

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 71 Spring 2020

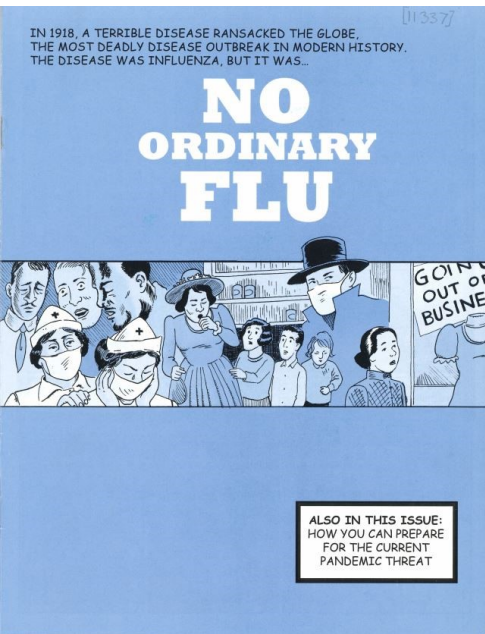
Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

As we produce this edition of the Gazette, the City of Seattle is joining the rest of the state, country, and world in efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Schools, businesses, and public gathering spaces, including SMA's research room, are temporarily closed, though archives staff continue to work and serve researchers remotely from home.

SMA records show efforts by the City of Seattle to both combat and prepare for other pandemics. When the Spanish influenza was beginning to spread in Seattle in October 1918, Mayor Ole Hansen sent a letter to City Council outlining the City's efforts to fight it ([Clerk File 71547](#)). In addition to widespread measures such as a ban on all public gatherings, the letter describes a new temporary hospital that had been established on the top floor of the vacant old County Courthouse and prepared with supplies and staff to care for the sick. Health Department [annual reports](#) from 1918-1919 also detail how the influenza pandemic affected the city.

Although it was produced many years later, the educational booklet *No Ordinary Flu* tells the story of



[No Ordinary Flu](#), 2008. Vertical File 11337, SMA.

the 1918 pandemic in a comic book format. Produced in 2008 by Seattle-King County Public Health, it also outlines how to prepare for and prevent the spread of future pandemics through tips and advice. Also included in SMA's holdings is a report by Seattle-King County Public Health developed in response to the H5N1 (Avian/Bird Flu) epidemic of 2005. The *Pandemic Influenza Response Plan* is a guide to planning for and locally responding to a global pandemic, and includes guidelines for mitigation, communication, quarantine, social distancing practices, and more. The full report is cataloged and available online [here](#).

the 1918 pandemic in a comic book format. Produced in 2008 by Seattle-King County Public Health, it also outlines how to prepare for and prevent the spread of future pandemics through tips and advice.

Also included in SMA's holdings is a report by Seattle-King County Public Health developed in

New! Social Media Archive

Content from official City social media accounts such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and others, is now being captured, archived, and made freely accessible to the public via a portal powered by the open source software ArchiveSocial. The Social Media Archive is available [here](#) and is linked from SMA's new [Digital Archives page](#).

Included in the Social Media Archive are all posts and comments going back to the beginning of each captured account. Social media activity is continually being captured and indexed as additional City accounts are added. The site is currently in beta, and feedback is welcome!

BETA: City of Seattle - Social Media Archive

This open archive provides public access to social media records from selected City of Seattle departments and elected officials across various social media platforms. The City of Seattle offers this archive for transparency and preserving these records into the future. It is currently in beta. Social media activity is continually being captured and indexed as additional City accounts are added. This site is powered by ArchiveSocial and the City of Seattle's Privacy Policy doesn't apply, we recommend that you check their [privacy policy](#) for details about information collection and use.

Enter a keyword to search across the entire archive of social media sites, or use the Advanced Search for more options.

Quick Search | Advanced Search

Date Range: All

Content Types: f, f, i, f, o, G+, i, l, l, p, t, t, v, all Clear

Search Terms: match all, match any

Text contains

add another term

Separate multiple keywords with spaces
Use double quotes (") around phrases
Specify asterisk (*) for wildcard searches

Search

Coming Soon: New Search Interface



Welcome to Seattle Municipal Archives Finding Aids

Search across our collections

Search The Archives

Enter your search terms

Search all

Expanded + Year From To +

Search

SMA will be launching a new public user interface in the next month that will replace the existing Subject Files and Record Series Guide databases. The new website gives more search options, has an updated look, and is user friendly. Researchers will be able to browse or search record series and archival folder names by keyword or title, and will also be able limit searches by date range.

