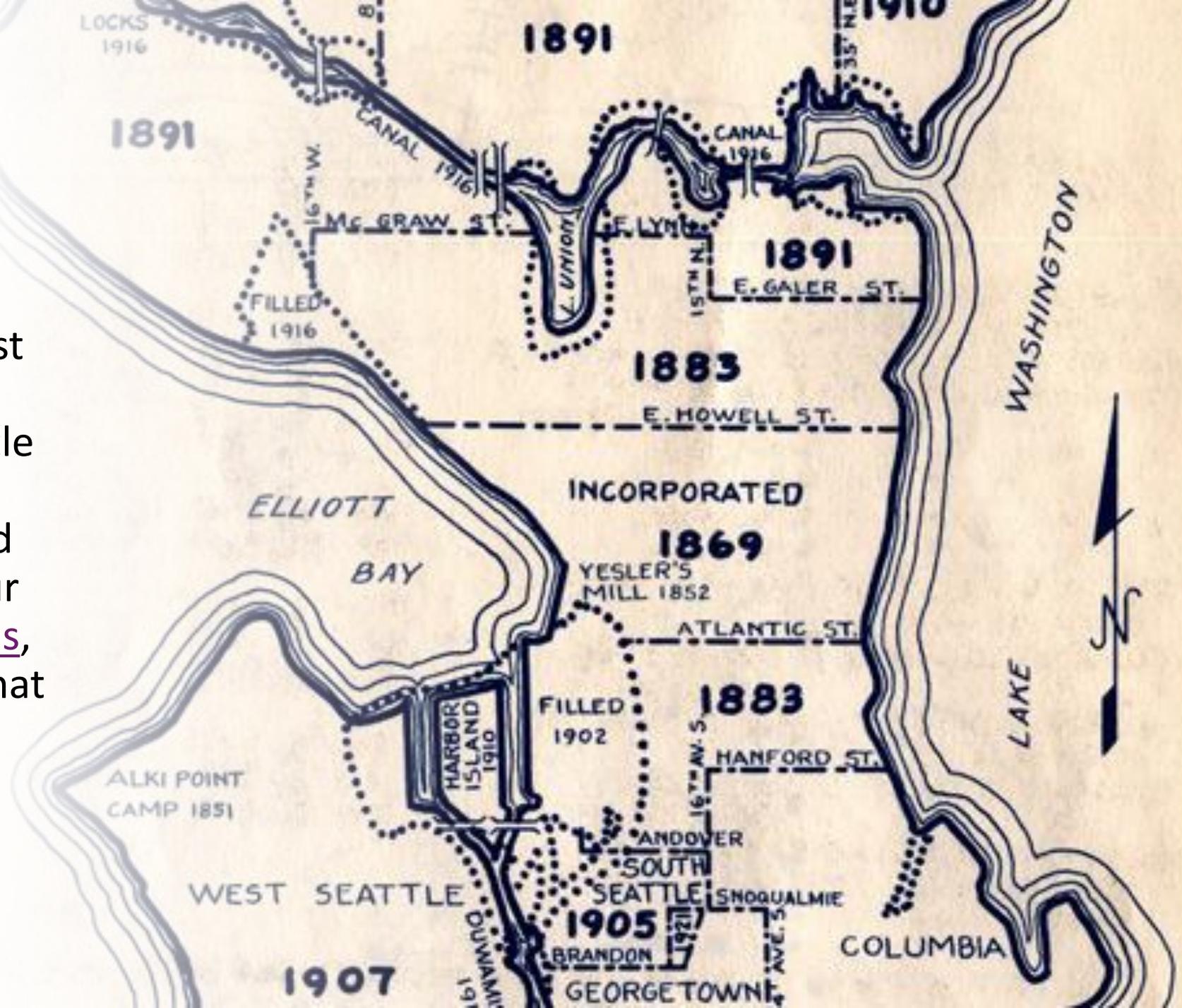


District pages

Want to see a sample of records related to your neighborhood? Check out [our pages](#) highlighting selected resources from each City Council district. (Note that these pages include only a small selection from each area – just enough to whet your appetite! Archivists can help you find more.)

Annexed cities

Ballard, Georgetown, West Seattle, Columbia, South Park, and Southeast Seattle were all their own cities before they were annexed into Seattle. Check out our [guides to their city records](#), plus an interactive map that shows all annexations through 1975.

