

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Legislative Department

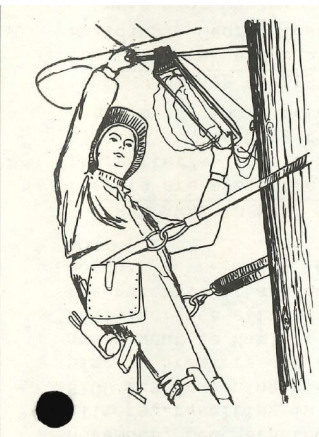
Out of the Archives

In honor of International Women's Day, SMA participated in the City of Seattle event "Balance for Better" co-sponsored by Seattle City Light's Women in Power and Seattle Department of Transportation's Women in Motion groups. Our "Women in City Government" exhibit was on display (also available [online here](#)), and archivists were on hand to share information about SMA's collections and services. We enjoyed meeting everyone and left inspired by the stories shared by panelists and participants.



Archivist Jeanie Fisher at SMA's table at the city's International Women's Day event.

We are always pleased to see examples of how our records have helped inform the work of our researchers — from exhibits, books and articles, to many other projects. Local author and community historian Ellie Belew made extensive use of SMA's collections for her new book about the first group of women to work in Seattle City Light's Electrical Trades Trainee (ETT) program, begun in 1974. *High Voltage Women: Breaking Barriers at Seattle City Light* explores their struggle for equal opportunity and treatment as they worked in jobs considered traditionally male. Shown here is an illustration from a 1974 SCL employee newsletter describing ETT as one of the first on-the-job programs in the nation for recruiting women to work in the trades.



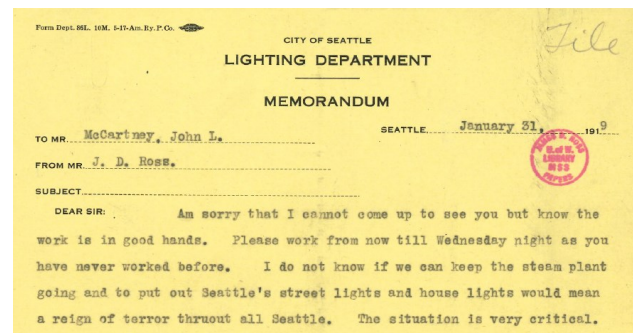
Seattle City Light Newsletter, June 27, 1974. Series 1201-07, SMA.

We were also honored to join local archives and heritage groups in marking this year's centennial of the Seattle General Strike with an exhibit showing how the strike is documented in City records. For five days in February 1919, the Seattle General Strike essentially shut down the city as thousands of Seattle workers walked out in solidarity with shipyard workers who were striking for higher wages.

Among the materials we found to display were letters from SCL Superintendent J. D. Ross warning

of the potential for mayhem in the streets if the city's lights went out. "I do not know if we can keep the steam plant going and to put out Seattle's street lights and house lights would mean a reign of terror thruout [sic] all Seattle," Ross states in the memo shown below. Ultimately, the strike was peaceful.

Find more information about events commemorating the 1919 Seattle General Strike at www.solidaritycentennial.com.

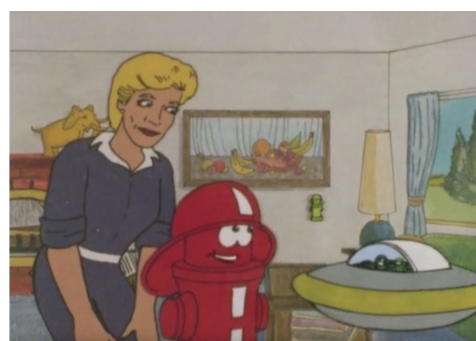


J.D. Ross memo regarding the strike, January 31, 1919. Series 1200-01, Box 11 Folder 2.

