

Seattle Municipal Archives



MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVES

Course Overview

WHAT WE'LL COVER



CONTENT

What types of moving images are in the Archives?

SEARCHING

How do I find moving image records?

COPIES

How do I get copies of moving images?

EXHIBITS

What are other ways to explore moving images?

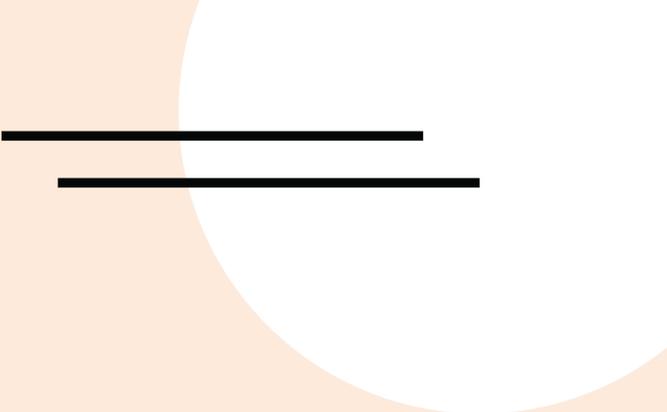
About SMA

WHAT IS THE SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES?

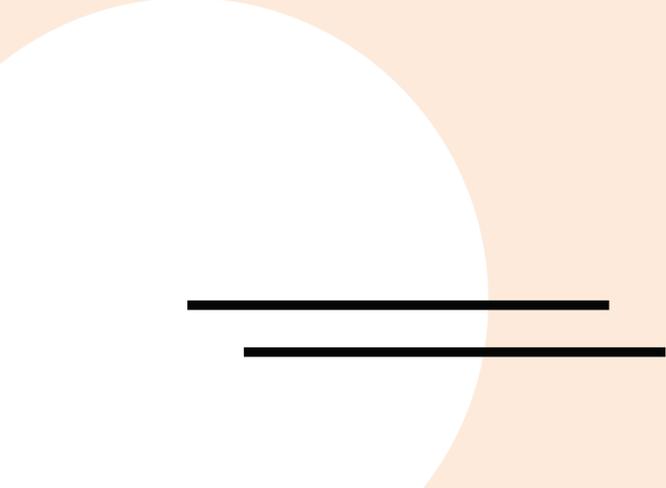
SMA's holdings document the history, development, and activities of the agencies and elected officials of the City of Seattle. (That is, records created or received by City government.)

See our Introduction to the Archives course for more information.





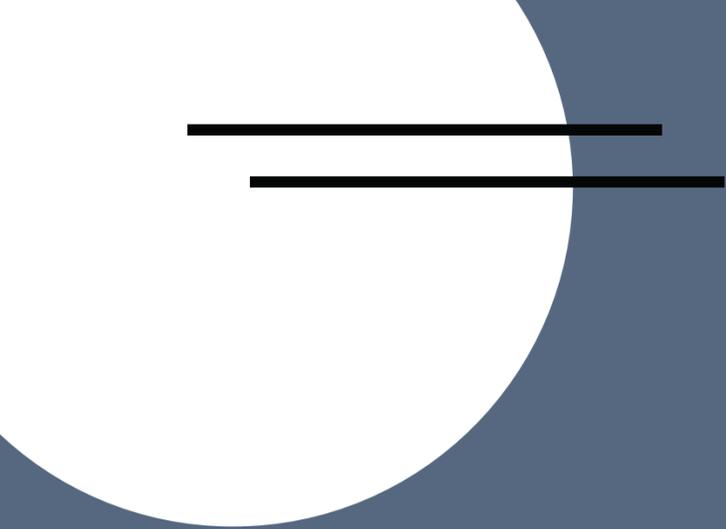
**What types of
moving images
are in the Archives?**





Collections Overview

SMA is home to over 30 moving image collections, which combined contain over 12,000 items in a wide variety of film, videotape, and born-digital formats. Over 8600 items are cataloged and over 6600 of these are currently digitized, available to stream and download on SMA's website.



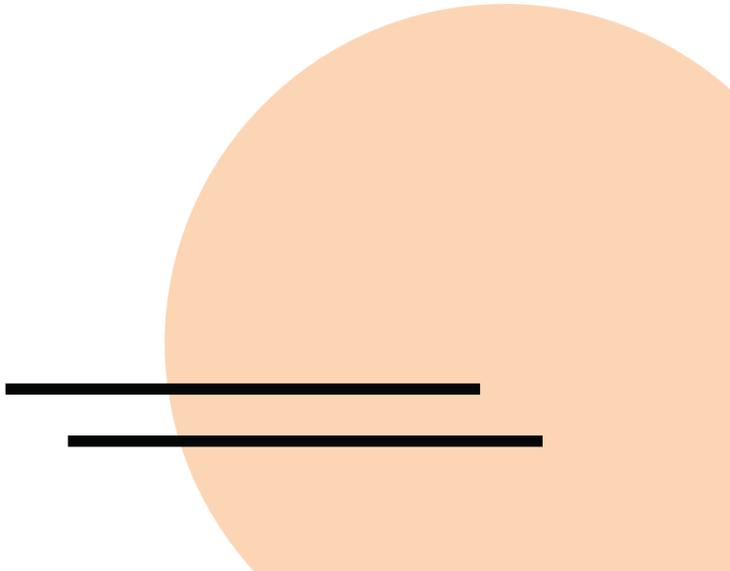
1909-2018

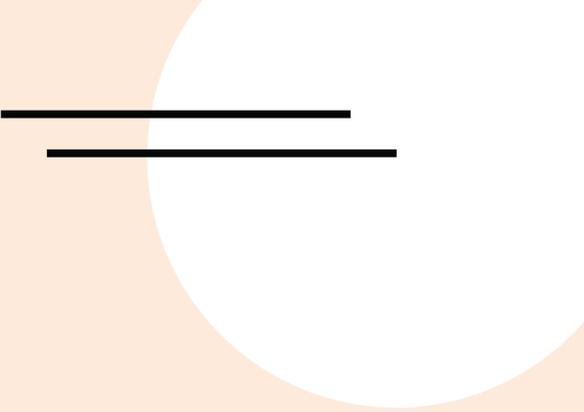
COVERAGE DATE RANGE



1925-2009

BULK OF CATALOGED
RECORDINGS





Coverage Dates

CONTENT CREATION CONTEXT

Although some moving images in SMA's collections are cataloged as covering dates as early as 1869, most of these are presentations or documentaries that use still images, maps, documents and historical information from that time period. The earliest moving image recording at SMA was recorded in 1909.

Moving Image Content

Moving image collections are made up of productions and footage created by City departments documenting projects, employee training, public service announcements and outreach, meetings, celebrations, and events. Our four largest collections include:



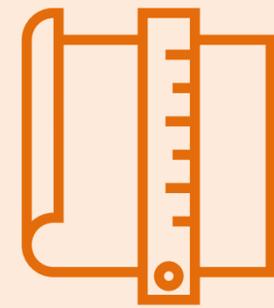
Seattle Channel



Seattle City Light



**Seattle Fire
Department**



**Seattle Engineering
Department**

Seattle Channel 1985– 2016

The Seattle Channel collection is comprised of events filmed and productions created by the Seattle Channel, including raw footage and programming. Content features series and special features highlighting the diverse civic and cultural landscape of Seattle such as public affairs; government meetings and press conferences; arts coverage; news/lifestyle magazine shows; community features; and panel discussions and interviews with local leaders and national figures. Recordings include b-roll, raw footage, and public service announcements, as well as final productions.

Video coverage of select Seattle City Council meetings, forums, and public hearings from 2000 to 2008 for which no separate audio recording exists can be found in this collection.



