

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 87 Spring 2024

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

Here at SMA we've been busy processing records received from the 6 councilmembers who departed City Hall after last November's election: Lisa Herbold, Debora Juarez, Andrew Lewis, Teresa Mosqueda, Alex Pedersen, and Kshama Sawant. Their combined time on City Council amounts to 40 years in service to the city.

Materials received by the archives include both subject files and committee records, and document work on issues such as homelessness and affordable housing, transportation, parks, public safety, labor rights, climate change, and more. See Newly Processed on page two to read about some of the councilmember records now described and cataloged, and available for research.



City Archivist Anne Frantilla presenting at MOHAI for History Café on February 21, 2024.



A few of the boxes of unprocessed records from councilmembers who left office in December 2023.

We were thrilled to be at MOHAI in February to present for History Café on Records of Homelessness. City Archivist Anne Frantilla and Reference Archivist Jeanie Fisher gave a talk focused on records in the archives that document the history of homelessness in Seattle and show how both city government and the public have responded over time. The talk showcased textual records, photographs, maps, audio, and moving images from SMA's holdings. The event was recorded and can be watched at both the [Seattle Channel](#) and [MOHAI's YouTube channel](#).

There is much more in the archives if you're interested in further researching this complex topic. A good place to start is our online resource on [Homelessness in City Records](#), or contact the archives at archives@seattle.gov.

New Display: Seattle's Alternate Realities (Things That Might Have Been)

Drawn from SMA's [Flickr album](#) highlighting proposed-but-never-built projects in Seattle's past, our new lobby exhibit highlights City structures and infrastructure that might have been. Examples include a floating stadium on Elliott Bay, an underwater tube crossing through Lake Washington, a "marine park" at Seattle Center, and the proposed redevelopment of Pike Place Market that would have demolished and replaced Market buildings with high-rises and a parking garage.

Find the display in our lobby area on the 3rd floor at City Hall.



Alternative monorail proposal for the World's Fair, 1958. From [Document 6119](#), Series 1801-92, SMA.

Newly Processed Collections

Subject files from three councilmembers who recently left office are now processed and available for research. **Teresa Mosqueda's Subject Files (Record Series 4660-02)**, comprise 1.6 cubic feet and contain correspondence, reports, memos, and presentations.

Her interest in labor issues is reflected in folders on wages, benefits, and worker protections. Other topics include homelessness, affordable housing, public safety, and transportation. Topics represented in **Andrew Lewis' Subject Files (Record Series 4649-02)**

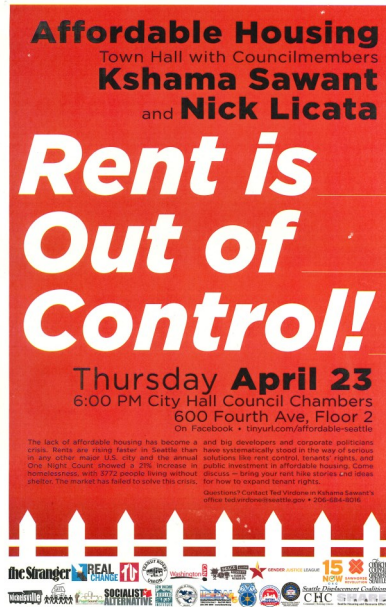
include public safety and criminal justice, homelessness, the City's auditing process, gig worker legislation, transportation, land use, and issues specific to District 7.

A significant portion of **Alex Pedersen's Subject Files (Series 4669-02)**

pertains to the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests and the accompanying debates about police funding and accountability. Other topics include homelessness and encampments, parks, transportation issues, and the University District and other District 4 neighborhoods. Also newly processed are **Kshama Sawant Posters (Record Series 4679-07)**, with materials including posters, flyers, leaflets, placards and other materials promoting causes such as rent control, labor rights, \$15 minimum wage, a caste discrimination ban, and progressive taxation, as well as more general pro-socialist messages.

