

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

Seattle's popular P-Patch community gardening program turns 50 this year. To celebrate this milestone, we dug into the archives to find materials documenting the program's development and growth.

We found a wealth of materials, including textual, audiovisual, and photographic records. Together they chart how the city and its residents have worked together to create a thriving and enduring program.

Steps towards establishing the P-Patch program were taken in the early 1970s, when UW student Darlyn Rundberg asked for and was given permission to use a portion of her neighbor's Picardo family truck farm in Wedgewood for a small community garden. She used the borrowed land to teach children at nearby Wedgewood Elementary School how to grow vegetables, and to encourage donations to the Neighbors in Need food bank program. The land was sold to the city in 1973 and the farm became the city's first official "P-Patch," so named to honor the Picardo family for making the initial land available. First administered by the Department of Human Resources, it was moved to the Department of Neighborhoods in 1990, which still manages the program today.



P-Patch logo, circa 1986.
Series 3625-01, Box 10, Folder 5.

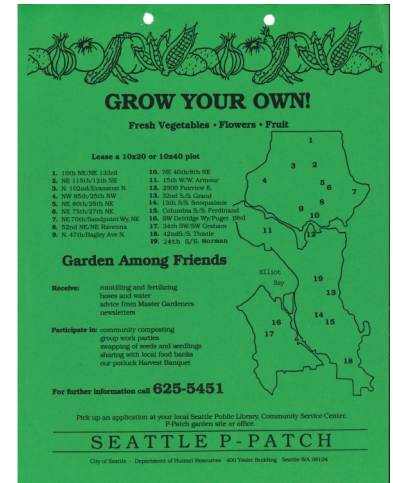


Picardo Farm at NE 80th and 27th NE, May 12, 1952.
[Image 43786](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

(Archives, cont'd)

In early April, we'll be installing a small exhibit on the history of the P-Patch program in our lobby exhibit case, featuring records from the archives. Stop by the third floor of City Hall to check it out!

P-Patch flyer, circa 1986.
Series 3625-01, Box 10, Folder 5.



New! Homelessness in City Records

A new online resource charting the history of homelessness in Seattle through city records is now available on [SMA's website](#). City officials and residents have looked for solutions to the complex issue of homelessness for well over a hundred years. Drawing from and citing municipal records like legislation, records from department heads and elected officials, reports created by or for city departments, and petitions and letters submitted to city officials by residents, the new resource documents homelessness in Seattle and how the city has responded over time. The resource also includes images and links to audiovisual resources and includes a detailed bibliography.

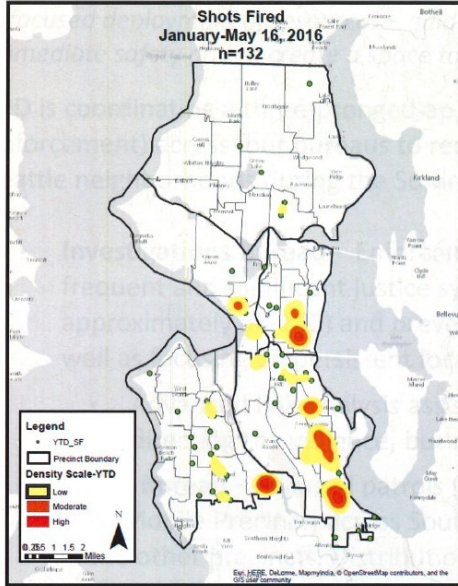
While far from a complete history of homelessness in the city, the resource is intended to be a guide to the kinds of records in the archives that are available for more research on the topic.



Shacks near 6th Ave S. garbage dump, 1939.
[Image 39279](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

Newly Processed Collections

Two collections from Mayor Ed Murray’s office are now processed and available for research. [Ed Murray Staff Records \(Series 5257-03\)](#) include records from various mayoral staffers during his term in office (2014-2017). Public safety issues are heavily represented, including police accountability legislation, the Department of Justice consent decree, police and fire hiring equity, youth violence, emergency management, and the downtown 9 1/2 block strategy. Other topics include public health, homelessness and encampments, central waterfront development, transportation, labor relations, parks, utilities, education, and LGBTQ issues. Some records document mayoral office organization, priorities, and projects.



Graph showing concentration of shots fired in Seattle, January-May 2016.
Box 2, Folder 7, Series 5257-03.

EXHIBIT 3 - ESTIMATED TRAVEL MODE TO NEW ARENA

Mode of Access	YEAR 2020 Mode Split (%)	YEAR 2024 Mode Split (%)	YEAR 2035 Mode Split (%)
Auto	82%	79%	69%
Transit	12%	15%	25%
Walk	4%	4%	4%
Bike/Other	2%	2%	2%
Parking ¹	6,100	5,900	5,100
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

1) Expected demand for Arena events

Chart showing estimated travel mode to new arena, 2016.
Box 1, Folder 8, Series 5257-01.

Also processed are [Ed Murray Mayoral Office Subject Files \(Series 5257-01\)](#), containing records created by Murray’s office during his tenure as mayor. Included are briefings on various topics, such as public safety, homelessness, transportation, and the new arena. Other records detail foreign and domestic travel, as well as mayoral office protocols and organization.