Seattle City Light 1929 - 2011

Moving images created by Seattle City Light depict various activities and facilities at the department. The footage includes finished productions, raw footage, and outtakes. Public service announcements are also included and cover subjects about electricity conservation and safety, and City Light's apprenticeship training program. Other footage documents the history, planning and construction of various projects including substations, transmission towers, the Skagit Hydroelectric Project, and the Lighting Design Lab.

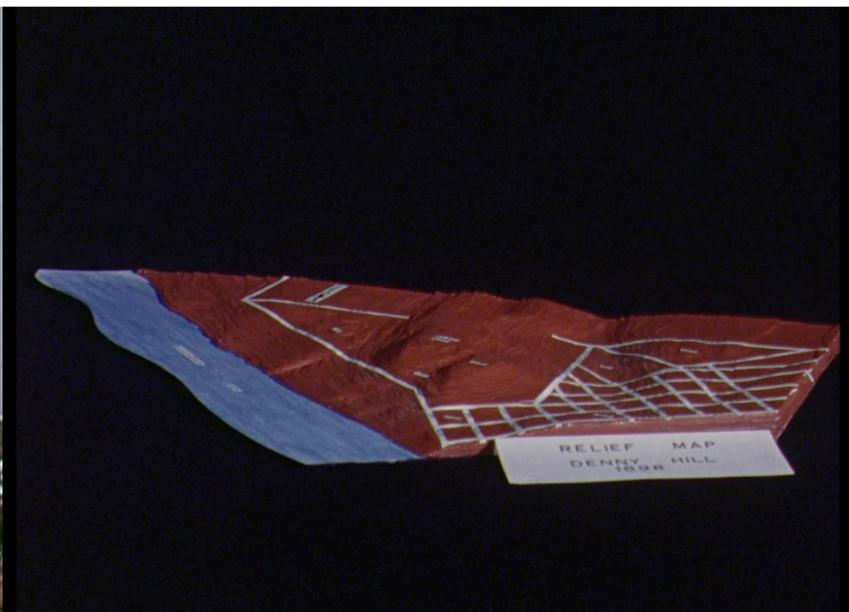
Workplace culture at the department is illustrated through a variety of mediums including training videos, employee recognition, awards programs, celebrations, employee forums, and video newsletters including Switches, Connections, Network on TV (NTV) and Netline.



Seattle Engineering Department 1909 – 1999

Moving images created by Engineering Department primarily document various engineering and public works projects between the 1920s and 1990s. Content includes raw footage, outtakes and B-roll, as well as final productions of documentaries, public service announcements, training videos, special reports, community and departmental celebrations (such as groundbreaking ceremonies, grand openings, and awards presentations) and a few films that could be classified as home movies.

Transportation planning and construction are heavily featured, including various bridge, freeway, traffic control and street projects in Seattle. Specific projects of note are the Ross and Diablo Dams, the Tolt River Watershed, the first and second Denny Regrades, Fremont Bridge, University Bridge, Ballard Bridge, the Alaskan Seawall, the Alaskan Way Viaduct, and the West Seattle Bridge.



Seattle Fire Department

1940 – 1988

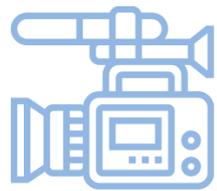
Moving images created by or for the Seattle Fire Department, primarily from the 1960s through the 1980s. Topics include public service announcements, footage of training exercises, recruitment spots, fire safety and prevention education, and coverage of local fires, as well as departmental participation in public events and celebrations.

Of special note are the School and Fire Safe Education (S.A.F.E.) program films. Between 1977-1988, the Seattle Fire Department's Public Education Office produced a series of original animated films as a component of their fire safety and prevention curriculum which was presented by the Fire Department in King County elementary schools.



Moving Image Types

FOOTAGE FEATURES



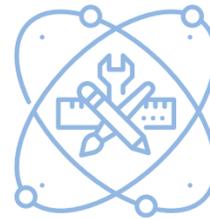
Documentaries



Celebrations,
Ceremonies
& Events



Public Service
Announcements



Educational
Programming



Employee
Training



Press
Conferences



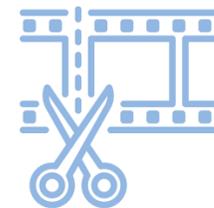
City Council
Proceedings



Local News



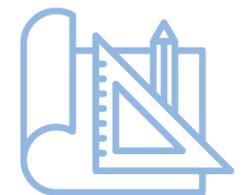
Special Projects



B-roll Footage



Interviews



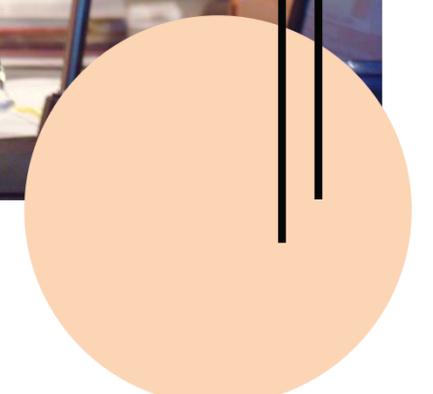
City Planning &
Construction

Seattle City Council

In 2000, the Seattle Channel began recording video footage (vs. just audio) of Seattle City Council (SCC) events including Council Committee and Full Council meetings, briefings, public hearings, public forums, and brown bag events. Many of these videos are available in Digital Collections.

For SCC proceedings prior to 2000, please see audio recordings in [Digital Collections](#).

If you can't find the SCC video you are looking for, please see the [Seattle Channel website](#).



Original Formats

SMA's moving image holdings are in a variety of formats:

Analog Film

Analog Video

**Analog-Digital
Video**

Analog Film Formats

TYPES OF FILM MEDIA AT SMA



35MM



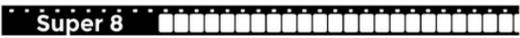
16MM



8MM



SUPER8



Analog Video Formats

TYPES OF VIDEO MEDIA AT SMA



3/4" U-MATIC



BETACAM



1-INCH TYPE C



1/2" TAPE



VHS & S-VHS



Hi8

Analog-Digital Video Formats

TYPES OF VIDEO MEDIA AT SMA



D-2



DIGIBETA



DVD



HDV



DV



**BORN
DIGITAL**



DVCPRO

What is digital video?

