

Dept. of Community Development Community Renewal Program Records, 1959-1971

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Community Development
Title	Dept. of Community Development Community Renewal Program Records
Dates	1959-1971 (inclusive) 1959 1971
Quantity	2.4 cubic feet, (4 boxes)
Collection Number	1642-04
Summary	Records of Frank McChesney from his work with Seattle's Community Renewal Program (CRP). McChesney was the first project director of CRP and later served as Senior Urban Renewal Planner for the City.
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

Historical Note

In 1957, the Washington State Legislature adopted a "Urban Renewal Act" enabling cities of Washington to take action to prevent, arrest, and eliminate blight. After the US Housing Act of 1959 authorized the Housing and Home Finance Administration within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to localities for the preparation of Community Renewal Programs, Seattle formed a Community Renewal Program Committee. The federal Community Renewal Programs were designed to assist cities in the development of long-range comprehensive plans for city-wide renewal, inventorying existing "blight" both residential and non-residential, assessment of public facilities, streets, schools, parks and playgrounds, and libraries, and to assess the urban renewal treatment needed to "recapture, or create anew the good environment."

Seattle City Council authorized an application for the federal Community Renewal Program (CRP) in 1962 (Ordinance 91682) and the contract between Housing and Home Finance Agency and the City of Seattle was signed January 25, 1963. The CRP number was Wash. R-12 (CR). The total amount was for \$201,491, of which federal monies constituted \$134,329 (or two third of the total amount) and \$67,162 was made up by City appropriations and contributed staff services. Subcontracts were let for economic studies, field surveys, and statistical work, as well as for analyzing 1960 census data.

Although the Planning commission suggested the administration of the grant be transferred to their office, it remained in the Urban Renewal Office within the Executive Department until 1969 when entire Urban Renewal Division was transferred to the newly created Department of Community Development.

The goal of the Community Renewal Program was to conduct a two-year study to develop a 10-year urban renewal program with an emphasis on community rehabilitation. Specifically the study was focused on: understanding "blight" in Seattle, which included: determining the role of private enterprise, and analyzing the potential re-use of land. Other goals included: learning what public efforts are needed, reviewing codes and ordinances relating to urban renewal; and establishing priorities for urban renewal projects in Seattle. The CRP was renewed as a support function for the Model Cities project in 1969.

Frank McChesney was hired in 1962 as project director for the Community Renewal Program; he was previously in charge of Pittsburgh's CRP. He was promoted to Senior Urban Renewal Planner in 1963. Other individuals hired as Urban Renewal Planners included Assistant Community Renewal Planner Tom Bay, Junior Community Renewal Planners William Wallace, Edward Shaw, and King Katz.

The City contracted with the University of Washington for electronic data processing and various other consultants for other pieces of the grant. Other public agencies participating in the CRP included various City departments : building, Engineering, Health, Parks, Fire, Police, the City Planning Commission, the Seattle housing Authority, The Seattle School District, the Puget Sound Regional Planning council, the Port authority and the Puget Sound Regional Transportation Study.

Other urban renewal projects in the 1960s included: Yesler-Atlantic, University-Northlake, South Seattle, and the Pike Place Market.

Content Description

Primarily the records of the Community Renewal Program, although there is some information on other urban renewal projects including Northlake/ University, First Hill, Cherry Hill, and the Yesler-Atlantic Project. Correspondents include the Planning Commission, the University of Washington, and members of the Civic Unity Committee. Board minutes for the Civic Unity Committee are also included. There is some information on how the continuation of the grant overlapped with the Seattle Model City Program.

In addition to correspondence of Frank McChesney, the records include correspondence from 1962 to 1964 of Talbot Wegg, Urban Renewal Coordinator in the Office of Urban Renewal, who was responsible for hiring Frank McChesney. Correspondence concerns CRP program in other cities, the hiring of additional personnel, and consultant research for the CRP.

The bulk of the records (2.0 cf) relate to the CRP. A Steering Committee was established with the Planning Commission staff and staff of the Office of Urban Renewal to assist with survey methodologies. The progress reports, quarterly reports, and minutes, provide an overview of the challenges and issues the project encountered as well as background on decisions made in the CRP.

Drafts of the CRP application with the Urban Renewal Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency is included along with subsequent revisions in 1965 and the final contract. Correspondence back and forth between the two agencies is included. Seattle requested copies of many other cities' applications for Community Urban Renewal Programs, and these are included in the records. Correspondence with the Regional Director for Urban Renewal in Region VI of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, as well as staff from Washington, D.C. during the submittal of the CRP application is included. The CRP application was submitted with ten working papers outlining procedure of developing the study; twenty-one working papers were written in total and they are included in these

records. Topics include blight analysis, survey manuals and housing evaluation. Drafts of a final report are included, but there is no final draft.

A large portion of the data analysis and survey work was done by contractors. Correspondence and contracts with consultants is included. The University of Washington was involved in mapping work and other consultants worked on urban design and census data.

Information on other urban renewal projects are included in this records series. Overviews of projects such as the Cherry Hill Project and the Yesler Atlantic program are included. Background information used in urban renewal projects is at the end of the records. Information on housing, labor, and industry is included.

Correspondents include: Talbot Wegg, Urban Renewal Coordinator, John (Jack) P. Willison, Urban Renewal Director, city officials in other cities involved in CRP, and Urban Renewal officials at the federal level.

