

Pratt Fine Arts Center Records, 1975-1982

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Title	Pratt Fine Arts Center Records
Dates	1975-1982 (inclusive) 1975 1982
Quantity	1.4 cubic feet, (4 boxes)
Collection Number	5810-01
Summary	Records of a Seattle visual arts school and studio.
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

Correspondence, service contracts, block grant materials, recreation services survey, and attendance reports for a fine arts program established in 1978 to serve the City's central area. It was created as part of a cultural arts center based in the Yesler-Atlantic neighborhood and operated out of the Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center. Conceived as a "fine arts" studio, Pratt offered classes in glass, pottery, jewelry and metalsmithing, metal fabrication and sculpture. Pratt, along with other art programs, was cut from the city budget in 1980. A private non-profit group, City Art Works, was formed to continue the operation of Pratt and its many programs.

Records of City Art Works (record series 5807-16) include additional documentation on the operations of Pratt Fine Arts Center. For related records documenting the administration of the Department of Parks and Recreation Performing and Visual Arts Program, see record series 5807-14.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Pratt Fine Arts Center Records , Record Series 5810-01. 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.

5810-01: Pratt Fine Arts Center Records, 1975-1982

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Center: Weekly Attendance Reports	1980
1/2	Center: Weekly Attendance Reports	1981
1/3	Weekly Attendance Reports	1982

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/4	Block Grant Attendance Reports	1978
1/5	Block Grant Attendance Reports, April	1979
1/6	Block Grant Attendance Reports, May	1979
1/7	Block Grant Attendance Reports, June	1979
1/8	Block Grant Attendance Reports, January to April	1979
1/9	Block Grant Attendance Reports, July	1979
1/10	Block Grant Attendance Reports, August	1979
1/11	Block Grant Attendance Reports, September	1979
1/12	Block Grant Attendance Reports, October	1979
1/13	Block Grant Attendance Reports, November	1979
1/14	Block Grant Quarterly Reports	1978
1/15	Block Grant Quarterly Reports	1979
1/16	Block Grant Memos	1978-1979
2/1	Budget	1982
2/2	Budget Information	1981
2/3	Budget Request	1980
2/4	Budget Request	1979
2/5	Pratt Budget, Part Time	1978
2/6	Pratt Budget, Part Time	1977
2/7	Contracts for Professional Services	1979
2/8	Gift, Correspondence	1979-1981

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/9	Gift, Proposals	1979-1981
2/10	Job Announcements	1979-1981
2/11	Equipment Correspondence	1978-1981
2/12	Memos, Incoming	1978-1982
2/13	Memos, Incoming	1978-1982
2/14	Memos, Incoming	1978-1982
2/15	Memos, Incoming	1980
2/16	Memos, Incoming	1978-1979
2/17	Memos, Incoming	1978-1979
2/18	Memos, Outgoing	1980-1981
3/1	Memos, Outgoing	1980-1981
3/2	Memos, Outgoing	1980-1981
3/3	Recreation Services, Winter	1980
3/4	Memos, Interoffice	1982
3/5	Memos, Interoffice	1978-1979
3/6	Recreation Services, Fall	1979
3/7	Recreation Services, Summer	1979
3/8	Recreation Services, Spring	1979
3/9	Recreation Services, Winter	1979
3/10	Recreation Services, Fall	1978
3/11	Recreation Services, Summer	1978

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/12	Recreation Services, Winter	1978
3/13	Recreation Services Study - Instructions	1978
3/14	Recreation Survey, Winter	1982
3/15	Recreation Survey, Fall	1981
3/16	Recreation Survey, Summer	1981
3/17	Recreation Survey, Spring	1981
3/18	Recreation Survey, Winter	1981
3/19	Recreation Survey, Fall	1980
3/20	Recreation Survey, Summer	1980
3/21	Recreation Services, Spring	1980
3/22	Park Department Attendance Reports, Fall	1979-1980
3/23	Park Department Attendance Reports, Summer	1979
3/24	Park Department Attendance Reports, Spring	1979
4/1	Park Department Attendance Reports, Weekly	1979
4/2	Volunteer Services Summaries	1978-1982
4/3	"W" Contracts	1979
4/4	Surplus Items, City of Seattle	1981
4/5	State Surplus, Information and Correspondence	1978-1982
4/6	Use Permits	1978
4/7	Vandalism Reports	1979-1981
4/8	Glass Workshop Poster	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/9	Central Community Fire Arts Center	1975-1977
4/10	Central Community Fire Arts Center	1976-1977
4/13	Pratt Fine Arts Center Proposal	1977-1978

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Art metal-work--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Art schools--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Art Study and teaching--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Ceramics--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Glass art--Washington (State)--Seattle

Corporate Names :

Pratt Fine Arts Center (Seattle, Wash.)
 Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Photographs

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness
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