Fire Department Films Digitized

The Seattle Fire Department underwrote the digitization of several films in 2018 providing both preservation and access for these items. Films include footage from the December 5, 1967 [Todd Shipyard fire](#) as well as early fire prevention public service announcements. [Aliens from Outer Space](#) (1988) and many other films in the "Big Red" talking fire hydrant series were featured at the Northwest Film Forum "Moving History" screening on February 10th. Also included are more of the Mr. Bumblesbee animated fire safety series, and a 1952 service announcement, [Joe Forgets Something](#), created by the National Board of Fire Underwriters with support from SFD.

Seattle Municipal Archives is grateful to Lightpress for a superb job of working with these films so they can be accessible. They are all available on YouTube for viewing along with other [Fire Department](#) films.



Aliens From Outer Space, 1988. [Item 967](#), Series 2801-11, SMA. Animated fire safety film starring talking fire hydrant Big Red, teaching aliens about household fire safety. Produced and animated by Seattle Fire Department.

Newly Processed Collections

Among the records recently processed at SMA is a collection that previously had minimal description but is now more accessible. The **Seattle Center Promotion and Publicity Records (Series 7613-01)** cover the years 1977-1984 and include programs, correspondence, promotional materials, and other records relating to events held at Seattle Center. Included are materials for recurring events such as Bumbershoot, Folklife, and the Science Fiction Expo, as well as for one-time events such as the King Tut Exhibit. Also included are logistics for the visit of Queen Elizabeth in 1983, along with some more general records regarding the operation of the Seattle Center campus.



King Tut exhibit postcard, 1978.
Series 7613-01, Box 3, Folder 7.

Promotional Packet: Where the Show Goes On, 1980.
Series 7613-01, Box 3, Folder 16.



Another collection newly available for research at SMA is the **Kubota Gardens Oversight Committee Records (Series 9542-01)**, containing agendas, minutes, correspondence, and other materials related to the work of the committee. Some internal Parks Department correspondence regarding their work and the garden site, as well as notes on public meetings, are also included. Records are arranged chronologically and cover the years 1987-1991.

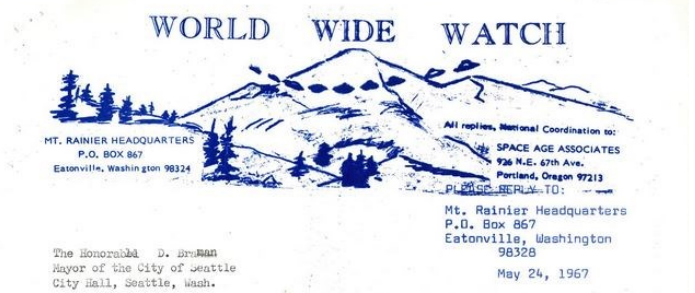
Charter Amendment Petitions and Requests (Series 1802-N3) contains materials documenting proposed amendments to the Seattle City Charter from 1966 to 1986. It includes correspondence between residents and city officials, copies of petitions, and drafts of proposed amendments. Subjects covered vary in nature, and include the reduction of public transportation fares for senior citizens, the establishment of term limits for elected officials, and removal of the age restriction on those running for public office.

Police Intelligence Audits (Series 1802-N2) show compliance with the Seattle Police Intelligence Ordinance, which limited the collection of political and religious information except in certain limited circumstances. These audits and reports reference the types of authorizations granted, as well as the number granted in that year.

From 2009 to 2012, Pike Place Market underwent a major renovation, funded in large part by a 6-year, \$73 million property tax levy approved by Seattle voters in 2008. **Renovation Progress Reports (Series 9710-05)** from the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority consist of monthly reports noting the current status of the project in terms of design and construction, financing, and communications, along with budget information.

Finally, the **Equal Employment Opportunity Program Records (Series 6002-04)** from the Personnel Department covers the years 1970-1995 and offers an overview of how city agencies integrated women and minorities into their departments. One particular item of interest is an apprentice program by Seattle City Light called "Upward Mobility," which encouraged employees within the department to pursue advancement and career changes.