ANALOG-TO-DIGITAL TRANSFERS

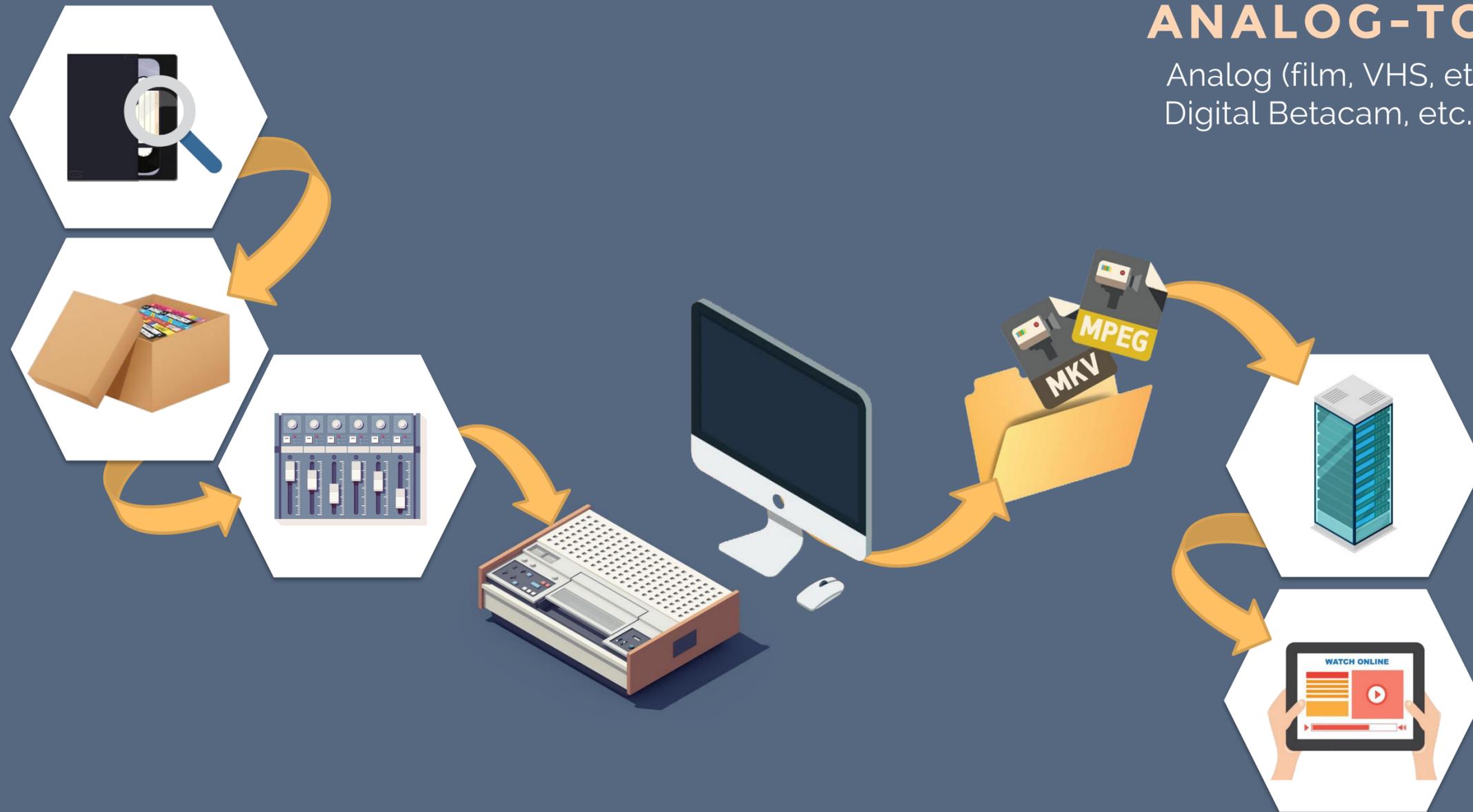
Analog (film, VHS, etc.) and analog-digital recordings (DVCAM, Digital Betacam, etc.) that have been transferred to digital files are transferred or digital moving images.

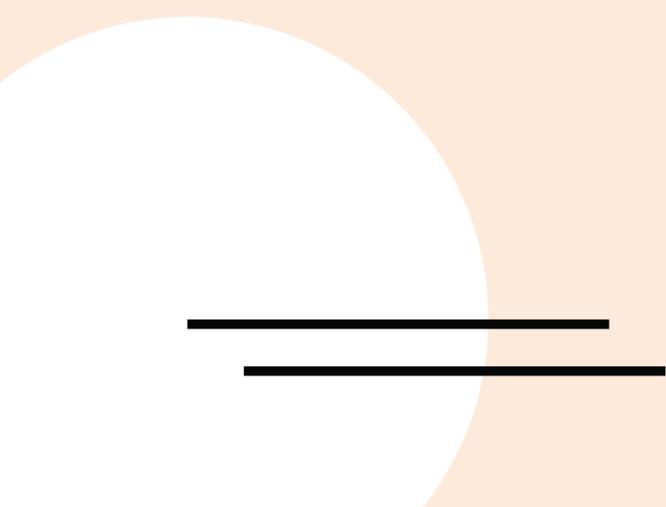
BORN DIGITAL

Born digital moving images were recorded via a digital camera.

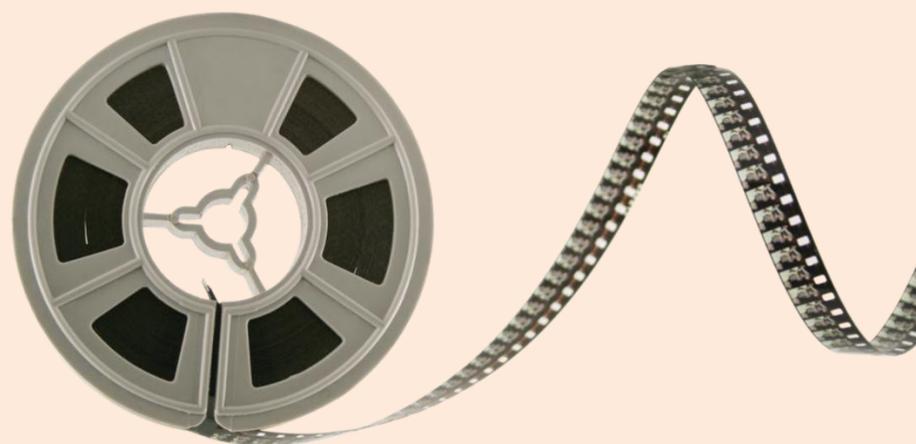
DIGITAL FILES

Not all moving image records in SMA's collections are available in a digital format. If a moving image has an associated file, it will be available for playback and download in Digital Collections.





**How do I find
moving images?**



Digital Collections

Moving images are individually cataloged in Digital Collections. If a digital copy of the moving image is available, it will be included in the catalog record. Files can be downloaded directly from a catalog record.

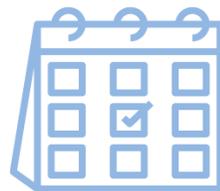


Catalog Records

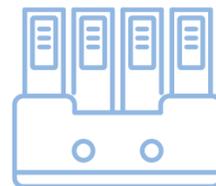
A MOVING IMAGE'S CATALOG RECORD MAY CONTAIN MANY TYPES OF INFORMATION



Item Identifier



Date



Record Series



Title



Featured
People



Subject Terms



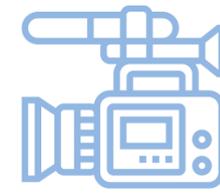
Production
Location



Content
Description



Media Formats

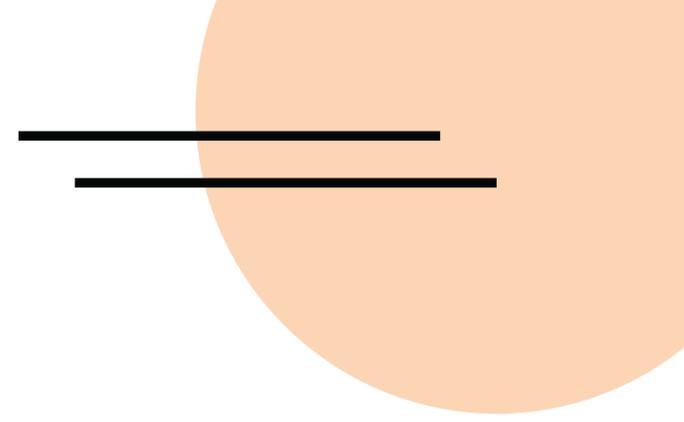


Footage Type

**Click on the
item to take a
closer look at
a moving
image record.**



969
Big Red
October 5 1984;1984



Browse Moving Images

To view all moving image currently cataloged, you can browse through all cataloged records in Digital Collections by clicking on "Browse" at the top of the page and then selecting "Moving Images" from the list.



