

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Out of the Archives

It's been a busy summer here at the archives! At the end of June, SMA wrapped up work for our [Diversity in Local History grant project](#) funded by the [Washington State Historical Society \(WSHS\)](#).

Under the direction of SMA's Audiovisual Archivist Libby Hopfauf, grant-funded intern Sophie Belz researched and wrote ten new Seattle Voices exhibits highlighting excerpts from audio recordings of public comment at City Council meetings that more inclusively represent community participation in the democratic process. Project work included selecting and transcribing audio clips, conducting historical context research, and designing each exhibit.

The exhibits explore testimony given on these topics: [the AIDS crisis](#); an [assault weapons ban](#); [implementing a cable tv franchise](#) in the Central Area; Seattle's [Community Development Block Grant program](#); proposed plans for the initial development of [Discovery Park](#); [Fort Lawton](#) historic preservation planning; a [Native American History Panel](#) held in 2001; [prostitution laws](#) in 1972; the Seattle Human Rights Commission investigating allegations of SPD misconduct at a [UW protest](#); and the city's participation in the federal government's [Weed and Seed community revitalization grant program](#).



From *Seattle Weed & Seed Report to the Community*, 2006.  
[Document 8726](#), Series 1801-92, SMA.

The Weed and Seed topic was further researched to become an in-depth [online exhibit](#), pulling from a variety of sources in the archives such as textual records, photographs, maps, legislative records and audio recordings, and including links to

additional resources. The exhibit explores Seattle's Weed and Seed program during the 1990s and its lasting impacts on neighborhoods such as the Central District. Under the program, federal funds were provided to support policing initiatives seeking to "weed" out violence, drug dealing, and crime, and "seed" under-resourced areas with programming and economic opportunity. Despite being marketed as a community revitalization and reinvestment initiative, the program expanded punitive drug policies and militarized law enforcement in cities across the country, including Seattle. Read much more in the exhibit, available [on our website](#).

We are grateful to WSHS for their support of these new online resources and for other Diversity in Local History grant projects around the state.

Another project we've been busy working on this summer is a new format for the Archives Gazette, coming your way soon. Stay tuned!

## New Favorite Archival Object Videos

We've recently added two new videos to our Favorite Archival Object video series, where SMA archivists take turns sharing one of their favorite items or collections from the archives.

The recent installments explore two different topics and types of records: one highlights [social media posts related to ARTS at King Street Station](#), from inception to its inaugural exhibition as captured through the City's social media archives; and the other features a [United Indians of All Tribes proclamation](#)

regarding the 1970 Takeover at Fort Lawton, which eventually led to the creation of the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Discovery Park.

These and all other videos in the series are available to view at [SMA's YouTube channel](#).



## Newly Processed Collections

Recently processed are **Tammy Morales Subject Files (Series 4657-02)** covering work done during her time serving on Seattle City Council between 2019 and 2024. In addition to files relating specifically to District 2 neighborhoods, records cover public safety issues such as police accountability legislation and SPD recruitments, labor contracts, and crowd control. Other topics include landlord/tenant issues; homelessness and housing; the Equitable Development Initiative; labor issues including gig workers and domestic workers; transportation and transit; progressive revenue and budgeting; land use; the city's comprehensive plan; education, and public health, including health and economic issues related to the Covid 19 pandemic.

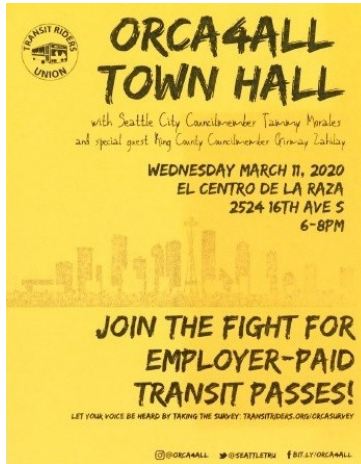
**Tammy Morales Committee Records (Series 4657-03)**, include records from committees she chaired, such as the Community Economic Development Committee (2020), the Neighborhoods, Education, Civil Rights, and Culture Committee (2022-2023), and the Land Use Committee (2024).

Also newly processed are **Bumbershoot Festival Records (Series 7405-01)** from the Seattle Arts Commission. The bulk of the records consist of correspondence and memos, reports, promotional materials, and financial information related to the commission's administration of the Bumbershoot Festival between 1971 and 1974. First organized in 1971, by 1974 Bumbershoot was a 10-day event with attendance of over 100,000, and in 1977 it became a four-day festival held at the Seattle Center during Labor Day weekend. The records show the development of the festival from a small and casual event to a more professionalized festival with a larger staff, bigger acts, and increased corporate and grant funding.



[Sketch for Bumbershoot clown](#), 1974.

Box 6, Folder 1, Bumbershoot Festival Records (Series 7405-01), SMA.



ORCA 4 All Town Hall event flyer, 2020.  
Box 3, Folder 19, Series 4657-02, SMA.

## 90 Years Ago: Vice in Seattle

A [1935 report](#) outlines the state of “gambling, vice, and liquor conditions” in Seattle, describing the landscape of prostitution, speakeasies, gambling houses, and other illegal establishments in the city. The report argued that these vice conditions bred crime, lowered property values, and diverted large amounts of money from legitimate businesses.

