

# 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 often see how records in the archives are connected to each other – how letters, reports, videos, and audio recordings from various sources can relate to the same issue from different perspectives, often providing greater context on a single topic. The interrelatedness of records also helps us, as archivists, discover more about our collections. Sometimes those discoveries are the result of deliberate research, and sometimes they're serendipitous, as was the case recently.

SMA holds many photos of city employees, and unfortunately most are not identified. Until recently, this was the case with a series of 1974 photos showing City Light workers at work in the office and in the field. While browsing [City Light Advertising Scrapbooks](#), we



Joan Williams, City Light EEO Officer. Above: [Image 195207](#), Series 1204-01, SMA. Right: *The Facts*, June 1975.

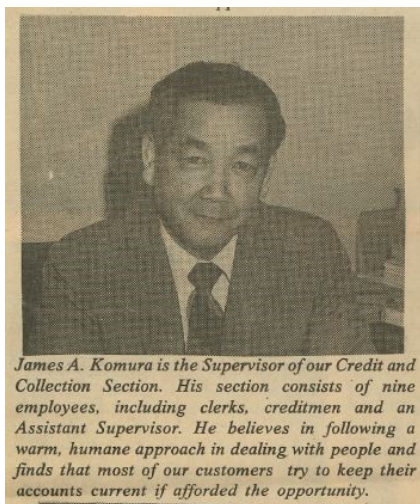
came across clippings from local papers *The Facts* and *The Medium*, advertising City



Light's Affirmative Action program. The ads give names and position titles for several of the previously unnamed workers in the 1974 photos—and in some cases, even brief personal details that help us know a bit about who they were and how their work contributed to the City.

It's small discoveries like this that can give new context to a larger story, and that help preserve the history of everyday Seattle residents and workers.

James A. Komura, Credit and Collection Supervisor. *The Medium*, May 1975.



James A. Komura is the Supervisor of our Credit and Collection Section. His section consists of nine employees, including clerks, creditmen and an Assistant Supervisor. He believes in following a warm, humane approach in dealing with people and finds that most of our customers try to keep their accounts current if afforded the opportunity.

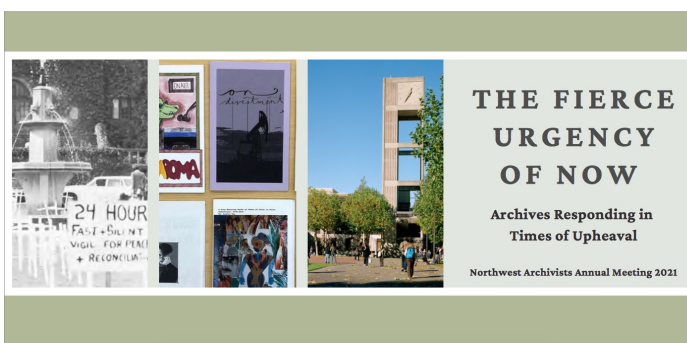
## New! Virtual Collections

SMA has three new virtual collections up on our Digital Collections site, each one highlighting a special month-long celebration.

For National Poetry Month in April, [Art and Democracy: Civic Poetry](#) brings together items in SMA's holdings that explore poetry, including moving images of Word's Worth readings and other items relating to the history of the Civic Poet position in Seattle. The [Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month virtual collection](#) compiles a sampling of digitized photos, moving images, and textual records that illustrate how the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are represented in SMA's holdings. [Seattle Pride](#) celebrates Pride Month in Seattle with a curated collection of documents, photographs, and other records of LGBTQ life in Seattle within the movement for civil rights as well as in celebration of that community in the decades since.

See these and all other virtual collections on our [Digital Collections site](#).

## SMA at NWA Annual Meeting



SMA was well represented at the Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting, which took place virtually May 10-14 and was centered around the theme "The Fierce Urgency of Now."

City Archivist Anne Frantilla hosted a panel on "Case Studies in Amplifying Hidden Voices: Reflecting on the Impact of EDI-Centered Access Activities." Audiovisual Archivist Libby Hopfauf presented on "Lessons Learned and Outcomes from Battling DV Obsolescence." She also produced the 2nd Annual Archival Screening Night, featuring archival video from repositories across the northwest. SMA's submission for the event was [Not For Men Only](#) (circa 1970), in which women working in non-traditional skilled trades positions at the City discuss their work and treatment by their male peers.

## Newly Processed Collections

Records from former Councilmember Mike O'Brien's office are now processed. O'Brien was elected to City Council in 2009 and reelected in 2013. In 2015 Council was reorganized to be based on districts, and he was elected to represent District 6. While in office, O'Brien focused on issues including homelessness, climate change, social justice, and labor rights. His **Subject Files** ([Series 4665-02](#)) reflect those priorities, with a particular focus on environmental concerns such as the Green New Deal, carbon neutrality, alternative energy, recycling, green infrastructure, and conservation. Transportation issues are also well represented, including bicycle, pedestrian, and transit planning. Also processed are records from the various committees O'Brien chaired, including **Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee Records** ([Series 4665-03](#)); **Energy and Environment Committee Records** ([Series 4665-04](#)); **Planning, Land Use & Sustainability Committee Records** ([Series 4665-05](#)); **Select Committee on Housing Affordability Records** ([Series 4665-06](#)); and **Sustainability and Transportation Committee Records** ([Series 4665-07](#)).

