

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 91 Spring 2025

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

We come across great stories in the archives all the time, whether they're revealed through documents, photos, audio, films, maps, or through any of the many formats and topics represented in our holdings.

One story we came across recently is from the newly processed Seattle Arts Commission Director's Records (Series 7401-02), which contains various documents created during the tenure of commission director John Blaine between 1970 and 1975 (read



Franklin High School Jazz Lab Band, 1974.

more about the collection under *Newly Processed Collections* on p. 2). Included in the records is a file relating to the Franklin Jazz Lab Band, the multi-award winning student band that was one of the country's top high school jazz bands during the 1970s.

The file documents efforts by the Arts Commission and the Alliance for Arts Education to secure funding for the band to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on July 22, 1974. Through correspondence, memos, travel plans, copies of official proclamations, and a wonderful collection of black and white photos showing the student musicians, the file chronicles not only the eventual trip to D.C. but also the band's legendary success during this time.

The photos with the file include group shots of the band posing in front of Franklin High School and the Space Needle, and gathered around the desk of then-Governor Dan Evans. Photos of individual musicians include names, something we love to see! One of the students playing in the band at this time was a young Kenny G, who can be seen in the group pictures and also in his own saxophone-action portrait.

The entire file has been scanned and can be browsed online at our [Digital Collections site](#).



Kenny G, noted on the photo as "Ken Gorelick, Graduating Senior."

New Voices Exhibits

Two new [Seattle Voices exhibits](#), highlighting audio from archived audio recordings, are now available on SMA's website.

Audio excerpted from a 1983 Public Health and Safety Committee is the focus of a Voices exhibit on the [AIDS Crisis](#). The audio features testimony from city officials and community members regarding a [pending resolution](#) to address the growing social, political, and public health concerns over the rapid spread of AIDS. The resolution passed unanimously one week after the meeting, declaring AIDS a public health emergency, seeking federal legislation to fund large scale research and treatment, and pledging local support and funding for tracking and treatment programs.

Another Voices exhibit features a [Native American History Panel](#) held on July 25, 2001. Topics discussed included histories of federal Indian policy, treaties, Indigenous peoples in the Puget Sound, early encounters between the Denny Party and Chief Seattle, Duwamish tribal recognition, and upcoming reconciliation events organized by the City of Seattle.

We are grateful to the Washington State Historical Society for funding these new exhibits courtesy of the Diversity in Local History grant. More Voices exhibits are in the works and will be added to the website soon!

Welcome Vanessa Granger!

SMA is happy to welcome Vanessa Granger on board as a temporary employee. Vanessa is currently working on her MLIS degree and has recently completed an internship with the National Archives at Seattle, and has also been volunteering with SMA for a year and a half.

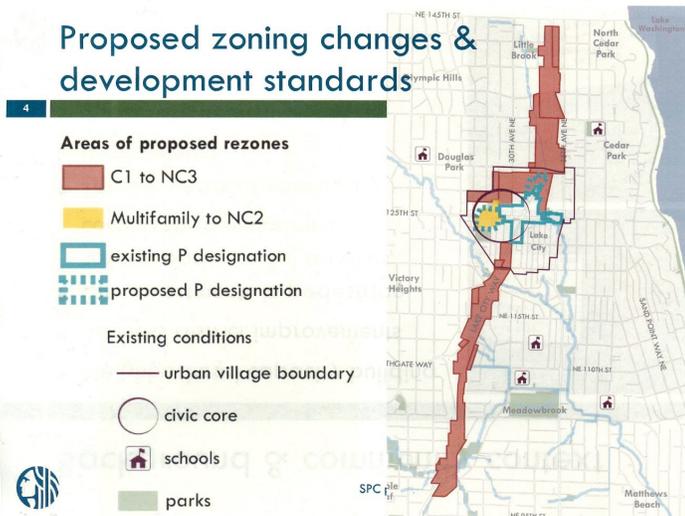
Vanessa will be with us into August, working on email processing, digital collections, and other projects.



Newly Processed Collections

Collections now processed and available for research at SMA include records from two former councilmembers, Debora Juarez and Tanya Woo.

Debora Juarez represented District 5 for two terms on City Council, from 2016 through 2023. Comprising of 31 boxes and 13 GB of digital files, **Debora Juarez Subject Files (Record Series 4642-02)** highlight her particular interest in issues relating to Indigenous communities and local tribes, as well as concerns specific to her North Seattle district. Sound Transit's light rail expansion and associated development in the Northgate neighborhood is also well covered. Other major projects represented include the waterfront redevelopment, competing proposals for new arenas, and the North Precinct. The records also document topics such as homelessness, parks, police accountability, Aurora Avenue, opioids, the employee head tax, and the sweetened beverage tax.



Lake City proposed zoning changes, July 2016.
Box 6, Folder 20, Series 4642-02, SMA.

Other records processed from Juarez's office include records from the committees she chaired: **Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries, and Waterfront Committee Records (Record Series 4642-03)**; **Civic Development, Public Assets, and Native Communities Committee Records (Series 4642-04)**; **Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee Records (Series 4642-07)**; and **Select Committee Records (Series 4642-05)**. Also processed are photographs from Juarez's office, see *Recently Processed Photos* on page 3.

Tanya Woo held City Council's Position 8 seat during 2024. Records from Woo's office during this time are covered in **Subject Files (Series 4697-02)** and **Electronic Correspondence (Series 4697-01)**. Topics include affordable housing, urban trees, homelessness, public safety, app-based worker laws, and the Chinatown-International District.

