

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Performing and Visual Arts Program Records, 1976-1990

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Title	Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Performing and Visual Arts Program Records
Dates	1976-1990 (inclusive) 1976 1990 1976-1984 (bulk) 1976 1984
Quantity	1.8 cubic feet, (5 boxes)
Collection Number	5807-14
Summary	Administrative records of the staff responsible for the Department of Parks and Recreation's cultural programs.
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 Performing and Visual Arts section (until 1979 known as the Cultural Arts Section), including correspondence, memos, program histories, reports, budgets, concession agreements, photographs and subject files concerning music, dance and theater performances, and arts instruction programs. Also documented is the unit's management of the Bathhouse Theatre, Madrona Dance Studio, Poncho Theatre, Pratt Fine Arts Studio and Seward Park Art Studios following their renovation or construction using Forward Thrust funds. Documented also is the 1982 transition to operation of the Parks' cultural facilities by the program's advisory councils.

Related records of the Performing and Visual Arts staff are also in records series nos. 5810-01, 5807-15, 5807-03, 5807-16, 5808-01 and 5807-07.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Performing and Visual Arts Program Records, Record Series 5807-14. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Detailed Description of the Collection

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

5807-14: Performing and Visual Arts Program Records, 1976-1990

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Advisory Councils / Transition	1976-1983
1/2	Affiliate Artist Program (Includes Photographs of Performing Artists)	1987
1/3	Affiliate Artist Program	1987
1/4	Annual Report - Performing and Visual Arts	1977
1/5	Art Commission	1976-1978
1/6	Arts and the Parks Department's Role	1978-1979
1/7	Arts Symposia	1978
1/8	Arts Symposia - Proceedings and Reports	1978
1/9	ASCAP Copyright	1982
1/10	Attendance Statistics	1981
1/11	Bond Issue Project	1981
1/12	Budget	1979-1983
1/13	Budget - PVA	1980
1/14	Budget - PVA	1982
2/1	Budget - PVA	1980-1982
2/2	Budget - PVA	1981-1982
2/3	Budget - Bathhouse Theatre	1980-1981
2/4	Budget - City Art Works	1980-1983
2/5	Budget - PVA (Including Christmas Ship)	1981-1982
2/6	Budget - Madrona Dance Studio	1979-1981

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/7	Budget - Music	1981
2/8	Budget - Poncho Theatre	1981
2/9	Budget - PVA Management	1981
2/10	Calendar of Events	1976-1977
2/11	City Council	1981-1982
2/12	Communications - Mayor / City Council	1981
2/13	Concession Agreements	1982-1983
2/14	Concession Agreements - Bathhouse Theatre	1982-1985
3/1	Concession Agreements - Madrona Dance Studio	1982
3/2	Concession Agreements - Madrona Dance Studio	1983-1984
3/3	Concession Agreements - Poncho Theatre	1977-1984
3/4	Concession Agreements - Pratt Fine Arts Studio	1982-1984
3/5	Concession Agreements - Seward Park Art Studio	1977-1985
3/6	Fees and Charges	1981
3/7	Financial Records	1982-1983
3/8	Grant Applications - NEA	1976-1979
4/1	Grants - NEA Summer Expansion Arts	1980-1981
4/2	Grants	1977
4/3	Inspections of PVA Facilities	1982
4/4	Layoffs	1982
4/5	Music Concerts In Parks	1982

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/6	Performing and Visual Arts - History / Data	1978-1990
4/7	Performing and Visual Arts - History / Data	1978-1990
4/8	Performing and Visual Arts - Needs Analysis	1981
4/9	Pier 57 Exhibition Space Proposal	1977-1982
4/10	Reports - John Chambless	1978
4/11	Seward Park Art Studio / Pratt Fine Arts Center Reorganization	1979-1980
4/12	Staff Meetings, PVA - Minutes and Agenda	1976
4/13	Summer Touring Shows	undated
4/14	Weekly Reports	1981
4/15	Weekly Reports	1981
5/1	Bathhouse Theatre Negatives	undated
5/2	Bumbershoot Negatives	1976
5/3	Madrona Dance Studio (incl. Slick Watts' Party) Negatives	
5/4	Miscellaneous Negatives	undated
5/5	Music in the Parks Negatives	1976-1977
5/6	Musician Photographs	undated
5/7	Poncho Children's Theatre Performances Negatives	1976-1977
5/8	Seward Park Art Studio Negatives	1976-1977
5/9	Seward Park Art Studio, Gasworks Park Concerts, Bumbershoot Photographs	1976
5/10	Summer Stage Negatives and Print	1977

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Art schools--Washington (State)--Seattle
Art schools--Washington (State)--Seattle
Children's theater--Washington (State)--Seattle
Concerts--Washington (State)--Seattle
Dance schools--Washington (State)--Seattle
Dance--Washington (State)--Seattle
Glass art--Washington (State)--Seattle
Music--Washington (State)--Seattle
Theater--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Chambless, John

Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Bathhouse Theatre
Madrona Dance Studio
PONCHO (Organization : Seattle, Wash.). Theatre
Pratt Fine Arts Center (Seattle, Wash.)
Seward Park Art Studio (Seattle, Wash.)

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

O'Neill, Maureen A.

Names and Subjects

Form or Genre Terms :

Film negatives
Photographs

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness
2011