

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

This year marks the 25th anniversary of one of the largest political demonstrations ever seen in Seattle. The WTO protests took place in late November-early December 1999 during the city's hosting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference. Many thousands of protesters took to downtown streets during the conference, focusing on issues like workers' rights, sustainable economies, and environmental and social issues.

Protestors on
7th Avenue
in downtown
Seattle,
November
29, 1999.
[Item 176997](#),
Record Series
0207-01,
SMA.



The events were publicized worldwide and the City was criticized for mishandling the protests and for being unprepared. Months of analysis followed, exploring issues surrounding the rights of free speech and assembly, abuse by law enforcement officers, and mistreatment of individuals taken into custody.

Materials related to the WTO protests held by SMA include mayoral, councilmember, and committee records. A significant resource is the WTO Accountability Review Committee Document Catalog (Record Series 1802-K1), which contains detailed information on over 13,500 documents assembled by the staff of the Seattle City Council WTO Accountability Review Committee. Over half of the documents have been digitized and are [available to view online](#), and we're currently working towards continuing digitization of the documents. Check out our online resource on the [WTO Protests in Seattle](#) for a complete list of related resources at SMA.

SMA is also participating with other local archives, libraries, museums, and community organizations to mark this anniversary. Newly digitized WTO-related materials are now available on our Digital Collections site, and an exhibit highlighting the WTO protests will be installed in our lobby in November. We are also looking forward to a new exhibit at MOHAI on [Teamsters, Turtles, and Beyond: The Legacy of the Seattle WTO Protests](#), opening on November 29.

Follow us on [Instagram](#) for more information on related events in the coming weeks!

Records Management Pop-Up

Here at SMA we work closely with our records management colleagues in the City Clerk's Office. Educating city employees about the importance of records management and retention rules is an important

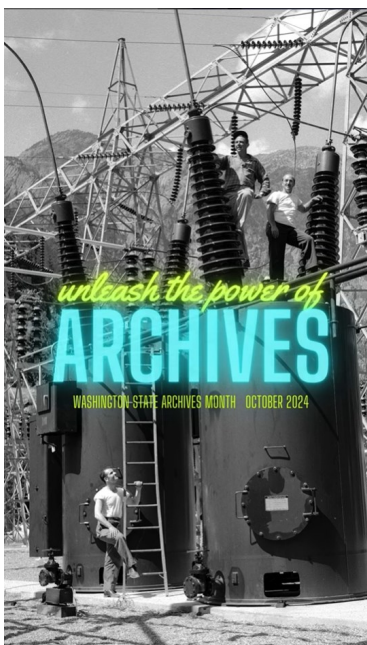
part of their job. Recently, City Records Manager Alex Acevedo participated in an outreach pop-up event hosted by Seattle Information Technology to share information about the importance of saving digital files and the tools that the records management team makes available to help.



City Records Manager Alex Acevedo (second from left) participating in a pop-up outreach event hosted by Seattle Information Technology.

Happy Archives Month!

October is American Archives Month! Here in Washington State our Archives Month theme is "Unleash the Power of the Archives," all about celebrating and recognizing the power that archives, and archives staff, have on Washington State history. In addition to participating in #AskAnArchivistDay again this year on Instagram, we'll also be sharing behind-the-scenes stories from the archives featuring current projects and collection highlights. Be sure to follow us [@seattlecityarchives!](#)



Washington State Archives Month poster featuring a photo from SMA's City Light Photographic Negatives (Record Series 1204-01) showing workers in the Gorge Dam switchyard in 1951.
[Item 23040](#)

Newly processed, cont'd.

Newly Processed Collections

Now processed and available for research are records from Lisa Herbold's office from her time serving on Seattle City Council. **Lisa Herbold Subject Files (Record Series 4635-02)** span 2003-2023 (with the majority found within 2016-2023) and comprise 12.8 cubic feet (32 boxes).

Herbold spent over 25 years working in Seattle City Hall, first as a legislative aide to Councilmember Nick Licata from 1998 through 2015, and then running for office herself to

represent District 1, serving two terms from 2016 through 2023. As a councilmember, her work focused on public safety, civil rights, and human services, as well as major repairs to the West Seattle Bridge.

