

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Theatre Program Records, 1969-1999

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Title	Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Theatre Program Records
Dates	1969-1999 (inclusive) 1969 1999 1975-1983 (bulk) 1975 1983
Quantity	.8 cubic feet, (2 boxes)
Collection Number	5807-15
Summary	Records concerning theater programs sponsored by the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation.
Repository	Seattle Municipal Archives Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 archives@seattle.gov
Access Restrictions	Records are open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for processing this record series was provided through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Historical Note

The Department of Parks and Recreation maintains the City's parks, shorelines, and boulevards; and administers community centers, public golf courses, and other athletic and cultural facilities. Seattle's first park was established in 1884 after David Denny donated land to the City for that purpose. At that time, a three-member park committee, with limited authority, was created to manage the nascent park system. A Board of Parks Commissioners was established in 1890 with control over all public parks and authority to appoint a Parks Superintendent. In 1896, the City Charter created the position of Superintendent of Streets, Sewers and Parks. The Parks Department became a separate entity in 1904. In 1926, a City Charter amendment abolished the position of Superintendent, distributing its responsibilities between the Head Gardener and the Landscape Architect. A 1948 City Charter amendment required the Board of Park Commissioners to appoint a park superintendent to administer the department. In 1967, another City Charter Amendment reconstituted the Board as an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council, changed the agency name to Department of Parks and Recreation,

and placed fiscal and operational administration under the superintendent. In 1902 the City hired the Olmsted Brothers, the country's premier landscape architectural firm, to design a parks and boulevards system. Although not all of the plan was implemented, the Olmsted legacy is evident in many of Seattle's parks and boulevards. The City acquired significant amounts of property for park purposes following the turn of the 20th Century, but in 1926 further acquisition was limited by a City Charter amendment that stipulated only money in the Park Fund could be used for that purpose. However, in the 1970s the Forward Thrust Bond issue, along with federal grants and the Seattle Model City Program, supported the largest expansion of the Park system in Seattle history. These programs funded more than 70 new parks and park facilities. The Department manages over 6,000 acres of park land, over two dozen community centers, five municipal golf courses, the Aquarium, and many other recreational and athletic facilities.

Content Description

Records of the Department's Performing and Visual Arts section, including correspondence, memos, grant files, schedules, flyers, press releases, reports and fact sheets, concerning operations of two theatre programs sponsored and supported by the City of Seattle. Beginning in 1969, the Bathhouse Theatre operated in a converted bathhouse at Green Lake Park, hosted several companies, presented professional and amateur productions, and provided training for younger actors. Poncho Theatre, located near the entrance of Woodland Park Zoo, opened in 1971 under zoo management and in 1975 became a professional theatre for the theatre arts education of children, young adults and their families. Also included are records of the Drama Board of the Bathhouse Theatre and Poncho Theatre Advisory Council, including minutes, correspondence, budgets and organizational documents.

For related records documenting the administration of the Performing and Visual Arts Program, see record series 5807-14.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Theatre Program Records , Record Series 5807-15. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged into subseries for each theatre and advisory body.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Bathhouse Theatre, 1975-1999

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Bathhouse Backstage Newsletter	undated
1/2	Brochures and Flyers	1978-1981
1/3	Clippings	1976-1999
1/4	Correspondence	1979-1983
1/5	Fact Sheet	undated
1/6	Financial Records	1979-1981
1/7	Floor Plans	1983
1/8	Fund Raising	1973-1982
1/9	Press Releases	1976-1983
1/10	Proposal For Sponsorship	1981
1/11	Reports	1975-1982

Drama Board of the Bathhouse Theatre, 1969-1982

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/12	Budget	1975-1977
1/13	Constitution and Bylaws	1969
1/14	Correspondence	1974-1982
1/15	Membership Lists	1975-1976
1/16	Minutes	1974-1982
1/17	Tax Exemption	1972-1977

Poncho Theatre, 1975-1985

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/18	Attendance and Vending Machine Sales	1980
1/19	Clippings	1975-1981
1/20	Correspondence, John Chambliss	1980
1/21	Correspondence and Weekly Reports, Richard Kalinoski and Staff	1982-1983
2/1	Fact Sheet	undated
2/2	Flyers	1976-1982
2/3	Music, Film, etc. Events	1976
2/4	News Releases	1981-1983
2/5	Poncho Post (Newsletter)	1983
2/6	Schedules	1982-1983
2/7	Poncho Theatre / Seattle Children's Theatre	1982-1985
2/8	Ticket Prices	1982-1983

Poncho Theatre Advisory Council, 1975-1982

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/9	Budget	1975-1977
2/10	School Study Guides	1981
2/11	Correspondence	1976-1982

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/12	Grants	1975-1979
2/13	Membership	1976-1977
2/14	Minutes and Correspondence	1975-1976
2/15	Minutes, Financial Reports and Correspondence	1977
2/16	Minutes	1981
2/17	Organization	1975-1977

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Children's theater--Washington (State)--Seattle

Theater--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Chambless, John

Corporate Names :

Seattle Children's Theatre

Bathhouse Theatre

PONCHO (Organization : Seattle, Wash.). Theatre

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Kalinoski, Richard

(creator)

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness

2011