This new site has been many months in the making. We're excited about the improved functionality it offers and are looking forward to sharing it with our users!

Recently Processed Photos

In 1962, the Washington Roadside Council submitted hundreds of photographs of non-conforming signs and billboards to City Council as part of a petition regarding amendment of the zoning code relating to signs. The petition is not in existence, but the [photos](#) submitted with the petition are being scanned and cataloged as part of [Record Series 1802-0P](#).



Billboard advertising Chevron near Welker's Gun Shop, 1962.
[Item 194185](#), Record Series 1802-0P, SMA.

As is frequently the case with photographs taken for a specific purpose, the images are useful for purposes other than the original one. Businesses, neighborhoods, and vehicles pictured in the images help inform our understanding of how Seattle neighborhoods have changed.



Billboard advertising the Yellow Pages at 34th and Union, 1962.
[Item 194178](#), Record Series 1802-0P, SMA.

Seattle's regulations regarding signs and billboards can be researched in the context of state and federal legislation beginning in the late 1950s. The Washington State Legislature adopted the Highway Advertising Control Act to control signs and billboards near the State's interstate highways and scenic areas in March 1961.

The City passed related legislation in April 1961, but several years passed before the ordinance was enforced. Public hearings were held about the designation of "scenic view sites" and zoning changes were addressed. The outdoor advertising industry and the beautification forces were often at odds.

For more information on this topic during the 1960s, see Box 4 of the Municipal Art Commission Subject Files (Record Series 1652-02).

A sign for fishing worms next to a polka dot car, 1962.
[Item 194253](#), Record Series 1802-0P, SMA.



Billboard promoting Lud Kramer for City Council underneath the 45th St NE Viaduct; Husky Stadium in the background, 1962.
[Item 194173](#), Record Series 1802-0P, SMA.

Interns & Volunteers

We've had several new volunteers join us recently. Hannah Davenport recently moved here from Michigan and is a UW iSchool student considering archives as a career path, and Max Nicolai is a UW English/creative writing grad who is thinking about applying to library school. From the other side of the career cycle, retired archivist Janet Ness is now applying her experience to our collections. They have all already contributed valuable work to the archives and we are glad to have them on board.

They join Carla Ginnis, Staci Crouch, Jen Zook, Annalise Nicholson, Mike Cardinal, and Kelli Yakabu, who continue their work with our photos, textual records, moving images, electronic records, and maps. Additionally, our work-study students Haley Beedle and Harper Cottingham are still helping us process collections and serve researchers. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the current pandemic restrictions are lifted!

Newly Processed Collections

Recently processed collections at SMA include materials from former city councilmembers Rob Johnson and Abel Pacheco, and records from council committees.

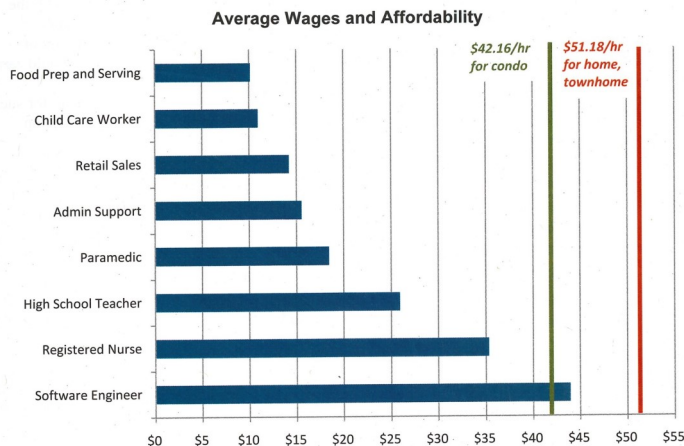
Rob Johnson's **Subject Files (Series 4641-02)** cover his 2016-2019 council term and include memos, reports, correspondence, presentations, and other documents. Much of Johnson's work focused on issues surrounding land use and zoning, and he shepherded the major Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) legislation through City Council shortly before leaving office in 2019.

Abel Pacheco's **Subject Files (Series 4668-02)** span his seven-month tenure on City Council during 2019 and cover issues including public safety, land use and zoning, transportation projects, police accountability, hotel worker protections, homelessness, and District 4 constituent concerns.

