

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 90 Winter 2024

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives: Farewell to City Archivist Anne Frantilla

After more than 25 years of service to the City of Seattle, City Archivist Anne Frantilla is retiring.

For the first two thirds of her tenure with the Seattle Municipal Archives she served as reference archivist, helping city employees and a wide range of public users find answers to their questions. In addition to reference, she focused on outreach, creating exhibits to help others understand what stories can be found in the Archives. The exhibits on [open housing](#), [redlining](#), and [women in the fire department](#), as well as a series of exhibits using audio content titled [Seattle Voices](#), served as a model for other archives staff to make their own strong contributions to outreach.



SMA archivists at the *Seattle at 150* book kick-off event on October 17, 2019. [L-R] Jules Irick, Julie Kerksen, Sarah Shipley, Anne Frantilla, Libby Hopfauf, and Jeanie Fisher.

During her time as City Archivist in the last third of her tenure, she continued the emphasis on outreach, leading publication of a book on Seattle's sesquicentennial created in cooperation with HistoryLink, *Seattle at 150: Stories of the City Through 150 Objects from the Seattle Municipal Archives*. Finding ways for others to hear the many, many voices in the archives, especially those previously unknown, has been her mission.

She is grateful to have been able to work with an amazing team of archivists and hard-working, funny and creative employees in the Office of the City Clerk. It was her honor and privilege to work in the Legislative Department, alongside passionate Councilmembers and all the other very talented members of the department in service to the City of Seattle and beyond.

The Mrs. Project

Archives often reveal incomplete stories about marginalized groups. The outdated practice of identifying women by using only their husbands' names in the historical record is one such gap. SMA is addressing this by restoring women's full names in the archival record. This effort promotes better access to the lives and stories of women and helps them reclaim their place in Seattle history.



Mrs. [Elizabeth Jane Brownfield] Weedin, wife of Robert Weedin, one of the original homesteaders. E 73rd St., 1900.

Biographical information: Elizabeth Jane Brownfield Weedin (22 Mar 1843 - 13 Jul 1910), daughter of John and Mary Ann (Potter) Brownfield, wife of Robert Weedin, mother of Mary, Robert, Margaret, John, Charles, Susan, Annie, Walter, and James.
[Image 29247](#), Series 5801-01, SMA.

The *Mrs. Project*, modeled after a similar project at the NYC archives, addressed incomplete names in our digital collections photo catalog. In 2024, Photo

Archivist Jules Irick extracted all catalog records with "Mrs." in the description and limited the data set to those lacking a complete female name. She was then able to cross-reference genealogical data, news articles, archives' records, and city directories to resolve several dozen descriptions, updating records to reflect women's full identities.



Mrs. C.K. [Emily Serena LaMotte] Sturtevant and her five daughters.

[Image 66253](#), Series 9940-01, SMA.

(Cont'd p. 2)

(Mrs. Project, cont'd.)

The *Mrs. Project* highlights regular citizens interacting with their government in records such as Clerk Files, along with more affluent women leveraging their social position for boosterism and advancing civic projects as documented in Parks records. In other collections we see female homesteaders, artists, employees, homeowners and leaders such as councilwomen and other dignitaries. When available, biographical information was added to the name entry record to give as complete a view of the individual as possible.



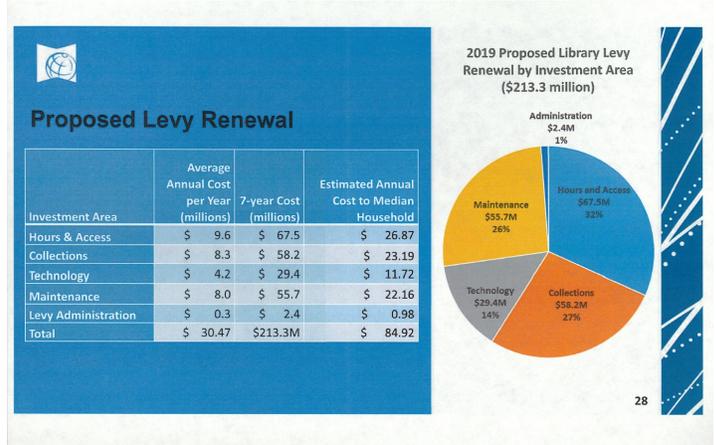
Medgar Evers Pool
[Dedication - Parks
Superintendent Hans
A Thompson presents
book "For Us the
Living" by Mrs. Myrtle
Louise Evers to pool
manager Ed King;
Judge Charles V
Johnson seated]
[Image 195939](#), Series
5802-10, SMA.



Kerry Viewpoint. Mr. [Francis Ford] and Mrs. [Lucy Glen Kerry]
Trimble and Doris Chase at dedication of Miss Chase's sculpture
[Changing Form], 1969.
[Image 29475](#), Series 5801-01, SMA.

Newly Processed Collections

Now processed and available for research are **Select Committee Records** ([Record Series 4642-05](#)) containing agendas, presentation materials, and sign-in sheets for two select committees chaired by former councilmember Debora Juarez. The materials cover 2017-2019 and include the Select Committee on Civic Arenas and the Select Committee on the Library Levy.



Slide showing details of proposed Library Levy renewal, presented at Select Committee on the Library Levy meeting on March 28, 2019.
Box 1, Series 4642-05, SMA.

In November, SMA received 144 cubic feet of Seattle Arts Commission records that had been held at the University of Washington. Records date from the 1960s through the 1990s and include minutes, newsletters, project files, public art grant records, subject files, and some audio-visual material.

Of particular interest are records relating to early Bumbershoot festivals, as well as the Artists in the City program in the 1970s. We are excited to add these records to our documentation of the City's arts programs and will be working over the coming months to process and integrate them into our collections.