(Newly processed, cont'd)

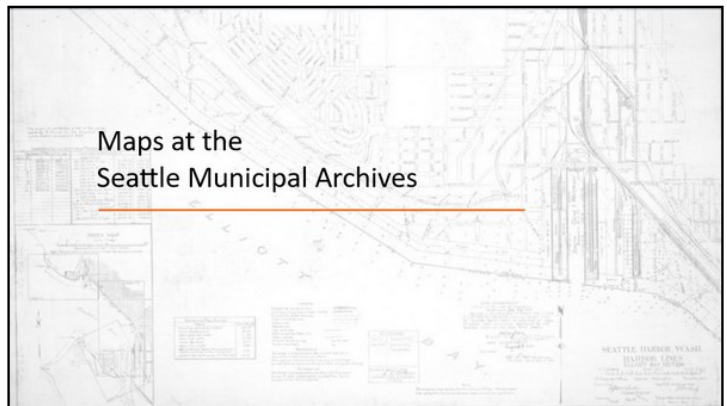
Newly processed electronic records include both textual and photographic born-digital records in [Sally Bagshaw Subject Files \(Series 4613-02\)](#) and [Mike O'Brien Subject Files \(Series 4665-02\)](#). Records relate to City programs and services during their respective tenures on City Council.



Councilmember Mike O'Brien appears at Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team (FEEST) event with students on April 29, 2014.
[Image 204665](#), Series 4665-02, SMA.

New: Maps E-Learning

SMA’s newest E-Learning, [Maps at the Seattle Municipal Archives](#), is now available. This short tutorial covers what kinds of maps are available in the archives, how to find them, and how to obtain copies. Maps in the archives date from the late 1800s to the present day and cover a variety of topics, such as neighborhood and transportation planning, engineering and utility work, city zoning, and much more.



All of SMA’s E-Learnings [are available on our website](#) and each one generally takes about 10-15 minutes. Check them out to learn more about our collections and how to access records in the archives!

Recently Processed Photos

[Newly digitized photos](#) from the **Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection (Series 1629-01)** cover the First Hill neighborhood. Dating from the 1950s to 1980s, the images show homes and commercial buildings, as well as schools, parks, and local landmarks like Harborview Hospital, St. James Cathedral, the Stimson-Green House, and the former Summit School (now the Northwest School). Also shown are street scenes with pedestrians, cars, and storefronts, and views of the First Hill skyline near I-5 during the 1970s.



Former Summit School at 1415 Summit Avenue, 1980.
[Image 204038](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



View of First Hill and I-5, circa 1980.
[Image 203863](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.



Stacey House at 1004 Boren Avenue, 1980.
[Image 204005](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

(Recently processed, cont'd)



First Hill walking tour, April 1978.
[Image 203804](#), 1629-01, SMA.

New Virtual Collection: Eating and Drinking Places

Now available on SMA's website is a new Virtual Collection on [Eating and Drinking Places](#), highlighting

photos in the archives that show interior and exterior shots of cafes, restaurants, and taverns throughout the city. Using photographs from multiple series, including Engineering Department Negatives (2613-



Bush Garden, circa 1977.
[Image 195774](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

07), City Light Negatives (1204-01), Pike Place Market Visual Images & Audiotapes (1628-02), and the Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection (1629-01), this virtual collection allows you to tour various well known establishments and lesser known places where both Seattleites and tourists have gathered over time.

Find this and other virtual collections on our [Digital Collections site](#).



(Top) Lyon's Café, 1914.
[Image 131](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

(Right) Alpine Self Serve Restaurant, 1960.
[Image 67940](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.



YouTube and Flickr News

A popular image recently posted to [SMA's Flickr](#) site is a 1956 photo showing a pedestrian island/transit loading area at 4th and Pike.



[Image 61353](#), Engineering Department Negatives (Series 2613-07), SMA.

A [popular video](#) recently posted to SMA's YouTube channel is a compilation of three public safety announcements from 1992 on the Late Night Recreation Program sponsored by the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. Footage includes scenes of programming and interviews with Norm Rice and others.



Late Night TV Spot & PSAs, 1992
[Event 14641](#), Series 1204-05, SMA.

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SMA in the News

A recent [post](#) on SDOT's blog for Black History Month highlights a history of activism by Seattle's Black community and includes content and images from SMA's online exhibit on [Redlining in Seattle](#). The Wall Street Journal used content from SMA's [online exhibit on urban renewal](#) to inform and illustrate a [video piece](#) on how the designation of "blight" has been applied in urban areas around the country. KOMO TV's [new documentary](#) on "How Seattle Changed the World" features images and video footage from SMA's collection. And a [Seattle Times article](#) on the history of rats in Seattle highlights the "Drive on Rats" campaign sponsored by the city's Model Cities program, including images from the archives.



Mayor Clinton describes urban renewal project progress for a campaign ad, 1959.
Film clip from [Item 510](#), Record Series 2613-09

24 Years Ago: Millennium Tree Planting



In January 1999, Mayor Paul Schell was joined by a group of children in planting trees at a Millennium tree planting event. Among many other goals, the Seattle Millennium Project aimed to plant over 20,000 trees throughout the year to improve air and water quality, increase species diversity, and reduce urban storm runoff.

[Image 100180](#), Series 0207-01, SMA.

Upcoming Events

April 19 History Café: Seattle's Sephardic Jews in the 20th Century. MOHAI, 6:30-8pm. Registration [here](#).

May 3-5 Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting, Salem Oregon. Registration and information on the [NWA website](#).

Issues of the *Seattle Gay News* from 1977-2018 are now available online through [Washington Digital Newspapers](#).