

# Records, 1983-1986

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Seattle (Wash.). Citizens' Commission on Central America
<b>Title</b>	Records
<b>Dates</b>	1983-1986 (inclusive) 1983 1986
<b>Quantity</b>	1.6 cubic feet, (4 boxes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	4102-01
<b>Summary</b>	Records of the Citizens' Commission on Central America (1983-1986), including meeting minutes, correspondence, and draft legislation.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Seattle Municipal Archives</a> 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 <a href="mailto:archives@seattle.gov">archives@seattle.gov</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Records are open to the public.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Historical Note

At the November 8, 1983 election, Seattle voters passed Initiative 28, titled "For Peace in Central America." This initiative outlined the opposition of Seattle's citizens to United States support of the governments of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, supporting a peaceful resolution to the conflicts and human rights violations in those countries. The initiative further asked that "...federal funds now being used to promote destruction in Central America be redirected to promotion of services vital to the welfare of the City of Seattle" and other American cities.

Initiative 28 also required the City Council to create the Citizens' Commission on Central America. Members would "monitor events in the region and propose further actions" that would further the end of United States support to Central American governments and encourage redirection of the funds to meet the needs of American cities. The twenty members included representatives from El Centro de la Raza, the University of Washington, the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, and the Global Reach Consortium, among other organizations.

The Citizens' Commission on Central America initiated and supported a wide variety of activities; its committees included the Delegation to Central America, Central America Documentation Center, Education, Media Relations, and Interdepartmental Liaison Committees. Projects and activities included meeting with various international visitors, endorsing the Managua-Seattle Sister City relationship, sponsoring a Citizens' Commission representative on a fact-finding visit to El Salvador, and organizing

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and sponsoring public hearings and an in-depth study on the issue of becoming a "sanctuary city" for refugees from Central America.

In January 1986, a resolution declaring Seattle a "city of refuge" was passed by the City Council, stating that the city "reaffirms the American tradition of providing refuge to law abiding persons who have fled...for fear of losing their lives." The resolution pertained particularly to Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees, few of whom had been granted "temporary safe haven" or political asylum by the United States government. The resolution also urged other cities to voice support for the application of the Refugee Act of 1980 for Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees.

In November 1986, Seattle voters passed Initiative 30, which rescinded the City of Refuge resolution and dissolved the Citizens' Commission on Central America. The Initiative stated that Seattle's citizens supported the immigration laws of the federal government and that the City should focus on its own problems rather than spending its resources on involving itself with foreign policy. In part, Initiative 30 states that "it appears the Citizens' Commission on Central America has become or been used as a platform for political activities sympathetic to anti-democratic governments and political movements seeking to discredit or obstruct American policies and laws."

The Citizens' Commission on Central America was dissolved in December 1986.

## Content Description

The files contain correspondence, memoranda, press clippings, and draft legislation; minutes of monthly meetings between March 1984 and November 1986 are also included. Subjects covered include the "City of Refuge" or sanctuary city resolution, the Seattle/Managua Sister City Program, Contra aid, immigration reform, and Initiatives 28 and 30. Photocopies of newspaper clippings are included in many files. These clippings often provide background information on the issues as well as articles relating specifically to the Commission's activities and interests.

## Use of the Collection

### Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Citizens' Commission on Central America Records, Record Series 4102-01. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

Records are arranged in four subseries:

I: Citizens' Commission on Central America Administrative Records

II: Meeting Minutes

III: Resolutions and Initiatives

IV: Reference Materials

# Detailed Description of the Collection

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

## Citizen's Commission on Central America Records, 1983-1986

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<b>COCA Subject Files</b>	<b>1984-1986</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
1/1	COCA Board/Commission Report	1986
1/2	COCA Bylaws	1985-1986
1/3	COCA Correspondence (Incoming)	1985-1986
1/4	COCA Correspondence (Responses to information requests)	1986
1/5	COCA Education Committee	1986
1/6	COCA General Information	1983-1984
1/7	COCA General Information	1983-1984
1/8	COCA Information Packet	1986
1/9	COCA Liaison Committee	1986
1/10	COCA Library Committee: Central America Documentation Center	1986
1/11	COCA Mailing List (Members and others)	1984-1986
1/12	COCA Mailing List (Press)	1984-1986
1/13	COCA Membership: Attendance and Resignations	1984-1986
1/14	COCA Membership: List of Members, July 1986	1986
1/15	COCA Membership: Member Information and New Recruitment	1984-1986

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/16	COCA Membership: Original Recruitment	1984
1/17	COCA News Conference: "City Commission Opposes Contra Aid"	1985
1/18	COCA Progress Report	1986
1/19	COCA Project Proposals	1986
1/20	COCA Staffing	1986
1/21	COCA Welcome Packet for New Commissioners	1986
1/22	Congressional Delegation: Correspondence and Information	1986
1/23	Delegation to El Salvador	1986
1/24	Delegation to El Salvador: Human Rights/Background Information	1986
1/25	International Affairs	1984-1986
1/26	Managua-Seattle Sister City Relationship	1984-1986
1/27	Mayor's Letter on Contra Aid	1986
1/28	National Conference of Democratic Mayors: Correspondence and Agenda	1984
1/29	National League of Cities Convention: Information and Planning	1985
1/30	National League of Cities Convention: Pamphlet and Report	1985
2/1	Proclamation: Peace in Central America Week (March 17-24, 1986)	1986
2/2	Tax Dollars At Work in Central America	n.d.
2/3	University of Washington: Reception and Class	1985
2/4	Veterans Fast For Life/Seattle Citizens' Fast	1986