In addition, several smaller collections from various departments have been newly processed.



Student Art for Neighbor Appreciation Day, 20007.  
Series 5751-11, Box 1, Folder 3, SMA.

**Neighbor Appreciation Day Records** ([Series 5751-11](#)) cover programming around the annual event, from its beginning in Seattle in 1995 up until 2013. Records include entries to student art contests, press releases, and calendars of events. **Domestic Violence Strategic Plan Records** ([Series 3605-02](#)) cover the years 2003-2008 and relate to the development, revision, and implementation of a strategic plan addressing the City's criminal justice response to domestic violence. **Census Records** ([Series 4003-01](#)) relate to planning for the 2010 federal census, including events, partnerships, advertising, and other outreach efforts, with special emphasis on work with ethnic media outlets and other groups. **Millennium Project Records** ([Series 7610-04](#)) cover the planning of City-sponsored programming for the arrival of the year 2000. **Emergency Management Special Projects Records** ([Series 6402-04](#)) cover the years 1997-2004 and relate to programs, projects, and events of the

(collections, cont'd)

Office of Emergency Management. **Greenbelt Records** ([Series 5804-17](#)) relate to the acquisition and management of greenbelts in Seattle, and include a great deal of correspondence with other City agencies (City Light, DCLU, DCD, and others) discussing acquisition priorities and funding, zoning, tree pruning, and more.

**Loyalty Oaths** ([Series 1802-J6](#)) date from 1951-1961 and contain examples of oaths employees were required to sign under state law, swearing they were not "a subversive person or a member of any subversive organization or foreign subversive organization." After a long court battle led by the ACLU, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down loyalty oaths for Washington state employees in 1964.

Board of Public Works  
Department, office or other agency (Print or type)

Secretary of the Board of Public Works  
Title or position (Print or type)

I, Everett G. Henry, do hereby certify that I have read the provisions of Section 14, Chapter 254, Laws of 1951, of the State of Washington quoted above; that I understand and I am familiar with the contents thereof; and that I am not a subversive person as therein defined.

I further certify that I know and understand that this statement is deemed to have been made under oath and is therefore subject to the penalties of perjury, as provided in section 17 of the Subversive Activities Act cited above.

Everett G. Henry  
(Signature)

June 20, 1951  
(Date)

Detail of Loyalty Oath, 1951.  
Box 1, Folder 1, Series 1802-J6, SMA.

## Seattle Gay News

For the past several months, SMA has been hosting the Seattle Gay News preservation project, spearheaded by former Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen with help from City Archivist Anne Frantilla.

Since 1974, SGN has covered everything from the AIDS crisis to violence against members of the gay community to same-sex marriage. Complete sets of the SGN are now held by the Seattle Public Library and the University of Washington. SMA has kept a series of selected issues ([Series 9905-06](#)) mostly those that include stories about City policies, personnel, and elected officials. We're happy to have been a part of this important effort to preserve the newspaper for future generations.

Seattle Gay News,  
November 26,  
1999 (above the  
fold).  
Series 9905-06,  
SMA.



## Recently Processed Photos

Newly scanned and cataloged on our Digital Collections site are images of the West Seattle Bridge under construction in 1980 and 1981. The West Seattle Freeway Bridge Construction Photographs and Slides (Series 2613-25) documents preconstruction and construction of the West Seattle Bridge in photographs and slides, including aerial photographs, Polaroid photographs, and color prints.



West Seattle Bridge construction, October 1, 1981.

[Image 194997](#) (top) and [Image 194987](#) (right), Series 2613-25, SMA.



Also recently processed are photos of the 1992 Women in the Trades Fair, which took place in May at the Seattle Center. Cataloged as part of City Light Negatives (Series 1204-01), the photos show booths, attendees, and events such as the Tradeswoman of the

Year award ceremony, which was presented to first City female journey lineworker Nettie Doakes.



Women in Trades fair at the Seattle Center House, May 15, 1992. Nettie Doakes, first City female journey lineworker receiving the Tradeswoman of the Year award. [Image 195788](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

(Photos, cont.)