The Northeast Neighborhood District Coordinator Records (Record Series 5752-14) date from 1970-2016 (with the majority of materials from 1990-2010) and cover activities and issues relating to that position. In addition to meeting agendas and minutes, records include information and reports from various neighborhood and City initiatives, such as community clean-ups, historic walking tours, and mayoral town meetings. Of particular interest are newsletter collections from such organizations as the University District Chamber of Commerce, the University Community Urban Center, and several neighborhood association groups.

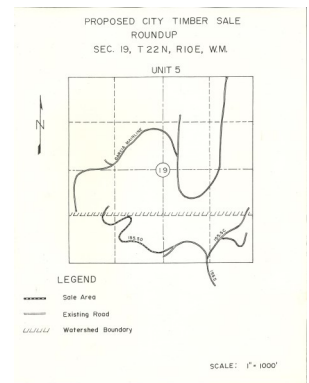
Records of **Cedar River Watershed Timber Sales (Series 8204-06)** include information on salvage and timber sales primarily from the 1960s through the 1980s. Management of timber sales is part of the forest and watershed management program at the Cedar River Watershed and ensures that resource management practices and programs are consistent



Affordable Housing Town Hall poster, 2015. Series 4679-07, SMA.

with city objectives and policies and performed in accordance with applicable federal, state and city rules and regulations. Types of records included are bids, correspondence, receipts, volume, types of trees, surveys, contracts and maps.

Timber sale map, circa 1981. Box 7, Folder 18, Series 8204-06, SMA.



25 Years Ago: Elton John Plays Tennis

When Elton John played a sold out show at Key Arena in May 1999, the Seattle Times and Seattle P-I both printed glowing reviews with details about the concert. They reported that he wore a purple plaid suit and a skull-and-crossbones earring, and was accompanied only by his piano (as well as smoke effects and a light show). He played and sang for nearly three hours, leading the P-I's review to be headlined "Elton Fans Treated to a Marathon."

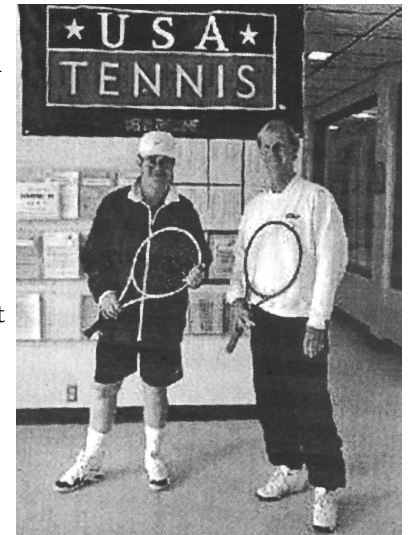
Perhaps his stamina for performing was increased by his daily exercise at city recreation facilities while he was in the area. A Parks Department newsletter from that August spilled the beans on how he'd been keeping busy while not on stage, in this article written by Seattle Tennis Center director Bill McGrath:

"By night he was captivating thousands of fans with his sold-out solo piano concerts in Portland, Seattle, and Spokane. But by day, he was on the court at the Seattle Tennis Center, playing the game that he so loves.

For one week in late May, Elton John played every morning with his

own fellow Brit tennis pro, Chris Clark, at the Seattle Tennis Center. The scene was much the same every day, with Elton arriving in a black limo accompanied by his bodyguard who doubled as match scorekeeper. I'd rate Elton a solid 4.0. He played a defensive style against the serve and volley, attacking Clark. Using a combination of crisp passing shots, off pace low balls and lobs, he appeared to hold his own. Our staff at the Tennis Center kept a wrap on Elton's presence on the courts, so he was able to play without being noticed by the other players."

The facility was renamed the Amy Yee Tennis Center in 2002 to honor a local woman who had offered free community tennis clinics for over 30 years.



Elton John with Bill McGrath, August 1999. Series 5802-11, SMA.

Recently Processed Photos

The **Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection (Record Series 1629-01)** continues to be processed. Useful for property research, this collection of color slides displays homes and commercial districts in Seattle that were built in the early to mid-20th century. The collection is being digitized by neighborhood.