Recently processed committee records include the **Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development and Arts Committee Records (Series 4635-03)**, **Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee Records (Series 4613-07)**, **Human Services and Public Health Committee Records (Series 4613-08)**, and the **Finance and Neighborhoods Committee Records (Series 4613-09)**.

Also newly processed are **Mayor McGinn's Office Subject Files (Series 5246-03)**, covering his 2010-2013 term. Included in the records are memos, information packets, speaking points, and meeting materials collected and maintained by Mayor's Office staff. A range of topics are represented, most notably homelessness in Seattle and Seattle Police Department improvement and reform. Also noteworthy in this collection is a briefing of travel to Seattle's sister city of Kobe, Japan. The materials come from various city committees, departments, and individuals.

Ownership Affordability
Many Seattle workers cannot afford to own a home



Ownership Affordability from Seattle's 2009-2012 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, October 2008.
Box 3, Folder 10, Record Series 5246-03, SMA.

Pioneering Women in Seattle's Electrical Trades

In honor of Women's History Month, the exhibit currently on display in SMA's lobby display case highlights the first women to enter as electrical worker trainees at Seattle City Light. Through documents and photos, the exhibit shows how the women worked to hold the City accountable to a work environment free from harassment and discrimination, and opened the door for those who came after them.



One of the City's first ETTs, Megan Cornish, is interviewed in an edition of the City Light Connections employee video newsletter in 1984 (starting at 6.33).
[Item 4998](#), Record Series 1204-05, SMA.

City Light's Electrical Trades Trainee (ETT) program for women began in June 1974. Six of the trainees collectively filed a complaint in August that year citing unfair employment practices and discrimination. After being laid off in 1975, the women won their case in



Nettie Dokes, the first African American woman in the country to graduate as a journeyman level line worker. Photo dated June 30, 1992.
[Item 194192](#), Record Series 1204-01, SMA.

1976 and were awarded back pay, damages, reinstatement and retroactive promotion to electrical helper positions. Only one trainee ultimately graduated from the line worker apprentice program, and of the original ten women, seven were still with City Light fifteen years later.

The exhibit also shows how the struggle for equal opportunity and treatment of women in the trades continued in the years following, and persists today. The exhibit is on display on the 3rd floor at City Hall.

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular photo recently posted to [SMA's Flickr site](#) is this photo of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, looking north from Marion Street in 1952. A Flickr user commented, "I did not realize until seeing this picture how old the Viaduct was."



A view of Alaskan Way in 1952, at Marion looking north.
[Item 43556](#), Record Series 2613-07, SMA.

Continuing the theme, one of the most watched videos on SMA's [YouTube](#) channel with over 36,900 views is a 1950s Engineering Department film showing the Alaskan Way Viaduct. The film also includes footage of the restoration of the Ballard Bridge, and its reopening in 1939.



Alaskan Way Viaduct/Reconstruction of the Ballard Bridge, 1950/1940.
[Item 524](#), Record Series 2613-09, 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

In January, SMA's crowdsourcing transcription project was featured in an [episode of King 5 Evening News](#), resulting in many new remote volunteers now helping us to transcribe handwritten documents held in the archives. Visit our [volunteer page](#) if you're interested in joining the project!

The Seattle Times featured SMA in a [recent article](#) highlighting our popular [Find of the Month](#) feature, which regularly shares important and odd items from our collections, along with the stories they tell. SMA materials have also been used to inform and illustrate recent local news stories exploring the 1918 influenza pandemic and drawing comparisons to current events, including a [Seattle Times story](#) describing the Spanish flu in Seattle, and an article on social distancing in [The Stranger](#).

50 Years Ago: Takeover at Fort Lawton



On March 8, 1970, Native American activists and their allies scaled fences surrounding the recently decommissioned Fort Lawton military base in Seattle and launched a coordinated effort to peaceably occupy and reclaim the land for use by Native peoples. The occupation lasted several weeks and led to the creation of the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in what is now Discovery Park.

This still is from a recently cataloged documentary about Bernie Whitebear, the principal organizer of the occupation. It includes footage from the occupation as well as interviews with him and others who were there.

Bernie Whitebear: A Modern Warrior, 2000.
[Item 6625](#), Record Series 3902-01, SMA.

Upcoming Events

[Virtual] Moving History, Sundays, Mar 29-May 17, 4:30-5:30pm.
Weekly series of online screenings presented by MIPoPS in partnership with the Northwest Film Forum. More information [here](#).