

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



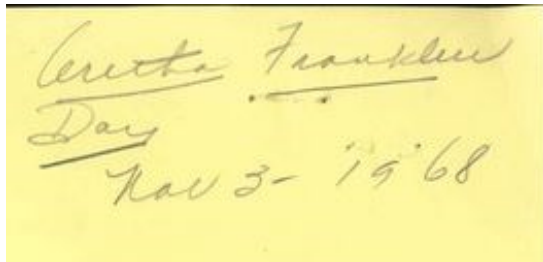
City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 65 Fall 2018

Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Out of the Archives

Not long after the recent passing of Aretha Franklin, a researcher's question led us to the following document.



Detail of Aretha Franklin Day proclamation by Mayor Braman. Mayoral Proclamations, Record Series 5210-03, SMA.

A staffer's note to Mayor Braman outlines City Councilmember Sam Smith's request to declare November 3, 1968, to be Aretha Franklin Day. The note explained that Franklin was "a well known Negro singer" who would be performing in Seattle that day ("P.S. TOP FEMALE VOCALIST FOR 1968"). The staffer noted that the proclamation would "show the young Negroes that the City of Seattle is interested in them." Mayor Braman okayed the idea, and this proclamation was released:

*Aretha Franklin, a much beloved and well known national figure, has distinguished herself in her conduct and her contributions toward creating a better attitude of racial harmony and brotherhood in our now troubled land. Miss Franklin, in her travels to foreign lands and within the confines of this United States, has brought new hope to the age-old American Dream of black and white togetherness.*

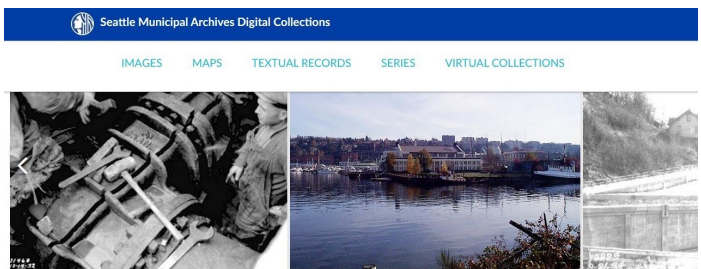
*Outside of Miss Franklin's award winning achievements in the field of entertainment, no other prominent black person has won so much attention and praise from both the young and old. Coming from the home of a minister, the famous Reverend C.D. Franklin, Aretha has displayed her willingness to use her prominence in the battle for civil rights and law and order and justice.*

*As a gesture of goodwill and appreciation to Miss Franklin and to the entire black and white community of our city, who daily work toward a true state of togetherness and harmony, I, J.D. BRAMAN, Mayor of the City of Seattle, do hereby proclaim Sunday, November 3, 1968, as ARETHA FRANKLIN DAY and urge all our citizens to honor this woman who has done so much to bring honor to our land.*

Franklin played a sold-out show at the Seattle Center Arena on "her" day, followed by a concert for prisoners at McNeil Island penitentiary the next day.

## New! Digital Collections

After years of research, planning, and behind-the-scenes production, SMA has recently launched a new website for accessing digital objects such as photos, maps, and textual documents.



Powered by the open-source software Collective Access, SMA's new Digital Collections site serves as a one-stop portal for searching across media types in multiple collections. Currently included are photos, maps, and select textual records, including the entire General Files collection ([Series 1802-04](#)). Records continue to be added on a regular basis, and eventually the site will contain both audio and video.

Improvements include an updated look and more search and browse options, such as the ability to sort results by type, year, collection, and subject. Users can customize how to view results (by list, thumbnail, or timeline, with a map view to come), as well as download results to a spreadsheet for future reference. A user-friendly media viewer allows for zooming and panning, and the new responsive design is good news for users accessing the site with mobile devices. Also provided is full-text searching for documents, making it much easier to locate information previously buried in the text.

You can access the Digital Collections site from our homepage at [www.seattle.gov/cityarchives](http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives). Take a look and let us know what you think!



Just a few examples of what you'll find in the new Digital Collections site when you search for the keyword "viaduct."

## Recently Processed Records

Among the collections newly processed and available for research at SMA are the Public Art Development Records from the Seattle Arts Commission. Spanning the years 1977—2014 and filling 11 boxes (4.4 cubic feet), the records relate to the development of public art projects overseen by the Commission and the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Topics include artist selection, project development, coordination with city agencies and contractors, and public outreach. Projects range from permanent artworks in City Hall to installations in City Light substations to art elements in new libraries and community centers. Records also cover artist-in-residence programs and purchases for the City's permanent art collection.