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/5	Veterans Fast For Life/Seattle Citizens' Fast - News Conference	1986
2/6	Visitors	1984-1986
	<b>COCA Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>1984-1986</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
2/7	COCA Meeting - 3/22/84	1984
2/8	COCA Meeting - 4/12/84	1984
2/9	COCA Meeting - 5/3/84	1984
2/10	COCA Meeting - 7/10/84	1984
2/11	COCA Meeting - 8/8/84	1984
2/12	COCA Meeting - 11/8/84	1984
2/13	COCA Meeting - 1/10/85	1985
2/14	COCA Meeting - 2/14/85	1985
2/15	COCA Meeting - 3/14/85	1985
2/16	COCA Meeting - 4/11/85	1985
2/17	COCA Meeting - 5/9/85	1985
2/18	COCA Meeting - 6/13/85	1985
2/19	COCA Meeting - 7/11/85	1985
2/20	COCA Meeting - 8/19/85	1985
2/21	COCA Meeting - 9/5/85	1985
2/22	COCA Meeting - 10/10/85	1985
2/23	COCA Meeting - 11/14/85	1985

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2/24	COCA Meeting - 12/12/85	1985
2/25	COCA Meeting - 1/16/86	1986
2/26	COCA Meeting - 2/17/86	1986
2/27	COCA Meeting - 3/13/86	1986
2/28	COCA Meeting - 4/10/86	1986
2/29	COCA Meeting - 5/8/86; Executive Committee Meetings - 5/15/86	1986
2/30	COCA Meeting - 6/12/86	1986
2/31	COCA Meeting - 7/10/86	1986
2/32	COCA Meeting - 8/14/86	1986
2/33	COCA Meeting - 9/11/86	1986
2/34	COCA Meeting - 10/21/86	1986
2/35	COCA Meeting - 11/18/86	1986
2/36	Media Project Minutes	1985-1986
<b>Resolutions and Initiatives</b>		<b>1983-1986</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
3/1	Initiative 28 "For Peace In Central America" / Resolution 27035	1983-1986
3/2	Initiative 30 "For Responsible Immigration": Correspondence and Information	1986
3/3	Initiative 30 "For Responsible Immigration": Election Information	1986
3/4	Initiative 30 "For Responsible Immigration": Proposed Initiative	1986
3/5	Initiative 30 "For Responsible Immigration": Yes and No Committees	1986

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3/6	Sanctuary City Resolution: Articles	1985-1986
3/7	Sanctuary City Resolution: Background Information	1985
3/8	Sanctuary City Resolution: Correspondence	1984-1986
3/9	Sanctuary City Resolution: Correspondence, Drafts, Information	1985-1986
3/10	Sanctuary City Resolution: Correspondence and Memoranda	1984-1986
3/11	Sanctuary City Resolution: Drafts	1985-1986
3/12	Sanctuary City Resolution: Findings and Recommendations	1984-1986
3/13	Sanctuary City Resolution: Funding Correspondence	1985-1986
3/14	Sanctuary City Resolution: King County	1986
3/15	Sanctuary City Resolution: Organization Input and Correspondence	1985-1986
3/16	Sanctuary City Resolution: Other Cities' Resolutions	1984-1985
3/17	Sanctuary City Resolution: Press Conference	1985
3/18	Sanctuary City Resolution: Public Hearings	1985
3/19	Sanctuary City Resolution: Public Hearings - Expert Testimony	1985
3/20	Sanctuary City Resolution: Questions and Answers	1985
3/21	Sanctuary City Resolution: Report on Sanctuary Issues (Bibliography)	1985
3/22	Sanctuary City Resolution: Report on Sanctuary City Issues (Draft)	1985
4/1	Sanctuary City Resolution: Report on Sanctuary City Issues (Draft)	1985
4/2	Sanctuary City Resolution: Report on Sanctuary City Issues (Final Draft)	1985

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/3	Sanctuary City Resolution: Report on Sanctuary City Issues (Footnotes)	1985
4/4	Sanctuary City Resolution: Research Memo	1985
4/5	Sanctuary City Resolution: Resolution 27402 As Passed	1986
4/6	Sanctuary City Resolution: Sanctuary Church Break-Ins (articles)	1985-1986
4/7	Sanctuary City Resolution: Washington State Legislature re: Sanctuary	1985
<b>Reference Materials</b>		<b>1984-1986</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
4/8	Asylum: Adjudications (INS)	1982
4/9	Asylum: Articles and Statistics	1986
4/10	Asylum: Grants and Denials	1985
4/11	Asylum: Grants and Denials	1986
4/12	Baptist Churches v. Meese (includes Status of Refugees information)	1986
4/13	General Accounting Office Report on Illegal Aliens	1986
4/14	Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986	1986
4/15	Medical Reports: El Salvador	1980-1985
4/16	Out of Balance: Central America News Coverage in the Seattle Times, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and the New York Times	1985-1986
4/17	World Affairs Council Newsletter	1986
4/18	World Without War Council: Panel on Kissinger Report	1984



# Names and Subjects

## **Subject Terms :**

Refugees--El Salvador

Refugees--Guatemala

Refugees--Services for--Washington (State)--Seattle

Refugees--Washington (State)--Seattle

## **Corporate Names :**

Seattle (Wash.). Citizens' Commission on Central America

## **Geographical Names :**

El Salvador--Politics and government

Guatemala--Politics and government

Nicaragua--Politics and government

Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government

## **Form or Genre Terms :**

Correspondence

Minutes

## **Other Creators :**

### **Personal Names :**

Brenneke, Andrea

(creator)

Royer, Charles, 1939-

(creator)

### **Corporate Names :**

Seattle (Wash.). Mayor

(creator)

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