

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 59 Spring 2017

Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Out of the Archives

Welcome new reference archivist Jeanie Fisher! Jeanie comes to us from Tacoma Public Library, where she was the Special Collections Librarian & Archivist for nine years. At TPL Jeanie managed the library's local history, genealogy, and archival collections, and helped a diverse community of users research their local and personal history. She initiated the library's archives program and expanded access to collections through published finding aids, outreach to local community groups and schools, and grants for preservation, processing and digitization. Jeanie has a B.A. in History from Colorado College and an M.S.I. from the University of Michigan's School of Information. While at U of M, she worked as a University Library Associate assisting students and faculty with reference questions ranging from patent research to architectural history. A passion for public service and civic engagement led her to public libraries, where she continued building her reference and outreach skills while fostering a focus on archives and special collections. Although she has enjoyed working with a variety of collections, she is happiest helping others find and use archival materials. The questions are always interesting, the answers even more so, and witnessing how history can help people feel connected to their communities is always rewarding.

Since joining us in mid-January, Jeanie has been busy learning about SMA's holdings and helping the public and city staff find answers to their questions. Every day she is reminded that there is always something new to learn in the archives, and sharing that sense of discovery with others is what she loves most about her job. She's thrilled to be here and excited to be a part of the team!

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## 26 Years Ago —

### Implementing ADA Compliance

After the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became federal law in 1990 with initial compliance required by January 26, 1991, the City of Seattle launched a coordinated effort to make all city buildings and services universally accessible. In June 1991, the Seattle City Council adopted [Resolution 28380](#) approving an official scope of work for the tasks required to comply with the ADA.

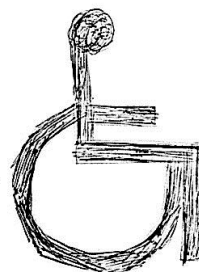
(*ADA cont.*)

In September, an ADA Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to assist with the implementation of compliance requirements. One of the key tasks of the committee was to help city departments perform accessibility self-assessments and prioritize planned changes. The committee advised on a variety of improvements such as signage, employment application accommodations, curb ramp installations, assistive listening systems, and the types of training to provide city employees.

Members were also asked to give suggestions for wording to be included on city letterhead and public notices demonstrating ADA compliance. At the December 17, 1991, meeting, members initially decided to "keep it simple" and choose a logo that could be quickly identified more easily than a written statement. However, a consensus could not be reached as to what logo would be inclusive for all disabled audiences. After determining that extensive community input would be needed to develop a new logo appropriate and acceptable to everyone, the logo approach was deemed too complicated. The committee eventually decided it would be best to use a brief statement such as "accommodations provided on request."

Prior to the ADA, there were individual efforts within Seattle's government to provide barrier-free public access to city buildings and services. In 1973, Seattle City Councilmember and Chair of the Human Resources & Judiciary Committee Jeanette Williams introduced Council Bill 93806 to authorize funds for installing accessible restrooms in the Municipal Building. In a letter to City Council ([CF 275071](#)), Williams explained that although the city employed disabled workers, the Municipal Building did not have restrooms they could use. She included a sketch of a recently developed universal sign that could be used to

designate the restrooms as accessible. The Bill was passed as [Ordinance 102181](#), authorizing funds to convert four restrooms in the Municipal Building for use by disabled persons.



Sketch of proposed sign for first accessible restrooms in Municipal Building, 1973.  
*Clerk File 275071, SMA.*

## Recently Processed Photographs

The West Seattle portion of the [Neighborhood Architecture Photographs and Surveys](#) are now available online. Most of the images date from 1975 to 1977. The inventory was administered by the Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the City of Seattle. In a bicentennial effort, volunteers surveyed selected neighborhoods; inventory forms were reviewed by consultants Folke Nyberg and Victor Steinbrueck and resulted in neighborhood inventories still available through Historic Seattle. Survey maps accompany the images, although these are not available online.



4417 37th Ave SW, January 18, 1977.  
Item [179066](#). Record Series 1629-02, SMA

Over 600 black and white images with identifiable addresses are available [online](#). West Seattle is the first neighborhood to be completed; Ballard is next.



Water tower,  
39th Ave SW &  
SW Charleston St.,  
June 24, 1976  
Item [179425](#). Record  
Series 1629-02,  
SMA

(Photographs cont.)

Also new online are close to 100 additional images of the [Green Lake dredging](#) operation in 1935-1936, work supported in part by WPA funds. Images depict dredging machinery and personnel as well as neighboring houses.



Setting up  
dredging  
machinery at  
Green Lake,  
November 30,  
1935.  
Item [180872](#).  
Record Series  
2625-10, SMA.

Dredging  
personnel,  
January 2, 1936.  
Item [180951](#).  
Record Series  
2625-10, SMA.

## Interns and Volunteers

Skyler Burger is our newest volunteer. He will be assisting with a variety of projects to get a feel for the archives profession.

Jen Woodfield is continuing to process the historic building survey collection.

Our backlog of published city documents is shrinking, thanks to the cataloging of Jenna Ginnaty.

Staci Crouch has made great progress on preservation of and access to Model Cities records.

Kelli Yakabu continues her good work on City Council agendas and Supreme Court briefs.