Also newly available are materials gathered and consulted by the Marijuana Policy Review Panel (Series 9547-01) during 2003-2007 in the course of preparing its final report. Records cover discussions and research in terms of establishing legislation, and include memos, meeting minutes and agendas, and



Flyer asking for donated cans which would be melted down and cast into artworks for the new Garfield Community Center.. Box 3, Folder 2, Series 7408-01, SMA.

final report drafts. The panel's *Final Report of the Marijuana Policy Review Panel on the Implementation of Initiative 75* is cataloged separately in the Published Documents Collection.

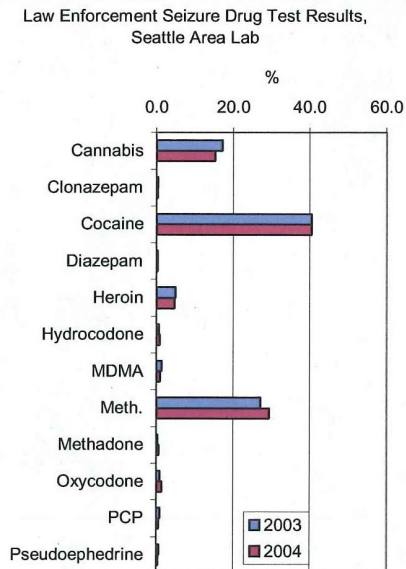
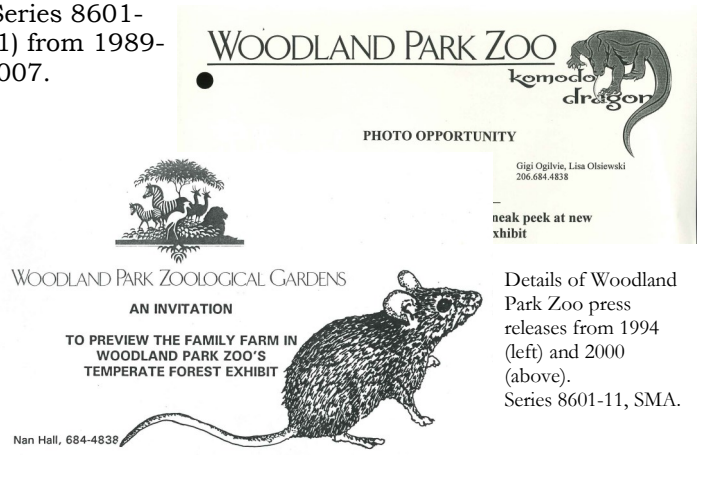


Chart from "Recent Drug Abuse Trends in the Seattle-King County Area" found in Box 1, Folder 11 (Reference Materials), Series 9547-01, SMA.

Recently Processed, cont'd.

Other collections recently processed include the Central Area Neighborhood District Coordinator Records (Series 5752-13) covering 1986-2017; Lake City Neighborhood District Coordinator Records (Series 5752-15) covering 1982-2010; Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Materials (Series 7910-01) covering 2009-2016; the Murray Mayoral Transition Document (Series 5257-02) from 2013; and Woodland Park Zoo Press Releases (Series 8601-11) from 1989-2007.



Details of Woodland Park Zoo press releases from 1994 (left) and 2000 (above). Series 8601-11, SMA.

## SMA at Curiosity Days

SMA had a great time participating at the Pacific Science Center's Curiosity Days event on Sunday, September 23rd. Curiosity Days events happen at the Science Center every other month, each exploring a new theme through exhibits, activities, and discussions. The theme for September was Evolving City, which we happen to know a little something about!

Visitors to our table learned how the City of Seattle has evolved over time by perusing maps showing the changed landscape, viewing historical films documenting construction and development, exploring before and after street scenes, and learning about how attitudes and laws have changed through topics like waste disposal and collection, noise pollution, and transportation.



SMA at the Curiosity Days "Evolving City" event at Pacific Science Center, Sept. 23, 2018.

## October is Archives Month!

To celebrate Archives Month this year, SMA is joining 10 other local archives to present **Faces of the Archives** at Seattle Public Library on October 9th from 11am to 3pm. Since October is also Family History Month, each participating archives will be exploring genealogical research through the stories of a selection of people represented in of our respective collections.



L to R: Councilmember Sam Smith, SCL Home Economist Mary Norris, SFD Captain Robert Johnston.

At SMA's table, we'll be highlighting the lives of three pioneering City workers: Seattle's first African-American Councilmember Sam Smith; City Light's Expert Home Economist Mary Norris, and early Seattle firefighter Robert Johnston, who helped battle the Great Fire as a volunteer in 1884 and worked his way up to retire as Captain in 1919.