Investigators believed the “wide open” operation of these establishments was only possible because of police graft, which they saw as more dangerous than the vice itself. The report described the corruption as a condition that “is undermining the political structure of the city, and is causing increased disrespect for law and law enforcement officers,” as well as lowered morale on the police force.



Tuxedo Card Room at Sixth and Main, September 1949.

[Image 41923](#), Engineering Department Negatives (Series 2613-07), SMA.

An appendix listed specific addresses where witnesses alleged illegal activities were taking place. The Triangle Whist Club at 1616 Westlake was said to allow cards after hours, and lotteries were said to be run from several addresses in Chinatown. Gambling could be found everywhere from the Sky-Hi at 511 ½ 7th Ave. S. to Green's Cigar Store at 1333 Third Ave. to room 50 at the Berkshire Hotel. The Black and Tan at 12th and Jackson was alleged to be a speakeasy with gambling and unlicensed dancing. Prostitution was attached to addresses throughout downtown, Belltown, and First Hill, as well as a number of addresses and areas south of Yesler.

Recommendations in the report were wide ranging, from regulating the use of barred doors in businesses to altering how massage parlors were licensed. Many suggestions related to the operation of the Police Department, including changing the way police chiefs were appointed to a method less affected by politics, professionalizing the vice squad, and providing training for new officers who currently were not really receiving any. (The report noted that the police manual had not been updated since 1922.)



## Department of Transportation Photos

Born-digital photographs from the Department of Transportation Administration and Communication Division ([Series 8100-01](#)) capture the transformation of Seattle's neighborhoods and the city's evolving transportation landscape. Taken from the early 2000s through the 2020s, the collection spans many neighborhoods including Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, Downtown, Beacon Hill, Capitol Hill, Queen Anne, South Lake Union, Belltown, and SODO. Landmark areas such as Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square, and the Stadium District are also represented.

Transportation and infrastructure are central themes. The photographs document bridges, ferries, buses, railyards, and the waterfront trolley, alongside scenes of street paving, repair work, and traffic signage. Bike paths and cyclists appear frequently, reflecting Seattle's ongoing efforts to support multimodal transit.



Vehicles and cyclists on the lower West Seattle bridge, April 2005.  
[Image 158588](#), Series 8100-01, SMA.

The images also capture iconic views of the city and its surroundings—Golden Gardens beach, the Space Needle, Mount Rainier, and the downtown skyline. Among the most striking images are those showing the aftermath of the [2006 Hanukkah Eve Windstorm](#), which caused widespread damage across Seattle.



Damage after the Hannukkah Eve Windstorm, December 2006.  
[Image 158635](#), Series 8100-01, SMA.

More recent photographs reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, showing empty streets, closed playgrounds, social distancing signage, and the “[Stay Healthy Streets](#)” initiative during Washington’s [Stay Home, Stay Safe order](#).

These photographs provide a visual chronicle of infrastructure, neighborhood change, and adaptation in Seattle’s communities over two decades. Explore the full collection online: [Seattle Department of Transportation Digital Photographs](#).



Stay Healthy Streets sign with social distancing reminder, 2020.  
[Image 203757](#), Series 8100-01, SMA.

## Volunteers

Our volunteers have been keeping busy this summer! Ilias Bowen-Sicalides continues to whittle down the backlog of publications to be cataloged and recently dove into a new accession of docs from the Parks Department. Janet Ness has been creating preservation scans of nitrate negatives, as well as adding information about Engineering Department negatives to the finding aid to make them more accessible. Percy Tarker continues to scan and catalog slides from the Historic Building Photograph Survey collection, and also recently rehoused newly accessioned visual materials from the Seattle Gay News. And Natalie Edmonds has been doing a variety of projects, including scanning Park Board minutes and cataloging books for our reference library.

Their work behind the scenes helps us make more of our records available to the public and we are grateful for their help!



## YouTube and Flickr News

A popular photo recently posted to SMA's Flickr site is this aerial photo of Green Lake, circa 1980s.



[Image 208737](#), Record Series 5802-09, SMA.

One of the most popular videos recently posted to SMA's YouTube channel is B-roll footage created by the Seattle Channel for a news segment on the Bruce Lee Collectors Exhibit, which ran June-November 2003 at Amasia College (519 Sixth Avenue South) in Seattle's Chinatown/International District.



[Item 15682](#), Record Series 3902-01, SMA.

## SMA in the News

An [article in the University of Washington Magazine](#) highlights the life and accomplishments of former City Councilmember Jeanette Williams, for whom the West Seattle Bridge is named, and features photos from SMA's collections. SMA images were also used to illustrate local stories from [KUOW](#) and the [Seattle Transit blog](#), as well as recent HistoryLink articles including a [Shaping Seattle interview with Mickey Smith](#) and an essay on the [history of Washington State parks](#). Clips from video footage held at SMA were used for a [recent Seattle Times feature](#) about the history of the Seattle waterfront, helping to illustrate how the area has changed over time.



Councilmember Jeanette Williams, 1974.  
[Image 51273](#), Series 8200-13, SMA.

## 20 Years Ago: Cal Anderson Park Dedication



On September 24, 2005, Cal Anderson Park was officially opened after an extensive renovation which added an undergrounded reservoir, a water feature, playground, new community buildings, paths, and benches.

[Image 204581](#), Department of Parks and Recreation Digital Photographs (Series 5802-15), SMA.

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### Upcoming Events

Sept 17 **History Café: Kubota Garden.** MOHAI, 6:30-8:30pm.  
More information and registration [here](#).