[AUDIO](#)

[DRAWINGS](#)

[IMAGES](#)

[MAPS](#)

[MOVING IMAGES](#)

[TEXTUAL RECORDS](#)

[SERIES](#)

[VIRTUAL COLLECTIONS](#)



The Seattle Municipal Archives holdings document the history, development, and activities of the agencies and elected officials of the City of Seattle. This Digital Collections site includes digitized and born-digital images, audio, moving images, maps and paper records selected for digitization. Series and folder level descriptions for collections are available through SMA's [Finding Aid](#) site.

Browse Featured Galleries

Seattle at 150

Search Types

BASIC & ADVANCED SEARCHING

There are two ways to search for moving images in Digital Collections: Basic Search and Advanced Search. Basic Search (shown here) will cast a wide net and search results will include more than film and video recordings.

Seattle Municipal Archives Digital Collections

[About](#) [Browse](#) [Gallery](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Finding Aids](#) [Collections Home](#) [SMA Home](#)



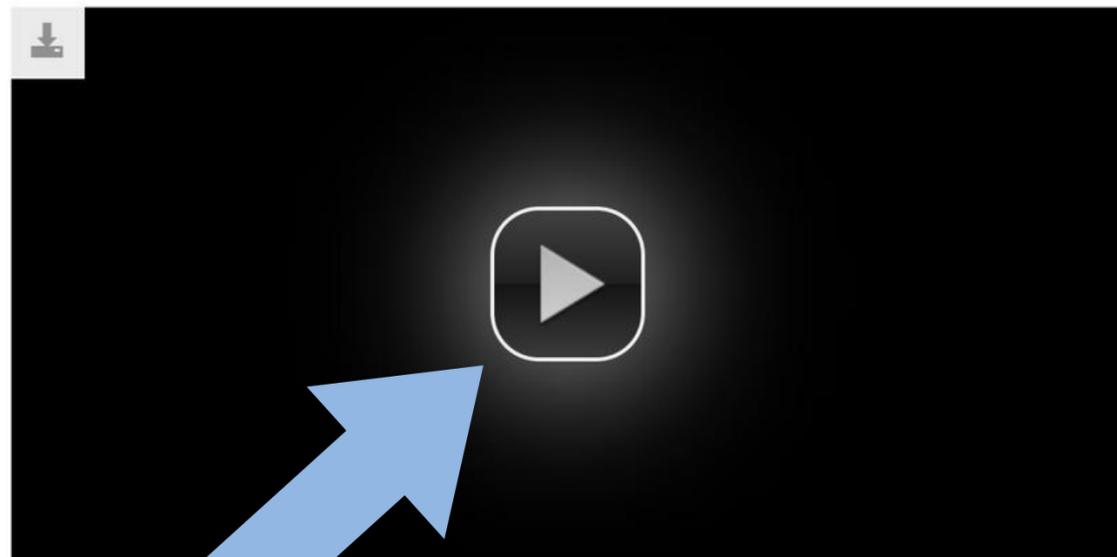
Advanced Search

The [advanced search form](#) allows you to limit your search to moving images only, and also has options to search by date, subject, type of footage, and other fields.



Streaming

If a digital copy is available, you can watch moving image recordings, by clicking play the play button on the video player. For recordings longer than 30 minutes, allow the page to load for a few minutes prior to playback or download. Video quality varies based on original format.



City Light Moving Images

Seafair → [Pacific Northwest Black Community Festival]

MOVING IMAGE

IDENTIFIER:

3273

DESCRIPTION

Footage of four musical acts performing at the Pacific Northwest Black Community Festival (now known as the Umoja Fest African Heritage Festival & Parade) as part of the 1988 SeaFair festivities. The concert takes place at Judkins Park. Performers include the Amazing Manning Brothers, Sir-Mix-A-Lot, and MB and Crew.

ORIGINAL NUMBER:

2

LANGUAGE:

English

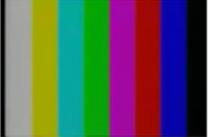
Share Search Results

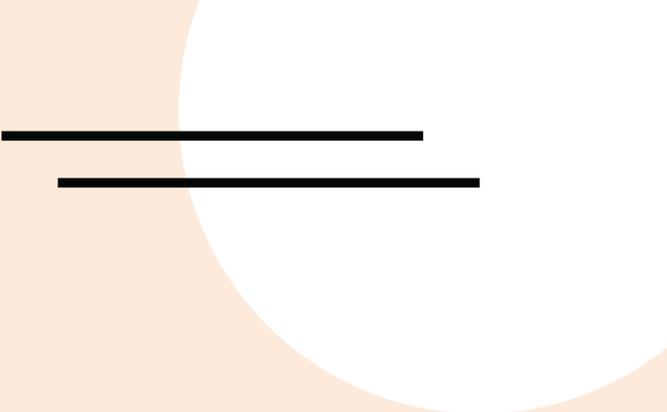
Use the "share" button to send a set of results to yourself or someone else.

11 OBJECT RESULTS 

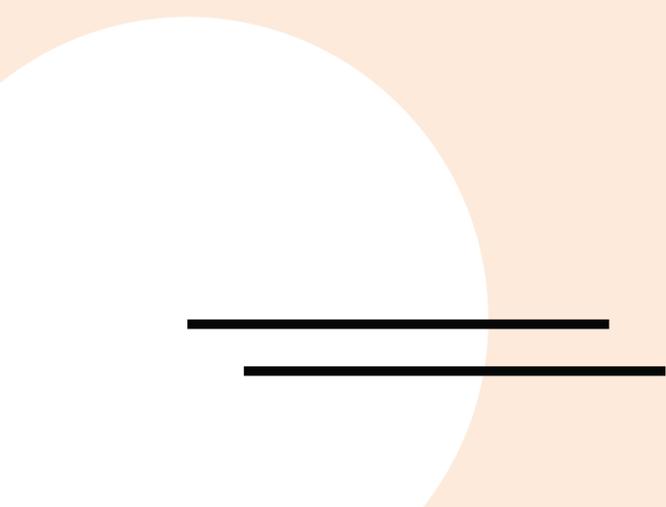
SEARCH: seafair OBJECT TYPE: MOVING_IMAGE  HAS DIGITAL OBJECT: HAS DIGITAL OBJECT  Share 

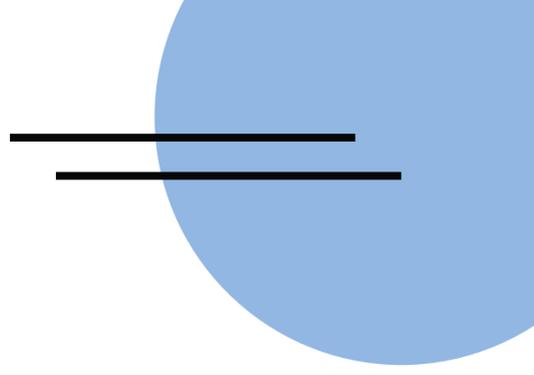
COPY THE LINK TO THIS SEARCH: <http://archives.seattle.gov/digital-collections/inc>

 <p>471 Seattle from the Air [Montage of Seattle footage] 1957</p>	 <p>17 Seattle with Mayor Clinton 1961</p>
 <p>879 Exide Fire [1965 Seafair Hydroplane Races] May 1965</p>	 <p>3273 [Pacific Northwest Black Community Festival] 1988;1988</p>



**How do I get copies of
moving image recordings?**





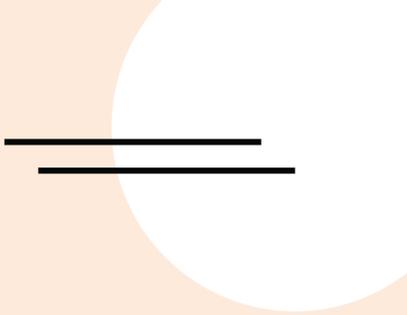
Downloading Files

There are two methods for downloading moving image files from Digital Collections. Before downloading, make sure the video file has fully loaded in your browser.