Most recently, [two hundred and thirty new high resolution scans](#) show buildings, street scenes, parks, restaurants and cafes, civic buildings, galleries, and hotels against the backdrop of Seattle's iconic Pioneer Square neighborhood in the 1970s. Street vendors and pedicabs are seen among pedestrians and park-goers, and illustrate the bustling feel of the neighborhood. Also shown are photos of Occidental Park construction and expansion and the opening of an information booth.



The Costermonger in Pioneer Square. [Image 207231](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



Vendors in Occidental Square. [Image 207231](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



110 Cherry Building (1st Ave & Cherry St). [Image 206232](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



Butler Block, 601 2nd Ave. [Image 206225](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

Volunteers

Several new faces have joined SMA recently. San Jose State University MLIS student Blair Skidmore is doing an internship with us for her spring semester. She has mainly been processing textual records, including the Northeast Neighborhood District Coordinator Records, as well as dipping into cataloging and other projects. UW iSchool student Ilias Bowen-Sicalides has begun cataloging our backlog of published documents, and Debbie Isley is working on remote projects including metadata and transcription.

Our other volunteers Janet Ness, Erin Kelly, and Vanessa Granger continue with multiple projects, ranging from preservation scanning to processing photo and textual collections to linking objects in our databases to help users understand connections between records. And our work study student Hetty Meissner keeps us running, working on processing projects and making sure all records pulled for researchers get put back where they belong. We appreciate the work all of them do every week!

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular photo recently posted to [SMA's Flickr site](#) is this view looking west from Capitol Hill, taken from the Episcopal Diocese building at 1551 10th Avenue E, circa 1970s.



[Image 182055](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

Recently uploaded to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) is *The International District After Dawn*, a short documentary produced in 1984 about the Chinatown/International District community in Seattle. Written and produced by Daniel Patterson for Seattle's Department of Community Development, the video includes interviews with residents who live and work in the Chinatown/International District, as well as footage of the neighborhood and businesses.



[Event 7690](#), Record Series 3902-01, SMA.

Seattle Municipal Archives

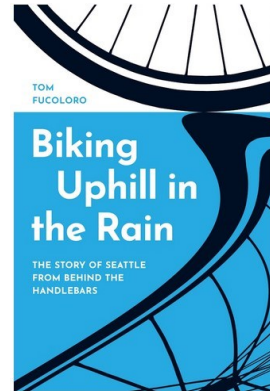
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SMA in the News

A new book exploring the history of bicycles and biking in Seattle was recently published by the University of Washington Press. *Biking Uphill in the Rain* was written by Seattle Bike Blog founder and editor Tom Focoloro, who cites SMA materials as part of his research into the history of Seattle's bike culture.

SMA materials on the history of redlining in Seattle were used to inform and illustrate a [Real Change article](#) on racial housing segregation in the city. SMA also helped with research into a TV pilot filmed in Seattle in 1971 for a [MyNorthwest article](#) about a never-produced detective series called Wheeler & Murdoch.

Images from SMA's collections contributed to Seattle Times articles on [10 key events that shaped Seattle history](#) and [memories of old Ballard](#), as well an [article in Curiosity](#) on what life in Seattle looked like over 100 years ago.



13 Years Ago: Delridge Skatepark



Delridge Skatepark officially opened to the public on September 17, 2011 with demonstrations by professional skateboarders, live music, and community food booths. More information about the day's festivities is at [this archived Department of Parks and Recreation website](#), available through SMA's City of Seattle Websites collection.

See more photos from the event at our [Digital Collections site](#).

[Image 204909](#), Series 5802-15, SMA.

Upcoming Events

- May 15 [History Café: Love and Modems](#). 6:30pm, MOHAI.
- May 8-10 [Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting](#). Spokane, WA
- June 18 [History Café: People of Color Against AIDS Network](#). 6:30pm, MOHAI.