52 Years Ago: Watch for Flying Saucers Week



Members of a group called World Wide Watch wrote to Mayor Braman in 1967 asking him for a "Watch for Flying Saucers Week" proclamation. One of the letters explained that "this year is a LANDMARK! The 20th Anniversary of the very famous phrase 'Flying Saucer,' coined in Washington State by Newsmen when a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho related to the world that on June 24, 1947, he had observed nine disc-shaped objects flying towards Mt. Rainier."

The letters and an accompanying press release explained that to mark the anniversary, the group was organizing watch teams around the country to search the skies. Teams were to look for "intelligent patterns of behavior" or any attempts to communicate.

Mayor Braman responded: "While I appreciate your interest in this subject and recognize that it could have considerable import, I do not feel justified in issuing such a proclamation. I certainly see nothing wrong in your attempting to stir up interest to the end that many people would join you and your associates in this kind of a watch. It just doesn't seem appropriate as an official pronouncement."

Read more about it in the [Find of the Month!](#)

Recently processed photos

Opening in 1907, Pike Place Market is one of the oldest continuously operating public markets in America. By the 1960s, however, it was slated to be redeveloped into Pike Plaza, a complex of hotels, apartments, and office buildings. Due to community opposition to this plan, the Market was turned into a historic preservation zone and over the course of the 1970s, the Market's buildings were rehabilitated.

Recently processed slides from the Department of Neighborhoods Historic Building Survey Photograph Collection show this period of restoration in the mid-1970's. [Nearly 40 images](#) feature retail operations and their proprietors, temporary buildings, and building interiors and exteriors as they are prepared for renovation.

Also newly cataloged are [45 black and white photographs](#) from the Engineering Department showing Pike Place Market in 1968.



Security Market Closing [Pike Place Market], 1969
[Item 192021](#) (Series 1629-01), SMA.

Temporary Shed
[Pike Place
Market during
rehabilitation],
circa 1977
[Item 192028](#),
(Series 1629-01),
SMA.



Stewart House
and Post Alley
[Pike Place
Market
rehabilitation],
circa 1977
[Item 192053](#),
(Series 1629-01),
SMA.

In Memoriam: Maris Sovold

Maris Sovold volunteered at SMA from 2014 to 2016. Passionate about local history, Maris signed up to volunteer on the heels of an Archives tour. Maris worked on the Woodland Park Zoo Photograph Collection, revealing herself to be an expert on this topic. Because of her longtime volunteer efforts at the zoo, she was able to identify species and had an incredible breadth of institutional knowledge. This collection, when finished, will have greater research value thanks to her hard work and dedication.

In 2016, Maris moved with her family to Colorado where she volunteered at the Arvada Historical Society and began a certificate program in Archival Studies. After a two-year battle with cancer, Maris passed away on January 3, 2019. We at SMA are grateful to have worked with her. All researchers will benefit from her contributions to the processing of the Woodland Park Zoo Photograph Collection.



Maris weeding and
arranging the
large, multi-format
Woodland Park
Zoo photograph
collection.

Interns & Volunteers

Winter quarter brought us a new work-study student. Fartun Jama is a senior at UW majoring in political science with a minor in global health and diversity, and has been hard at work processing Central Staff records and cataloging Engineering Department negatives. She joins Mining Feng in helping us to serve all our researchers and keep the archives running smoothly.

Hanna Roseen is back at SMA on a City Light-funded project to appraise, catalog, and scan SCL slides. We've also had two students with us during the quarter as part of their academic programs. Jenna Barkley is finishing up her MLIS through Kent State University and has been hard at work cataloging photographs and published documents. Halaina Halsted has been earning academic credit at Seattle Pacific University while working on City Light apprenticeship records and photographs from a historic building survey in the 1970s.

Amanda Alfonso has also joined us as a volunteer, working on our film holdings. She joins Andrew Wagster, Staci Crouch, Kelli Yakabu, Jen Zook, Marissa Hiller, and Carla Ginnis, all of whom continue their work making our collections accessible. The archives has been a busy place this winter with lots of new records made available for research, thanks to our great team of volunteers.