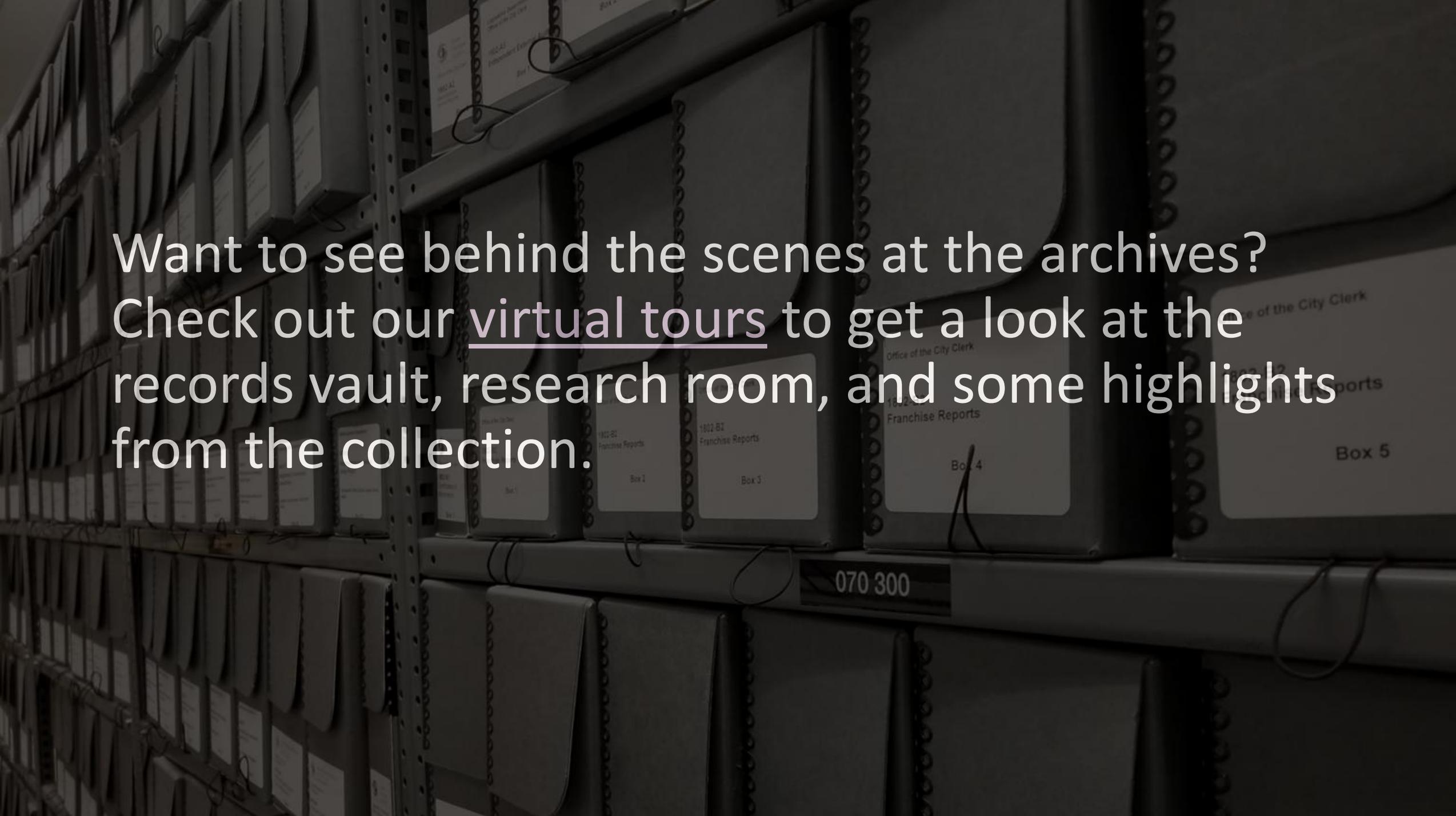


Database help

If you are ready to dig into a research project, check out our Searching for Records course to learn how our collections are organized and how to use our search tools. We also have courses targeted specifically toward searching for photos, maps, moving images, and more.



Get to know the archives



Want to see behind the scenes at the archives?
Check out our [virtual tours](#) to get a look at the
records vault, research room, and some highlights
from the collection.



Follow us on
social media!

- Our [Instagram](#) highlights interesting items and stories from the archives.
 - The [SMA YouTube channel](#) includes digitized film and video from the collections, plus videos created by SMA staff. Our [Internet Archive collection](#) has more of our moving images.
 - On [Flickr](#), we feature photos, maps, and other items from the collections.
- 

You are now officially
SMArt!

If you have questions
about SMA's collections
or services, contact us at
archives@seattle.gov.