Also newly processed are **Seattle Arts Commission Director's Records (Series 7401-02)** which cover 1970-1975 and contain the records of SAC Director John Blaine. The beginning of the Allied Arts

Committee and the Alliance for Arts Education is documented through correspondence, proposals, committee meeting minutes, by-laws, and discussion of budgets and funding. Also documented is work with groups like the Franklin Jazz Band (see *Out of the Archives*, p. 1), the Junior League of Seattle, and the Corporate Identity Task Force.



Educational Arts Association Conference program, 1975.
Box 1, Folder 11, Series 7401-02, SMA.

Other newly processed records include a **Sidewalk Elevator Permit Book (Series 0605-02)** covering 1904-1911, three volumes of **Areaway Records (Series 0605-01)** dating from 1905 to 1921, and a **Steam Plant Scrapbook (Series 1209-05)** relating to SCL's Georgetown and Lake Union steam plants, dating from 1973 and containing news clippings and photos.

Newly processed digital records include **Aquatic Resources Reports (Series 7009-02)** from SPU, containing Cedar River Hatchery Annual Reports 1991-2024, Landsburg Fish Ladder Reports 2004-2024, and Sockeye Broodstock Biosampling Reports 2005-2023.

Volunteers

MLIS student Natalie Edmonds recently completed an internship with SMA for which she processed photos, textual records, and email; scanned and cataloged visual materials, and created finding aids. Our newest volunteer, Denise Blike, started in February and has been working on our neighborhood architecture slide collection. Ilias Bowen-Sicalides, Percy Tarker, Janet Ness, and Victoria Limwanich have been continuing their work on numerous projects including cataloging city publications, scanning oversized General Files, processing Central Staff records, and scanning and cataloging slides. And our work-study student Hetty Meissner continues to help us in many ways as she gets ready to graduate from UW. We appreciate all their work to make our records more accessible!

Recently Processed Photos

Photos in the **Debora Juarez Subject Files Photograph Collection (Series 4642-06)** predominantly show Juarez engaged in projects and planning in Lake City and Northgate areas. Highlights include the opening of the John Lewis pedestrian bridge with Mayor Durkan; the opening of the Lake City Library; announcing the planning for the NHL facility; and other groundbreaking events related to transportation and commerce at Northgate. Other events shown in the photos include community discussions of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan, and celebrations such as the Salmon Homecoming on Elliott Bay.

All photos in Series 4642-06 are available on [SMA's Digital Collections site](#).



Councilmember Juarez attends the Northgate Pedestrian Bridge Groundbreaking with Mayor Jenny Durkan and others. The John Lewis Memorial Bridge would open on October 2, 2021, connecting North Seattle College and the Northgate Transit Center over I-5. [Image 208203](#), 4642-06, SMA.



Councilmember Juarez appears at NHL practice facility announcement at Northgate Mall, October 8, 2018. Seattle City Council, led by Council President Juarez, brought National Hockey League team the Kraken to Seattle beginning in 2018. The project transformed Northgate Mall into the team's headquarters and training facility. [Image 208280](#), Series 4642-06, SMA.



Councilmember Juarez attends the opening of Lake City Library on January 12, 2019. The library's branch renovation began in 2018 and was completed in 2019.

[Image 208301](#), Series 4642-06, SMA.

96 Years Ago: Market Signage

The City Council received [a letter](#) from the Board of Public Works in October 1929, transmitting the following request from Arthur Goodwin, the manager of Pike Place Public Markets, Inc.:

"This Company would like to get permission from the City Council to build a Neon sign measuring 31 feet in length by 12 feet high, to read PUBLIC MARKET and to be placed on top of the City Farmer's Shed of the Pike Place Market, facing east on Pine Street. This sign will not only be attractive, but an asset as well to the market in general, and can be read for several blocks of this intersection. Enclosed you will find sketch of the proposed sign. Thank you in advance for any favorable action taken in the matter."



The file is stamped "granted."

Five years later, a [Board of Public Works file](#) contains a second request for a sign, this one on Pike Street on a platform above the comfort station. The drawing on the application will look familiar to today's Pike Place Market visitors.

Read about more finds from the archives at the [Find of the Month](#) section of our website!

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular photo recently posted to SMA's Flickr site shows WTO protestors marching down 7th Avenue on November 29, 1999.



[Image 175628](#), Series 0207-01, SMA.

Recently posted to SMA's YouTube channel is a video of silent footage showing City Light workers performing maintenance on transmission towers in 1966. The footage includes shots of workers high on the towers, including some views of the Skagit River area as well as detailed closeups of rolling cable and the work performed.



[Item 14](#), Record Series 1204-05, 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 [new HistoryLink article](#) on the history of 114 21st Ave, which between 1959 and 1962 served as the location of the Seattle Urban Renewal Enterprise (SURE) model home and office, is both illustrated and informed by materials held at SMA. Another recent HistoryLink article on the [Dearborn Street regrade](#) also features SMA photos, as does a [Seattle Times article](#) on the former municipal Seattle Ski Park at Snoqualmie Pass. And a [recent KUOW story](#) on former City Councilmember Wing Luke features archived audio held by SMA from a 1963 hearing on the Open Housing Act, also featured in our online [Open Housing Exhibit](#).



Seattle Urban Renewal Enterprise (SURE) sign at 114 21st Ave, 1960.

[Image 63671](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

108 Years Ago: Fremont Bridge



The Fremont Bridge pictured on April 27, 1917, not long before it officially opened to the public that year on June 15.

[Image 1323](#), Engineering Department Negatives (Series 2613-07), SMA.

Upcoming Events

May 13-16 Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting (Virtual). More information and registration [here](#).

June 18 History Café: A Waterfront Without Wobblies, MOHAI. 6:30-8:00pm. Register [here](#).