1. Click the download button at the top left of the video player.

or

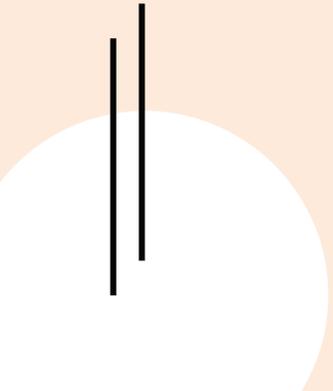
2. Right click on the video and select "Save Video As"



Download not working?

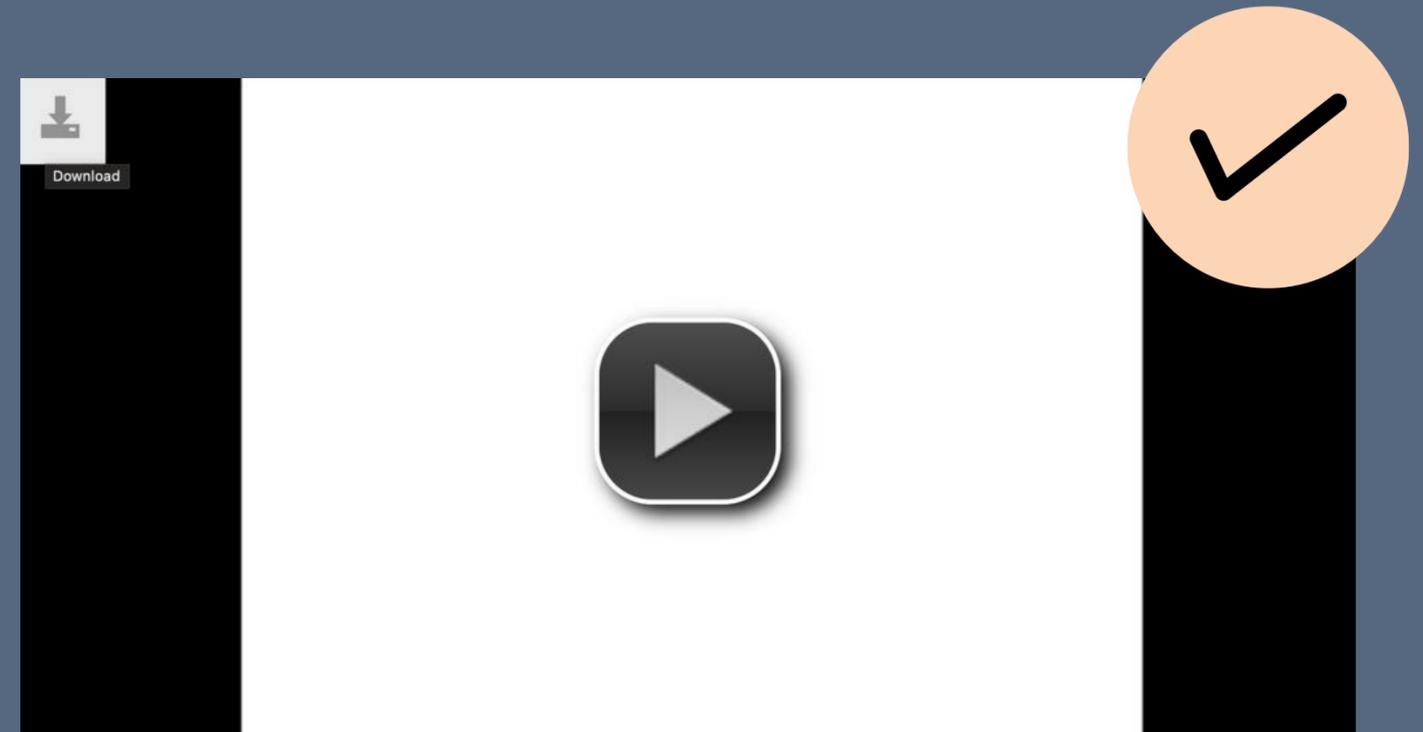
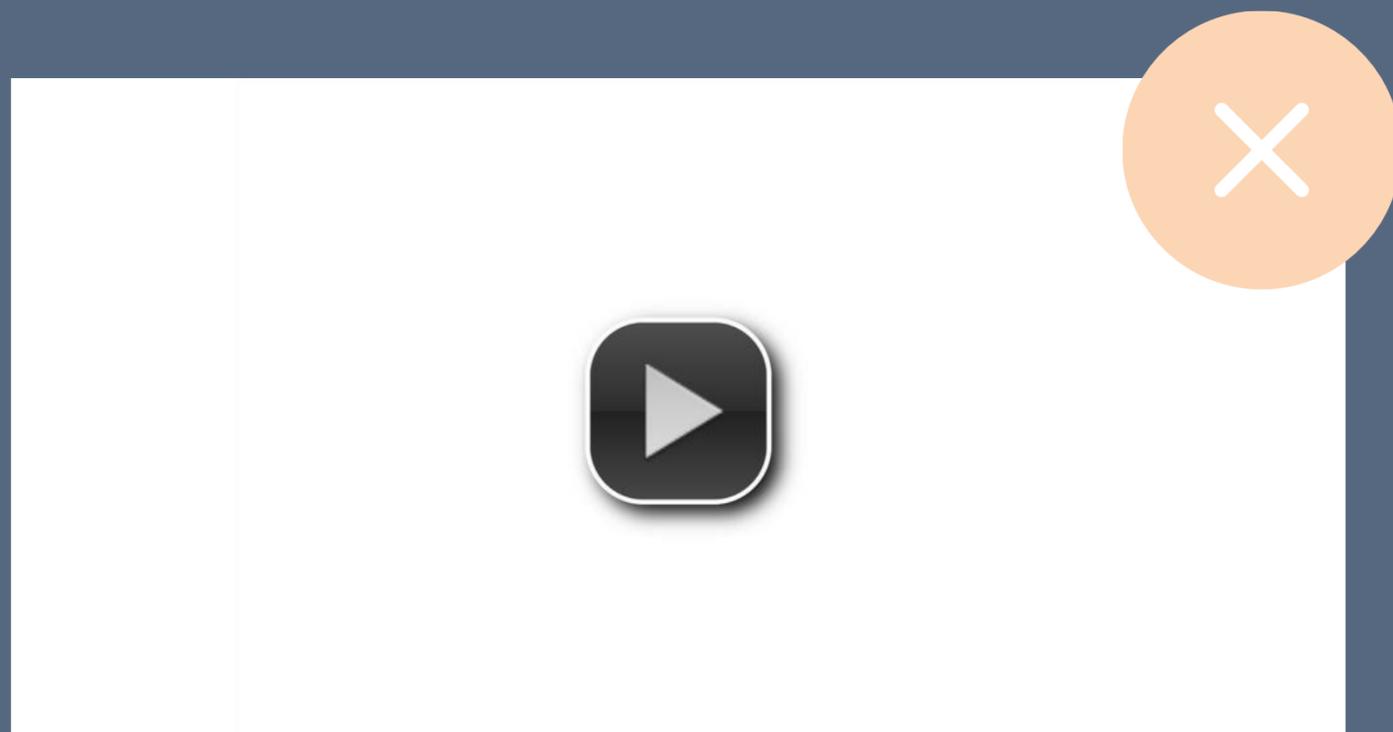
TROUBLESHOOTING DOWNLOADS