YouTube and Flickr News

Perhaps not surprising due to our record February snow here in Seattle, a popular recent post on SMA's [Flickr](#) and [Instagram](#) sites is this 1916 photo showing downtown Seattle at 4th and Union virtually buried under mountains of piled snow. Flickr user Mike Grauer Jr commented, "Out here in Seabeck in the same year this photo was taken, it was so cold that the Hood Canal froze over."



Snow at 4th and Union, 1916

[Item 192004](#), Engineering Department Negatives (2613-07), SMA

One of the more popular recent additions to SMA's [YouTube Channel](#) is the 2006 faux public service announcement for the "Committee to Save Big Ugly Things," produced as a spoof on those who wanted to save the Alaskan Way Viaduct.



Mayor's Press Conference: Committee to Save Big Ugly Things, 2006
[Item 3741](#), Seattle Channel Moving Images (Series 3902-01), SMA

Seattle Municipal Archives

600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 3,
PO Box 94728
Seattle, WA 98124-4728
206 233-7807 archives@seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov/CityArchives

SMA in the News

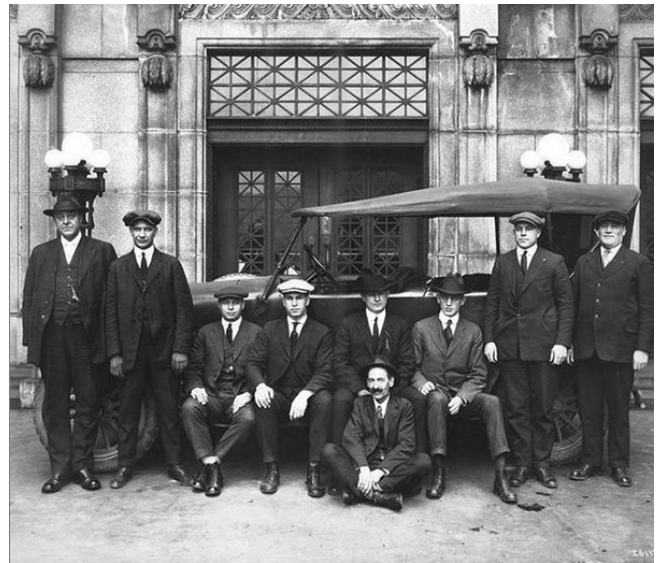
SMA's Photo Archivist Julie Irick was recently profiled for the Visual Resources Association Emerging Professionals and Students Group. The column posts interviews with experienced professionals to give those just starting out a sense of where their careers could take them. Read the full interview [here](#).

City Archivist Anne Frantilla was on the planning committee for a new exhibit at the Wing Luke Museum exploring the history and impact of redlining and other exclusionary practices in Seattle. [Excluded, Inside the Lines](#) marks the 50th anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act and Seattle's Open Housing ordinance, both passed in 1968. The exhibit includes materials from SMA and is on display now through February 23, 2020. Read a *Seattle Globalist* article about the exhibit, online [here](#).

Engineering Department records held by SMA helped KING-5 News with research for their story highlighting the work of engineers Jack Arnberg and former Washington governor Dan Evans in designing the Alaskan Way Viaduct. Watch the story, including interviews with both men, on the KING-5 website [here](#).

98 Years Ago: Seattle's Dry Squad

Check out our new online guide to [Prohibition in Seattle](#) to learn more about liquor-related crime and punishment during the "dry years" in the city.



Seattle Police Department Dry Squad, 1921

[Item 64762](#), Miscellaneous Prints (Series 9910-01), SMA

Upcoming Events

- April 25 [Pacific Northwest Historians Guild Annual Meeting](#), Rainier Club, 6-8pm. RSVP by April 16.
- April 30 [AKCHO Awards Program](#), Northwest African American Museum, 5:30-8pm.
- May 12 [Moving History: An Archival Screening Night](#) at Northwest Film Forum, 5pm.
- May 15-17 [Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting](#), Bozeman, MT.