Our work-study students, Jenn LaScala and Bryce Neal-Harris, have been working on Parks and Council Central Staff records, along with everything else they do to help us serve our users.



## Recently Processed

The records of the Police Precinct Task Force (1977-1978) measure 0.2 cubic feet and document how a group of citizens, appointed by Mayor Charles Royer in 1978, helped to select the sites of three new police precinct stations. Included with the records is [Resolution 25776](#) which outlined the selection criteria, as well as meeting agendas and minutes, correspondence, and preliminary site analysis and research.

## New *Seattle Voices*: The Roma in Seattle

In January 1973, Romani leader Ephraim Stevens [petitioned Seattle City Council](#) to fund a small multi-service center to serve the economic, social and cultural needs of the local Roma population. His request was addressed at the February 27, 1973, meeting of the Parks and Public Grounds Committee. At the end of the meeting, the chair of the committee, Bruce Chapman, referred the request to the Human Resources Manpower Planning Office and suggested the need for services be addressed to the existing Model Cities neighborhood centers. Ultimately, the request for training was denied. [Listen](#) to an audio excerpt and read the transcript.

Ephraim Stevens previously petitioned City Council in 1968 for [permission to tell fortunes](#); that request was also denied.

## Preservation Week April 23-29, 2017

During Preservation Week, archives, libraries and museums all over the country highlight the importance of preserving cultural heritage materials. The American Library Association has [resources](#) on how to care for you personal items, free webinars, information on disaster recovery and other preservation topics.



Archivists are constantly balancing the tension between

use and preservation. Items in archives exist to be used, but wear and tear, fragile formats, and inattention to potentially damaging materials such as acidic paper, paper clips and scotch tape, can cause damage while items sit on the shelf waiting to be used.

Digital formatting of photographs and moving images are two examples of ways reformatting both protects materials and prolongs their life. The main body images in the Seattle Municipal Archives come from Engineering and Seattle City Light (SCL), and both series exist primarily as negatives. Handling the negatives can cause damage through scratches or oils from our hands. One way SMA staff protect the negatives is to provide access to digital copies of the

(Preservation cont.)

negatives, so that the original negatives are handled as little as possible, reducing damage. To date over 39,500 Engineering negatives have been scanned, cataloged and indexed, as well as over 16,000 SCL negatives.

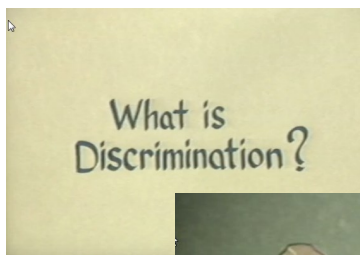


Nickerson Street, Dexter and Westlake Avenues, December, 1949. Item 54372, Record Series 2613-07, SMA

Magnetic media such as VHS, Umatic and other forms of videotape are even more at risk because the media itself does not have a long life. Audiovisual experts have labelled the situation a “magnetic media crisis.” SMA holdings include a large quantity of magnetic media created from the 1980s to the early 2000s. In 2016, SMA received funding from SCL to appraise, catalog and reformat its magnetic media holdings. Over 400 videotapes were retained and digitized; both preservation and access files were created. The videotapes contain information about the utility’s work including: energy conservation, hydroelectric operations, work culture, leadership, and training. Many of the digitized videos are available on SMA’s [YouTube](#) site.

SMA was able to do this work because of their participation in the [Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound](#) (MIPoPS) consortium which provided equipment and expertise.

One of the earliest videotapes digitized was a training tape from 1980. The second in a series of five training sessions,



“What is Discrimination?”  
[Item 4146](#),  
Record Series 1204-05, SMA.



*What is Discrimination?*

depicts a panel of SCL employees questioning Craig Cole, formerly an aide with the Washington State Human Rights Commission and member of the Governor’s Affirmative Action Committee.

## YouTube and Flickr News

One of the most popular images on [SMA's Flickr site](#) is of a CORE-sponsored demonstration at the realty office of Picture Floor Plans, Inc. on May 4, 1964.



Open housing demonstration, May 4, 1964  
[Item 63911](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*

The most popular video on SMA's YouTube site this quarter is again the 1940 footage of the construction and reopening of the Ballard Bridge.



Construction and opening of the Ballard Bridge, 1940  
[Item 524](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*

### Seattle Municipal Archives

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<http://www.seattle.gov/CityArchives>

## SMA in Print and in the News

[KUOW](#) used an image of streetcar troubles in the snow from 1929.



Madison Street streetcar derailing in snow between First and Second Avenues, January 28, 1929.  
[Item 3258](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*

## 56 Years Ago: Jeanette Williams



Jeanette Williams (right) and four other women at a Washington State Women's Democratic Party event, June 30, 1961. Williams was vice chairman of the King County Democratic Central Committee and director of women's activities in 1961.

[Item 170798](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*

## Upcoming Events

- March 28 [AKCHO Membership Meeting](#)  
Railway Education Center, Snoqualmie
- April 29 Living Computers: Museum + Labs  
Preservation Week
- May 17-19 [Northwest Archivists](#) Joint Annual Meeting  
Boise, ID