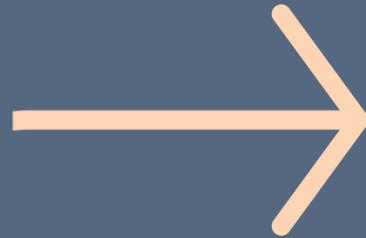
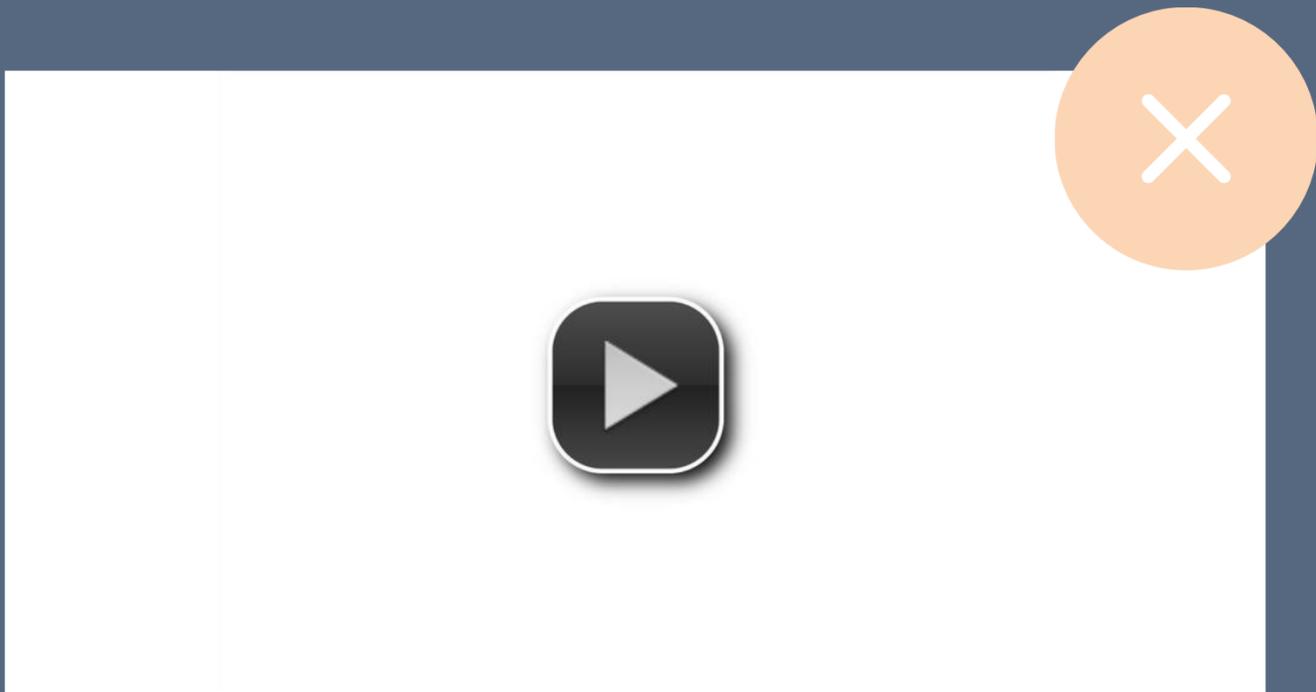
If you are having issues with a download (either where the file will not download or the download is incomplete), there are several troubleshooting steps you can try:

- wait a few minutes and try downloading again
 - refresh the page, wait a few minutes and then try downloading the file again
 - try downloading the file the alternative way than your first attempt
 - try closing completely out of your browser, reopen and try again
 - check Internet Archive
 - contact us at archives@seattle.gov to request a copy
- 

Player

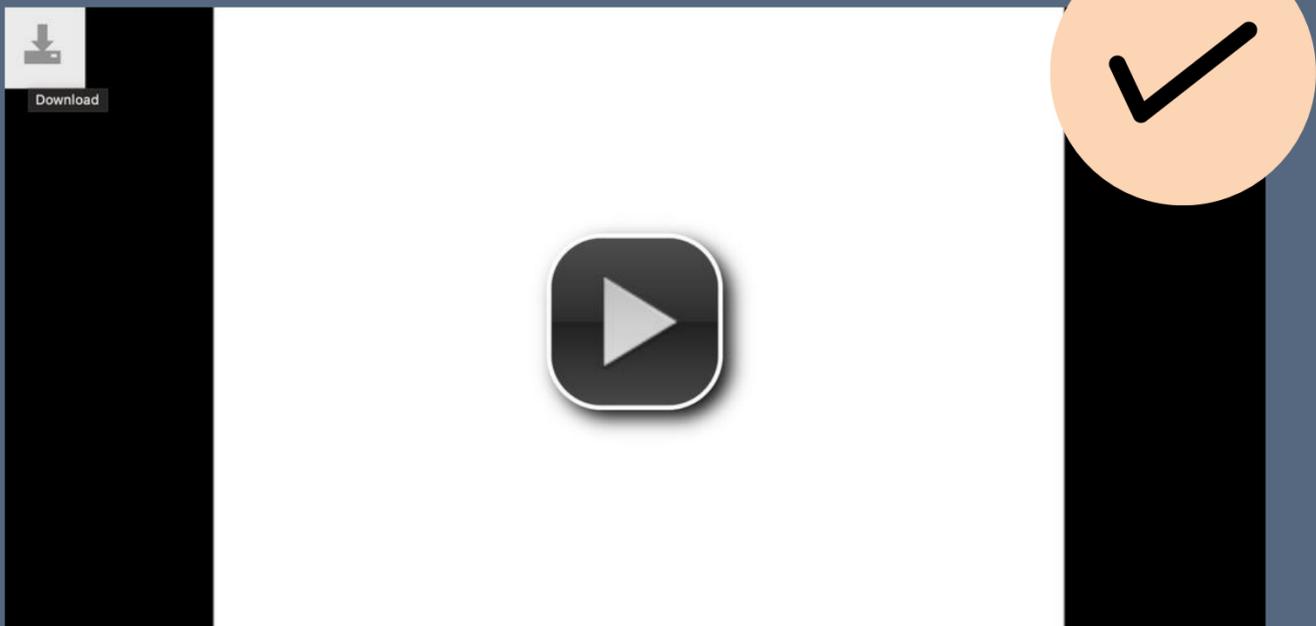
MUST BE PRESENT PRIOR TO PLAYBACK OR DOWNLOAD





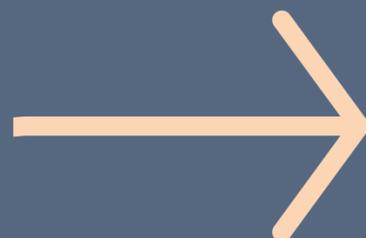
REFRESH

sometimes 4-5 times before the player will appear



WAIT

2-10 minutes depending on internet speed and video length (if you have more than one tab open with an SMA record, loading time will increase).



