

Department of Parks and Recreation Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Records, 1950-1979

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Title	Department of Parks and Recreation Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Records
Dates	1950-1979 (inclusive) 1950 1979
Quantity	.6 cubic foot, (2 boxes)
Collection Number	5807-19
Summary	Planning records for Seattle's annual Christmas ship which began sailing in 1949.
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 coordinating staff and Seattle Civic Christmas Ship committees documenting planning for the annual musical cruises of a Christmas-decorated yacht along Seattle waterfronts during a week before Christmas. Records include correspondence, schedules, minutes and agenda, photographs, clippings, budgets and ephemera.

For documentation on later Christmas Ships, see Performing and Visual Arts Section records in series 5807-14 and Music Program records in series 5807-07.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Records, Record Series 5807-19. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Detailed Description of the Collection

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

5807-19: Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Records , 1950-1979

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1950

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/2	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1951
1/3	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1952
1/4	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1953
1/5	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1954-1955
1/6	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1956
1/7	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1956-1957
1/8	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1958
1/9	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1959
1/10	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1960
1/11	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1961
1/12	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1962
1/13	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1963
1/14	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1964
1/15	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1965
1/16	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1966
1/17	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1967
1/18	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1968
1/19	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1969
1/20	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship (Includes Photographs)	1970-1971
1/21	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1971-1972
1/22	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Clippings	1971-1972

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/1	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1972-1973
2/2	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1973-1974
2/3	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1974
2/4	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship	1975-1979
2/5	Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Financial	1974-1978

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Christmas

Processions--Washington (State)--Seattle

Yachts--Washington (State)--Seattle

Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash). Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Snapshots

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness

2011