

Seward Park Art Studio Records, 1972-1984

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Title	Seward Park Art Studio Records
Dates	1972-1984 (inclusive) 1972 1984
Quantity	1.8 cubic feet, (5 boxes)
Collection Number	5808-01
Summary	Records of a arts studio and school operated 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

Correspondence, reports, schedules, promotional materials, and attendance records for an arts education and recreation program based at Seward Park in south Seattle. Also included are correspondence, minutes, membership lists, and organizational documents of the Seward Park Art Studio Advisory Council, which acted in an advisory and resource capacity to the staff of the Studio.

The Seward Park Art Studio opened in 1970 as a center for visual arts in a bathhouse at Seward Park that had been renovated with Forward Thrust funds. It offered courses in clay, photography, jewelry-making, weaving and printmaking. The Studio, along with other art programs, was cut from the city budget in 1980 and a private non-profit group, City Art Works, was formed to continue the operation of its programs.

Records of City Art Works, series 5807-16, document operations of Seward Park Art Studio after it was merged with Pratt Fine Arts Center in 1980. 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], Seward Park Art Studio Records , Record Series 5808-01. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged in two subseries: Administrative records and Seward Park Art Studio Advisory Council records.

Detailed Description of the Collection

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

Administrative records, 1973-1984

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Pacific Art Center	1980
1/2	Seattle Book Art Fair	1981
1/3	Art Programs for the Hearing Impaired	1981
1/5	Memos Incoming	1977
1/6	Memos Incoming	1977
1/7	Memos Incoming	1978
1/8	Memos Incoming	1979
1/9	Memos Incoming	1980
1/10	Memos Incoming	1980
1/11	Memos Incoming	1980-1981
1/12	Memos Incoming	1981-1982
1/13	Announcements	1974-1977
1/14	Fact Sheet, History	1979
2/1	Christmas Studio Sale and Auction	1975
2/2	Memos Outgoing	1978
2/3	Memos Outgoing	1979
2/4	Memos Outgoing	1980-1982
2/5	Memos Outgoing	1980-1982
2/6	Memos Outgoing	1980-1982
2/7	Correspondence Incoming	1974-1976

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/8	Correspondence Incoming	1974-1976
2/9	Correspondence Incoming	1977-1982
2/10	National Endowment of the Art	1973
2/11	National Endowment of the Art	1974
2/12	National Endowment of the Art	1975
2/13	National Endowment of the Art	1976
3/1	Park Appreciation Day	1980
3/2	Correspondence Outgoing	1973-1976
3/3	Correspondence Outgoing	1977-1981
3/4	Correspondence Outgoing	1981-1982
3/5	City Art Works Evaluations	1980
3/6	City Art Works Evaluations - Winter	1981
3/7	City Art Works Evaluation - Summer	1981
3/8	City Art Works Evaluations - Winter	1981
3/9	Bumbershoot	1974
3/10	Bumbershoot	1975
3/11	Bumbershoot	1976
3/12	Staff Notes - Recreation Program Division	1980-1982
3/13	Staff Notes - Recreation Program Division	1982
4/1	Poncho Pending Grants	1975
4/2	Martha Washington Visual Art Complex	1973-1975

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/3	Martha Washington Visual Art Complex	1973-1976
4/4	Class Schedules	1974-1984
4/5	Craftsweek	1977-1978
4/6	Crafts Week	1978
4/7	Western States Art Commission- Pending Grants	1975
4/8	Seattle Foundation - Pending Grants	1975
4/9	Bond Issue	1981
4/10	Faculty Show - Ing Gallery	1974
4/11	Faculty Show - The Artist Gallery	1975
4/12	Faculty Show - The Artist Gallery	1976-1977
4/13	Weekly Reports	1973-1975
4/14	Weekly Reports	1975-1977

Seward Park Art Studio Advisory Council records, 1972-1981

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/15	Agreements	1977
4/16	Budget / Finance	1974-1977
5/1	Constitution and Articles of Incorporation	1973-1981
5/2	Correspondence	1973-1976
5/3	Grants	1974-1977
5/4	Internal Revenue Service Returns	1972-1974

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/5	Meeting with Willis Woods, Director, Seattle Art Museum	1974
5/6	Membership	1973-1976
5/7	Minutes and Agenda	1973-1977

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Art schools--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Art Study and teaching--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Bumbershoot Festival (Seattle, Wash.)

Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
 Seward Park Art Studio Advisory Council

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Other Creators :

Corporate Names :

Seward Park Art Studio (Seattle, Wash.)
 (creator)

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness
 2011