Related records include other Urban Renewal Program records as well as Urban Renewal and Planning studies in the Documents Catalog.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Community Renewal Program Records, Record Series 1642-04. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

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

1642-04: Community Renewal Program Records, 1959-1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Correspondence	1962
1/2	Correspondence	1962
1/3	Correspondence	1963
1/4	Correspondence	1963-

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/5	Correspondence	1964
1/6	Correspondence	1964-1968
1/7	Correspondence - City Council	1958-1964
1/8	Correspondence - City Planning Commission	1959
1/9	Correspondence and Minutes - Civic Unity Committee	1960-1963
Community Renewal Program		
Box/Folder		
1/10	Project Information	1961-1963
1/11	Progress Reports	1963-1964
1/12	Quarterly Reports	1962-1965
1/13	Steering Committee Minutes	1962-1964
1/14	Steering Committee Memoranda	1963-1964
1/15	Staff Notes	1964
1/16	Speakers and Presentations	1962-1963
1/17	Conferences (includes speakers)	1962
1/18	Bibliography	-
1/19	Application	1959-1961
½0	Contract - Application - Seattle	1962-
½1	Application Revisions	1964-1968
½2	Contract - Revisions - Seattle	1965-
½3	Phase II Seattle Development Program	1969-1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
½4	Application - Amended Grant / Phase III / Model Cities Support	1968-1969
½5	Contract - Housing and Home Finance Agency	1962-1965
Contracts: Other Cities		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
½6	Los Angeles	1962
½7	Milwaukee	1962
½8	Pittsburgh	1962-
½9	San Francisco	1962-
1/30	Spokane	1962-
1/31	Other Cities	1961-1962
Consulting Contracts		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
2/1	General	1964-1965
2/2	University of Washington	1963-1964
2/3	Data Processing	1963
2/4	Economic Analysis	1962-1964
2/5	Fenton, Conger, Ballaine	1964
2/6	Puget Sound Regional Transportation Study	1963-1964
2/7	Tippetts, Abbott, McCarthy, Stratton	1963
2/8	Urban Design / John Morse and Associates	1965
2/9	Urban Design / Ted Bower	1964-1965

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Working Papers		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
2/10	#1 Goals, Techniques, Scheduling and Organization of the CRP	1962
2/11	#2 Data Files	1962-
2/12	#3 Urban Blight Studies	1962-
2/13	#4 Planning Commission	1962-
2/14	#5 Industrial Land	1962-
2/15	#6 Commercial Land	1962
2/16	#7 Residential Land	1962
2/17	#8 Sociological Studies	1962
2/18	#9 Urban Design	1962-
2/19	#10 Mayor's Working Committee	1962-
2/20	#11 Preliminary Analysis of the Cherry Hill Urban Renewal Conservation Project	1962-
2/21	#12 Characteristics of Non Sound Housing	1963-
2/22	#13 Residential Prototype Study	1963
2/23	#14 Field Survey Manual	1963
2/24	#15 Survey Manual (Assessors' Records)	1963
2/25	#16 Urban Renewal Study Areas	1963-
2/26	#17 Survey Manual (Office Evaluations)	1963-
2/27	#18 Use of Penalty Point System in Residential and non-residential Blight Analysis	1963-

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/28	#19 Punch Cards	1963
2/29	#20 Urban Renewal Study Area Analysis	1963
2/30	#21 Continuing Program	1964
Box/Folder		
2/31	Report - Preliminary Drafts	1965-1966
2/32	Report - Draft	1966
Research and Background		
Box/Folder		
2/33	Blight Analysis	1959-1963
2/34	Census Research	1962-1964
2/35	Data Processing - Other Cities	1961-1963
2/36	Employment Data	1960-1963
3/1	Housing / Relocation	1964-1966
3/2	Housing	1964-
3/3	Mapping / UW	1963-1964
3/4	Mapping - Map List and Penalty Points	1964
3/5	Relocation Guide - Commercial Businesses	1963-1965
3/6	Surveys (includes key punch instructions)	-
Box/Folder		
3/7	South Seattle Urban Renewal Planning Progress Reports 1 and 2	1964-
3/8	South Seattle Environmental Study	1965

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/9	Urban Renewal Memos 1-4	1963-
3/10	Central Business District	1964
3/11	Cherry Hill Urban Renewal Project	1960-1962
3/12	Fremont Renewal	1964
3/13	Community Coordination Project / Skid Road	1969-1970
3/14	Yesler Atlantic Program	1965

Background

Box/Folder

3/15	Seattle (includes maps and tours)	1962-1963
3/16	Urban Renewal - Seattle	1960-
3/17	Washington State	1962-
4/1	Sociological	1960-1963
4/2	Industry	1962-1966
4/3	Labor	1966-1967
4/4	Puget Sound	1959-1962
4/5	Urban Renewal	1962-1966
4/6	Minority Housing - U.S.	1962
4/7	Population	1961-
4/8	Real Estate	1964-

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

City planning--Washington (State)--Seattle
Community development--Washington (State)--Seattle
Urban renewal--Washington (State)--Seattle

Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Community Development

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

McChesney, Frank
(creator)

Finding aid prepared by Anne Frantilla
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