Herbold's records also reflect her tenure as chair of the Public Safety and Human Services Committee, covering issues including police accountability, homelessness, and affordable housing.



Yesler Terrace Development Plan
Bringing Home a Better Future

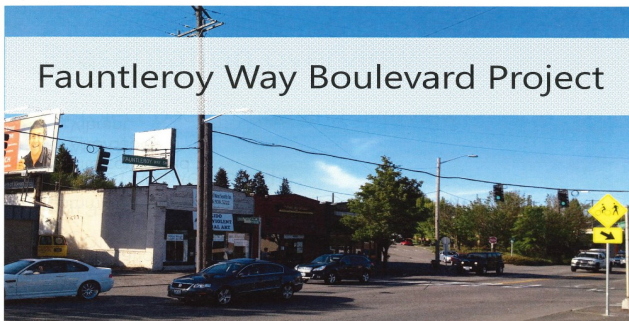
SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners
May 17, 2011

John Linell, Chair
Nora Gibson, Vice Chair
Yusef Caboli, Juan Martinez, Kollin Min,
Doug Morrison, Heyward Watson
Tom Tenney, Executive Director



SHA Yesler Terrace Development Plan, May 2011.
Box 1, Folder 7, Record Series 4635-02, SMA.



Fauntleroy Way Neighborhood Business Association
Junction Neighborhood Association (JuNO)
April 19, 2017 - DRAFT



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

SDOT Draft Fauntleroy Way Boulevard
Project, April 2017. Box 7, Folder 3, Record Series 4635-02, SMA.

Additional topics include workers' rights, tenant protections, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ issues, the Race and Social Justice Initiative, transportation, utilities, trees, taxation, parks, and issues related to District 1.

Also newly archived is **Director of the Office of Civil Rights' Email Correspondence (Record Series 3800-01)**, spanning 2009-2021 and containing emails sent and received by Julie Nelson (2009-2014), Patricia Lally (2014-2017), and Mariko Lockhart (2018-2021). The correspondence includes draft legislation, records concerning Fair Employment Practices and Open Housing ordinances, human rights rules and enforcement, case management, reporting to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and administrative issues.

Newly available online are digital copies of **Board of Park Commissioners meeting minutes and agendas (Record Series 5800-01)** between 2001 and 2023. Issues covered include land acquisitions, condemnation and improvement projects of Parks lands, and restrictions on citizen use of Parks land.

112 Years Ago: Minimum Wage

[Resolution 3489](#) proposed an amendment to the city charter which would provide for a minimum wage for all municipal work, requiring contractors to pay workers at least \$2.75 per day for public works projects like street and utility construction. This charter amendment was passed by voters in the March 1912 election. An [ordinance](#) passed in May of that year set penalties for violating the law with fines of \$25 to \$100 and/or 10 to 30 days in jail.

There were immediate reports of contractors not complying with the law. A group representing organized labor [wrote to City Council](#) complaining of workers being required to return a percentage of their wages back to their employers, and of contractors charging their workers exorbitant prices for lodging, thereby lowering their take-home pay. They asked that the



Workers laying brick for Pine St. paving, 1913.
[Item 6506](#), Record Series 2613-07, SMA.

situation be investigated "to the end that something may be done to compel compliance with the spirit and the letter of the law."

City Council passed another [resolution](#) reiterating that the minimum wage "was adopted by the people to enable the workmen of our city to secure a living for themselves and families, to educate their children and pay taxes and assessments." They requested that the Mayor and Board of Public Works "immediately take steps...to put a stop to these practices which are plain evasions of the law and to prevent the letting of contracts to these so-called companies."

Apparently they ended up determining that changes needed to be made to the law to make it more enforceable, as a couple of months later, Council [proposed another charter amendment](#) to be voted on in March 1914, updating the language of the minimum wage section and closing loopholes.