Seattle Arts Commission boxes shelved in the SMA records vault.

Volunteers

Our great team of volunteers has been hard at work this fall, helping us make our records more accessible. Vanessa Granger, Janet Ness, Ilias Bowen-Sicalides, Percy Tarker, and Victoria Limwanich have been working on records ranging from early Engineering Department negatives and city reports and publications, to WTO records and slides of neighborhood architecture.

Debbie Isley and Lia Negro have been volunteering remotely, helping with transcription to increase accessibility of our audio collection. And our fantastic work study student Hetty Meissner helps us in numerous ways, not least making sure the boxes that are pulled for researchers get reshelfed correctly. We thank them all for their time and effort!

SCL Personnel Photos

City Light created an abundance of photographic images, many of dams and electrical work, but also of employees and employee life. A series of Personnel photographs are now available by employee name. Mostly unscanned, the over 1,500 negatives date from about 1950 to 1985 and are primarily portraits of employees at all levels.

Some events, such as awards, retirement parties, or presentations are also included. More research in other sources in the Archives is needed to get more information on these individuals. The images have high value for genealogists but can be used for other purposes as well.

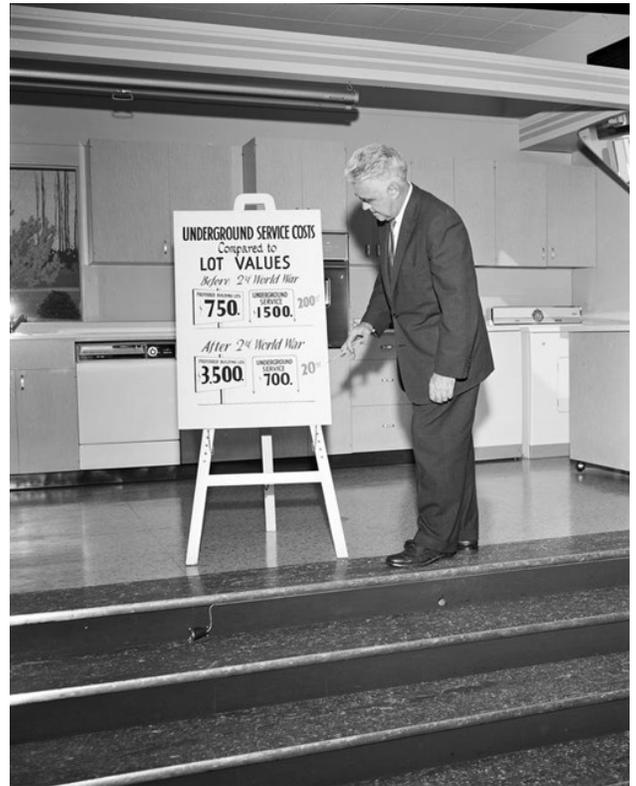
The names are listed in the [Record Series 1204-01 finding aid](#). To request a digital copy of a negative, please email archives@seattle.gov.



Bertha Jenkins,
May 1985.
[Image 208683](#),
Series 1204-01,
SMA.



Harry Kim, February 1993.
[Image 208684](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.



Gene Lester with lecture charts, August 17, 1962.
[Image 208692](#), 1204-01, SMA.

New Virtual Collection: The City Celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day

On October 6, 2014, the Seattle City Council first adopted Resolution 31538 declaring the second Monday in October Indigenous Peoples' Day, an opportunity to educate people and to recognize and celebrate the cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region. The resolution was unanimously approved by the City Council and was signed into law on October 13, 2014, the day of the first official celebration. The City has hosted an annual Indigenous Peoples Day celebration



Indigenous People's Day celebration, October 13, 2014.
[Image 194345](#), Series 5200-03, SMA.

at Seattle City Hall since then, featuring speakers, music, and performances related to each year's theme. [This new virtual collection](#) pulls together photos, documents, and audiovisual records relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations sponsored by the City of Seattle.

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular photo recently posted to SMA's Flickr page is this image showing 25th Avenue and Calhoun Street in Montlake, looking west. One eagle-eyed follower commented to say they recognized Montlake Elementary School in the distance, sharing that they had attended the school between 1958 and 1962.



[Image 2631](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

Uploaded to SMA's YouTube is a public service announcement from 1991 describing Seattle's Bicycle Program, including scenic shots of the city.



[Item 809](#), 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

A photo held by SMA showing Andy's Diner in 1954 was featured in a [Seattle Times article](#) about the new book from Vanishing Seattle: *Signs of Vanishing Seattle: Places Loved & Lost*. The building that was once occupied by Andy's Diner still stands at 2963 4th Ave South and is home to the Orient Express restaurant.

The Don Sherwood Parks History Collection is highlighted in a [MyNorthwest.com article](#) about the history of the Camp Long lodge, following an arson fire that damaged the lodge on November 11.



Andy's Diner, April 6, 1954.
[Image 78429](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

55 Years Ago: Holiday Spectacular



City Light home economists Judy Schelkamp [L] and Mary Norris [R] at SCL's Holiday Spectacular in December 1969. [Image 199586](#), City Light Negatives (Series 1204-01), SMA.

Upcoming Events

- Jan 15** History Café: Uncovering Seattle's "Lost" Cemetery. MOHAI, 6:30-8:00pm. Register [here](#).
- Jan 28** "This is What Democracy Looks Like" WTO documentary Screening, MOHAI, 7pm. Register [here](#).
- Feb 19** History Café: Hidden Echoes of Vietnam in Seattle, MOHAI, 6:30-8:00pm. Register [here](#).