Other participating institutions include King County Archives, Lakeside School Archives, Providence Archives, Museum of History and Industry, National Archives at Seattle, Seattle Public Schools, Washington State Archives/Puget Sound Regional Branch, Seattle Genealogical Society, and University of Washington Special Collections. We'll also be joined by local historian and award winning author Paula Becker, who will talk about her experiences researching people in local collections.

Have you ever wondered just what happens behind the scenes in the Archives? Another event we're excited to present for Archives Month

encourages you to take a peek behind the curtain of archives work. SMA archivists will present **Archivists in the Archives** on October 23rd from 1:30-3pm in the Bertha Knight Landes Room at City Hall.

You'll learn what we have here at SMA, what archivists do, and why we do it. All are welcome! Please RSVP: [archives@seattle.gov](mailto:archives@seattle.gov), and let us know if you'd like a tour!



Archives ledgers in The Vault.

## On Display: Seattle and World War I

Now on display in our lobby exhibit case are materials telling stories of Seattle during World War I. The war began on August 1914 but the United States did not enter it until April 1917. The war ended on November 11, 1918.

As in other cities, Seattle suffered the loss of men in the workforce, a shortage of raw materials, and a postponement of projects not essential to the war effort. In 1918, the Fire Department released 89 men to the active war effort and the Lighting Department 52.

Featured in the display are letters, photos, and other documents pulled from Seattle Fire Department and City Light records, including the materials shown here. Visit us on the 3rd floor at City Hall to see more!



Letter and photo sent to J.D. Ross, Superintendent of City Light, 1918. Box 104, Folder 18, Seattle Lighting Department Records (Series I), Series 1200-01, SMA.

## Interns & Volunteers

This summer we welcomed a new volunteer, Carla Ginnis. Carla is a retired librarian who has worked in a wide variety of settings, and is now putting her skills to work cataloging our maps and published documents. We are delighted to have her!

Another new volunteer joined us this summer. Halaina Halsted, a student at Seattle Pacific University majoring in history and museum studies, worked on processing both photos and textual records, including collections from City Council, SDOT, and the zoo. She's planning to do an internship with us beginning in January, and we can't wait to put her to work again.

Kelli Yakabu has returned from a summer internship out of state and is back volunteering in our photo collections. Marta Sivchuk continues her work on our moving image collection, and Staci Crouch has worked her way through multiple Parks Department record series in recent months.

Volunteers do a great deal of valuable work for us across a variety of collections and formats. If you are interested in helping to make our records more accessible, consider [volunteering for SMA!](#)

## YouTube and Flickr News

Popular on [SMA's Flickr site](#) is a recently added photo of Hattie's Hat and the Silver Spot in Ballard, circa 1970s.

[Item 179251](#),  
Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection (Series 1629-01), SMA.



With close to 1,700 views, an enduringly popular video on SMA's YouTube channel shows black and white footage of the construction of I-5 through Seattle, circa 1958.



"Construction of Interstate 5 in Seattle, c. 1958"  
[Item 609](#), Record Series 9950-01, SMA.

Subscribe to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) to receive updates when new videos are posted!

### Seattle Municipal Archives

600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 3,  
PO Box 94728  
Seattle, WA 98124-4728  
206 233-7807 [archives@seattle.gov](mailto:archives@seattle.gov)  
[www.seattle.gov/CityArchives](http://www.seattle.gov/CityArchives)

## SMA in the news

SMA was recently featured on the King 5 morning show *New Day Northwest*. City Archivist Anne Frantilla was on hand to talk about SMA's collections and services, and share highlights from the Archives. The episode aired on June 28th, but you can still check it out on [KING5.com](http://KING5.com)!



Anne Frantilla and *New Day Northwest* host Margaret Larson at the King 5 studios, June 28, 2018.

## 50 Years ago: Human Rights Day

On December 4, 1968, Mayor Braman signed a proclamation of Human Rights Day with Human Rights Commission Executive Director Philip Hayasaka and Commission Chair Johnny Allen. The Human Rights Commission was established in 1963 to promote equality and understanding among Seattle residents, and to study, investigate, and recommend actions in regard to discrimination based on race, color, religion, and national origin.



[Item 184145](#), Record Series 2613-07, SMA.

## Upcoming Events

- Oct 9 Faces of the Archives, Seattle Public Library, 11am-3pm
- Oct 17 History Café: HistoryLink's First 20 Years, MOHAI, 6:30-8:30pm
- Oct 23 Archivists in the Archives, Bertha Knight Landes Room, City Hall, 1:30-3pm
- Nov 11 MIPoPS Moving History Night, NW Film Forum, 5-6:30pm