Recently Processed Photos

The Harvard-Belmont landmark district, situated on the west slope of Capitol Hill, is noted for its architectural styles and pastoral setting. Recently processed slides from the **Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection ([Record Series 1629-01](#))** showcase the grand Victorian, neoclassical, neo-Georgian, and Colonial homes of Seattle's early industrialists, as well as tree-lined streets and gardens.

More than [100 images](#) from the 1970s are available on the digital collections site. Notable homes and buildings include the Merrill Home, the DAR Chapter House, and St. Mark's Cathedral.



Harvard-Belmont,
1975.
[Image 182330](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



Merrill House garden looking west, circa 1970s.
[Image 207700](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



DAR Chapter
house at 800 E
Roy St, circa
1970s.
[Image 207706](#),
Series 1629-01,
SMA.

Recently processed, cont'd.



Loveless Building at 701-705 Broadway, 1975.
[Image 182331](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



St. Mark's Cathedral, circa 1970s.
[Image 207422](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

Volunteers

Two new volunteers have joined us in the archives this fall. Victoria Limwanich and Percy Tarker have both recently started MLIS programs and are spending time at SMA to get a taste of what archives work is like. They have already been hard at work scanning documents from our General Files series, scanning and cataloging slides documenting neighborhood architecture, and other projects.

Lia Negro joined us earlier this summer and has been working on creating transcriptions for audio records. Ongoing volunteers Vanessa Granger, Ilias Bowen-Sicalides, Janet Ness, and Debbie Isley continue their good work making SMA collections accessible in numerous different ways. And our UW work study student Hetty Meissner is back at work after her summer hiatus, assisting with reshelving and processing photos and paper records.

We are grateful for all that these folks do!

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular image recently posted to SMA's Flickr site is this photo showing First Ave near Yesler in Pioneer Square, circa 1970s.



[Image 206992](#), Series 5802-09, SMA.

Recently uploaded to SMA's YouTube channel is this silent b-roll footage from 1951 showing panoramic views of the Duwamish Waterway, Elliott Bay, and downtown Seattle. As the camera pans across the city skyline, the Smith Tower, which was the tallest building in Seattle at the time, can be seen in the distance.



[Item 95](#), Record Series 1204-05, SMA.

Seattle Municipal Archives

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SMA in the News

SMA collections helped to inform and illustrate two new HistoryLink articles on [Seattle's Turbulent Taxicab Industry](#) and on the [Skinner & Eddy shipbuilding plant](#). And a [recent article](#) in South Sound Magazine highlights recipients of the 2025 Washington State Historical Society's Diversity in Local History grant program, including SMA.



Seattle Yellow Cab, 1951.

[Image 191154](#), Series 5802-09, SMA.

Several recent posts in SDOT's Seattle Transit Blog include images from SMA's collections, including photos of the [Fremont](#) and [Montlake](#) bridges, a [postcard](#) showing downtown Seattle and Mount Rainier, and a [traffic flow map](#) from 1925.

49 Years Ago: Chief Seattle Statue Dedication



The rededication of the Chief Seattle statue at Tilikum Place took place on December 8, 1975. Originally installed in November 1912, the statue had been removed so that the park could be renovated. Chief Seattle descendant Myrtle Loughrey Larsen (center) unveiled the statue for the second time, having previously done the honors at the first dedication 63 years earlier. Shown standing next to her is Chairman of the Suquamish Tribal Council Richard W. Belmont, Jr. (left), and Dr. Willard Bill (right), Chairman of the Duwamish Tribal Council and Director of the UW Center for Indian Teacher Education.

[Image 170694](#), Series 4693-11, SMA.

Upcoming Events

- Oct 24 [Hanna Brooks Olsen: The True Story of Lou Graham and the Immigrants and Sex Workers Who Built Seattle](#). Pacific Northwest Historians Guild, virtual Zoom meeting, 7pm.
- Nov 20 [History Café: Indigenous Voices on the Air](#). MOHAI, 6:30-8pm.
- Dec 11 [Teamsters, Turtles, and Beyond Curator's Talk](#). MOHAI, 7-9pm.