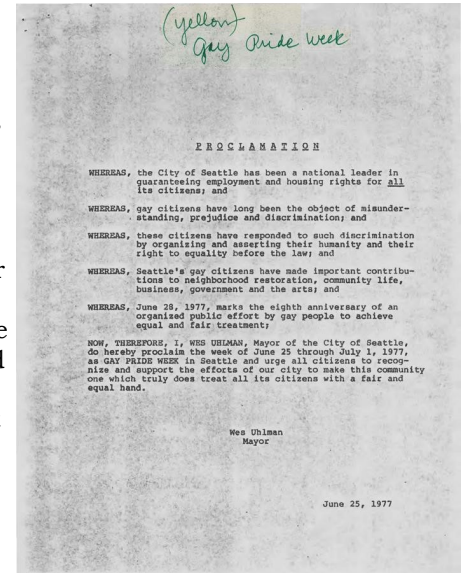
City of Seattle booth at Women in the Trades fair at the Seattle Center House, May 15, 1992. [Image 195790](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.



## 44 Years Ago: Gay Pride Week

June 25 through July 1, 1977, was the first officially sanctioned Gay Pride Week in Seattle. The occasion was marked by a [proclamation](#) from Mayor Wes Uhlman which noted that "gay citizens have long been the object of misunderstanding, prejudice, and discrimination; and...these citizens have responded to such discrimination by organizing and asserting their humanity and their right to equality before the law." The proclamation urged Seattleites "to recognize and support the efforts of our city to make this community one which truly does treat all its citizens with a fair and equal hand."

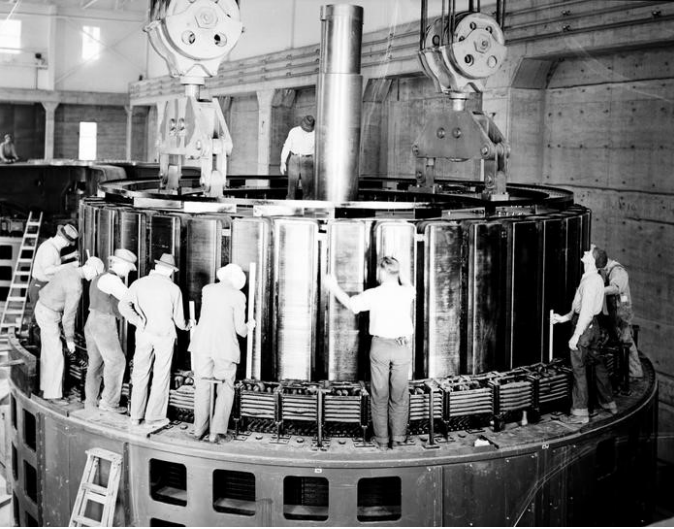
[Letters to the mayor](#) were heavily tilted against his decision, with many letter writers citing their disappointment and disgust. To these "anti" correspondents, Uhlman sent polite replies noting that "the purpose of the proclamation was to emphasize the need to protect the human and civil rights of our city's gay citizens." Not all correspondents criticized Uhlman's decision. One writer professed him to be "a man of courage, but most of all a man who recognizes that gay people are persons." To those who wrote supportive letters, Uhlman sent replies thanking them for their backing and urging them to "do all you can to educate and enlighten the rest of our community on this very important matter, for it will be only through this process that we can hope to erase the myths and stereotypes which have existed for far too long." Read the full story and see other Find of the Months [on our website](#).



Official Proclamation of Gay Pride Week issued by the Office of the Mayor. Series 5287-05, Box 1, Folder 33, SMA.

## YouTube and Flickr News

A popular image recently posted to [SMA's Flickr](#) site is this image of the Diablo Powerhouse under construction on August 11, 1936.



[Image 14739](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

A recently posted video to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) that is already popular with viewers is a short promotional segment on the World's Fair in Seattle, highlighting the various exhibits featured.



Seattle World's Fair, 1961-62  
[Item 12674](#), Series 3902-01, SMA.

Don't forget to follow us for new content posted regularly on [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#)!

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[www.seattle.gov/CityArchives](http://www.seattle.gov/CityArchives)

## SMA in the News

The Seattle Channel featured the Seattle Gay News preservation project on [CityStream](#), with footage and interviews filmed onsite at SMA where the project took place.



A [recent article in PCC's Sound Consumer](#) explores the history of Seattle's P-Patch gardens, using materials found through research at SMA. Also, a [UW Daily article](#) on the history and ecological restoration of various green spaces around the UW and Seattle area features photos from SMA's collections.

## 41 Years Ago: Juneteenth Celebration

In June 1980, Seattle Center held its 1st Annual Juneteenth Celebration. The flyer shown here advertises a free public event spanning 4 days which featured exhibits, dances, dramatic performances, concerts, and films.

Flyer found in Seattle Center Promotional and Publicity Records (Series 7613-01), SMA.



## Upcoming Events

[Virtual Moving History](#), Sundays, 4:30-5:30 PDT.

Twice-monthly archival video screening documenting a diverse history in Seattle, presented by MIPoPS in partnership with the Northwest Film Forum. Upcoming: July 11, 25; August 8, 22; September 12, 26.

**Looking Back/Moving Forward: Getting Started with Institutional Genealogy.** Presented by AKCHO. July 20, 10:00-11:30am. Registration and more information [here](#).