DOWNLOAD

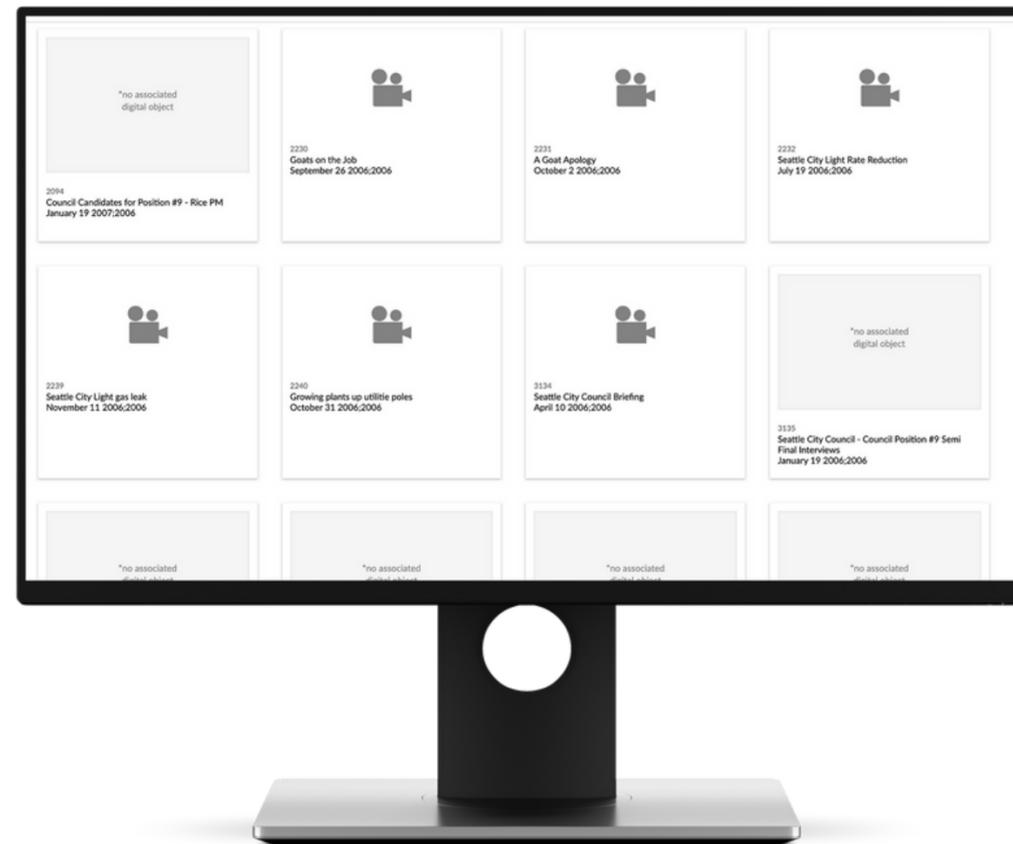
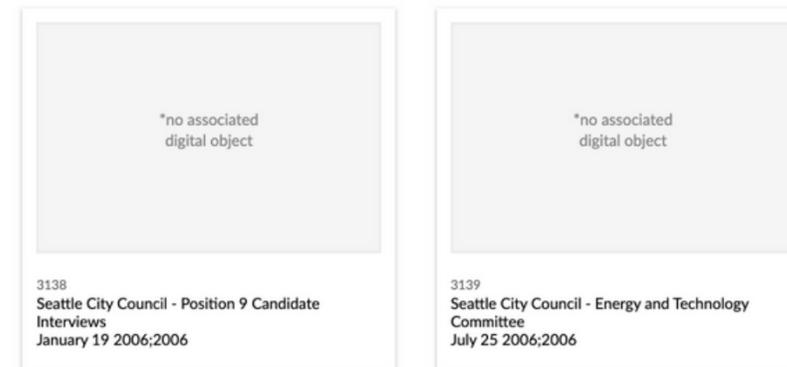
try downloading again (you should see the downloader processing vs. an instant download)

Are all moving image records online?

NO, NOT ALL CATALOGUED RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE IN A DIGITAL FORMAT.

Transfer of analog film and video to digital files continues on an ongoing basis.

To limit your search to only records that have been digitized, apply the "has digital object" filter to your results.



FILTER BY

DECADE

1860s
1870s
1880s
1890s
1900s
1950s
1960s

[and 5 more](#)

COLLECTION

Art and Democracy: Civic Poetry
Black History Month in Seattle
Celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Seafair

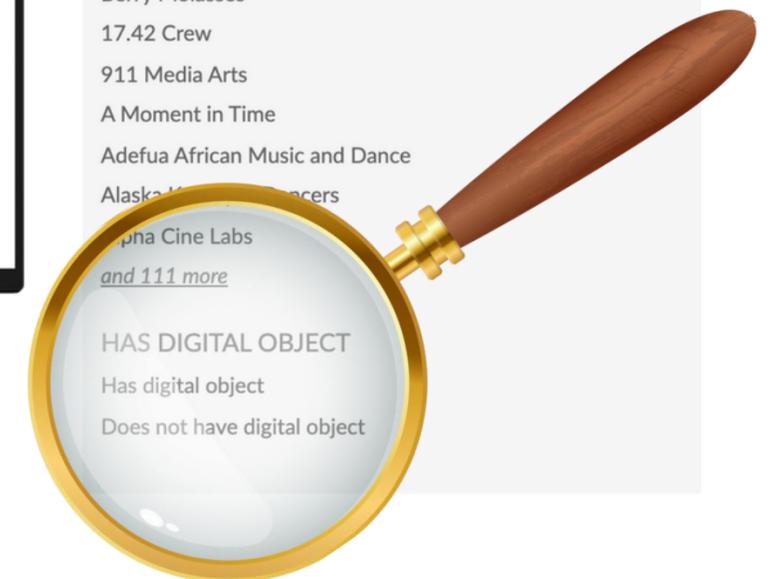
ORGANIZATION

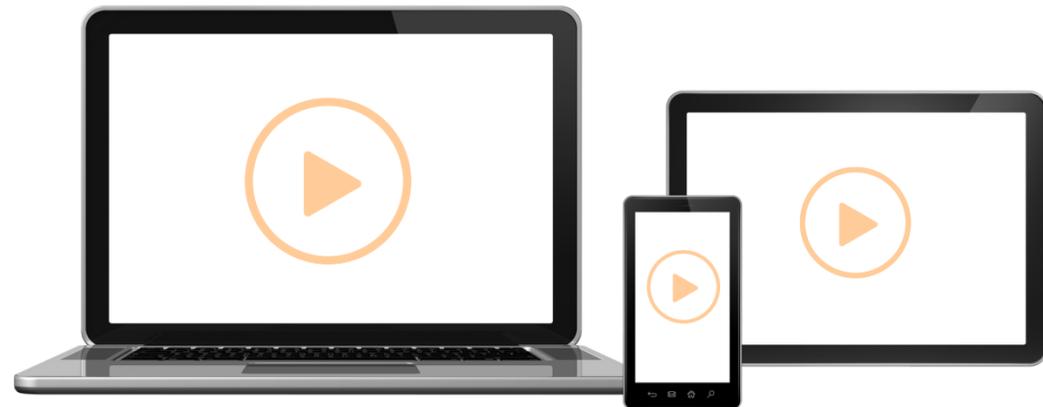
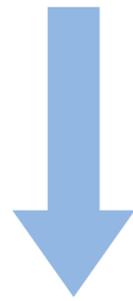
Berry Molasses
17.42 Crew
911 Media Arts
A Moment in Time
Adefua African Music and Dance
Alaska Native Dancers
Alpha Cine Labs

[and 111 more](#)

HAS DIGITAL OBJECT

Has digital object
Does not have digital object





How do I get copies of moving images without a digital file?

JUST ASK US!

If you come across a moving image that does not currently have a corresponding digital file, you can request that it be transferred by contacting the Archives at archives@seattle.gov. Include the item identifier number or a link to the catalog record.

Not all moving images can be digitized in-house. We can transfer most of the videotape formats in our collections, but cannot process film on site. Film materials will need to be sent to a local vendor for capture (fees apply; please contact us with any questions or requests for film transfers).



Can I get a hi-res copy of a video with a digital file?

JUST ASK US!

If you would like to receive a higher quality copy of a moving image that currently has a corresponding digital file, you can request a file by contacting the Archives at archives@seattle.gov. Include the item identifier number or a link to the catalog record.

Hi-res copies will be delivered in SMA's preservation format for moving image recordings:

- FFV1 version 3
- 10 bit
- Matroska (MKV)

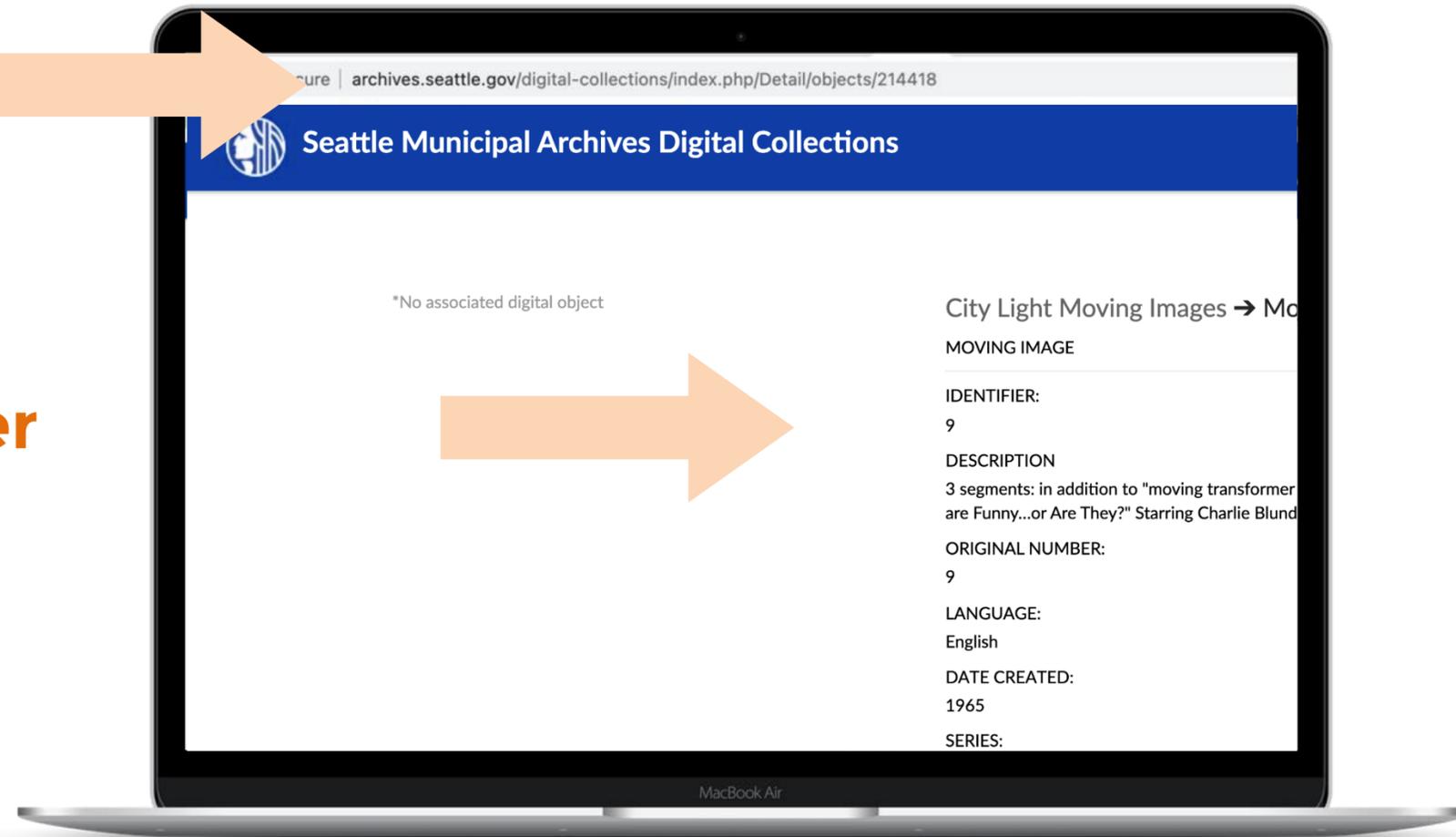
Requesting Digital Copies

If you would like to request a copy of a moving image recording that does not currently have an associated digital file available or would like to receive a hi-res copy, please contact us and include the following information.

a link to the catalog record



or the item identifier number

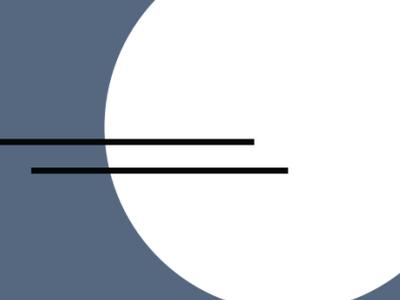




Analog-to-Digital Transfers

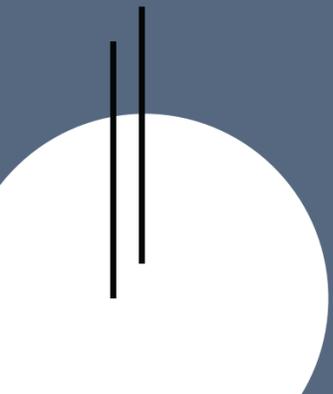
PROCESSING & DELIVERING DIGITAL COPIES

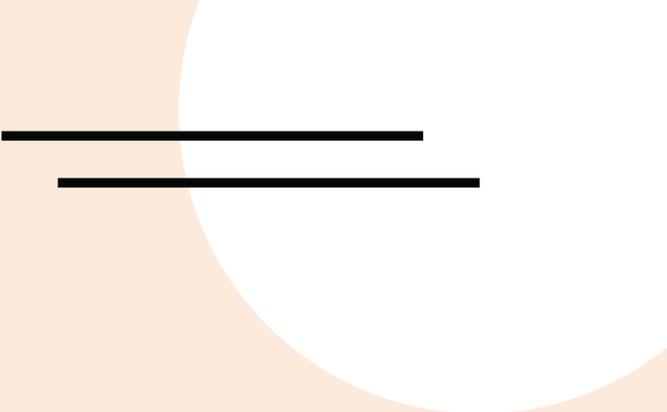
A film or video must play back in real time to be transferred to a digital format, meaning if a meeting is 6 hours long, the recording will need to play for 6 hours in order to be captured as a digital file. Depending on the length of the moving image you request, it may take a few days to receive a copy. For more details about this process, please see our [Virtual Tour for audiovisual materials](#).



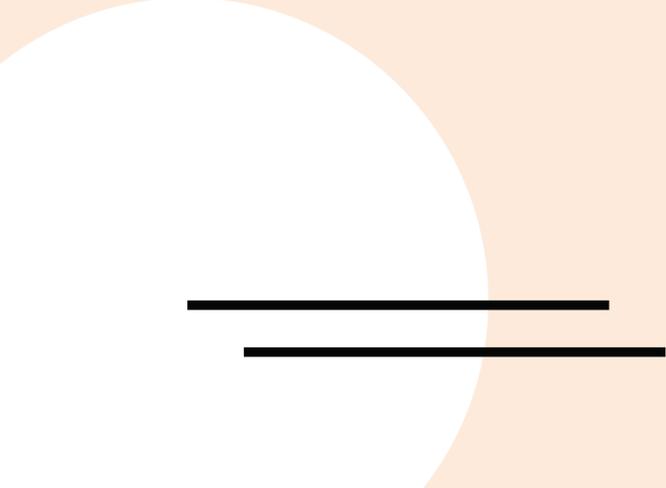
What if I can't find the moving image I'm looking for?

There are a few methods to locate specific moving images not found in your search results:

- Consult the [SMA Digital Collections Walkthrough](#) instructions for suggestions on how to modify your search to include other results.
 - Ask us! Contact an archivist at archives@seattle.gov for help finding video or any other records.
- 

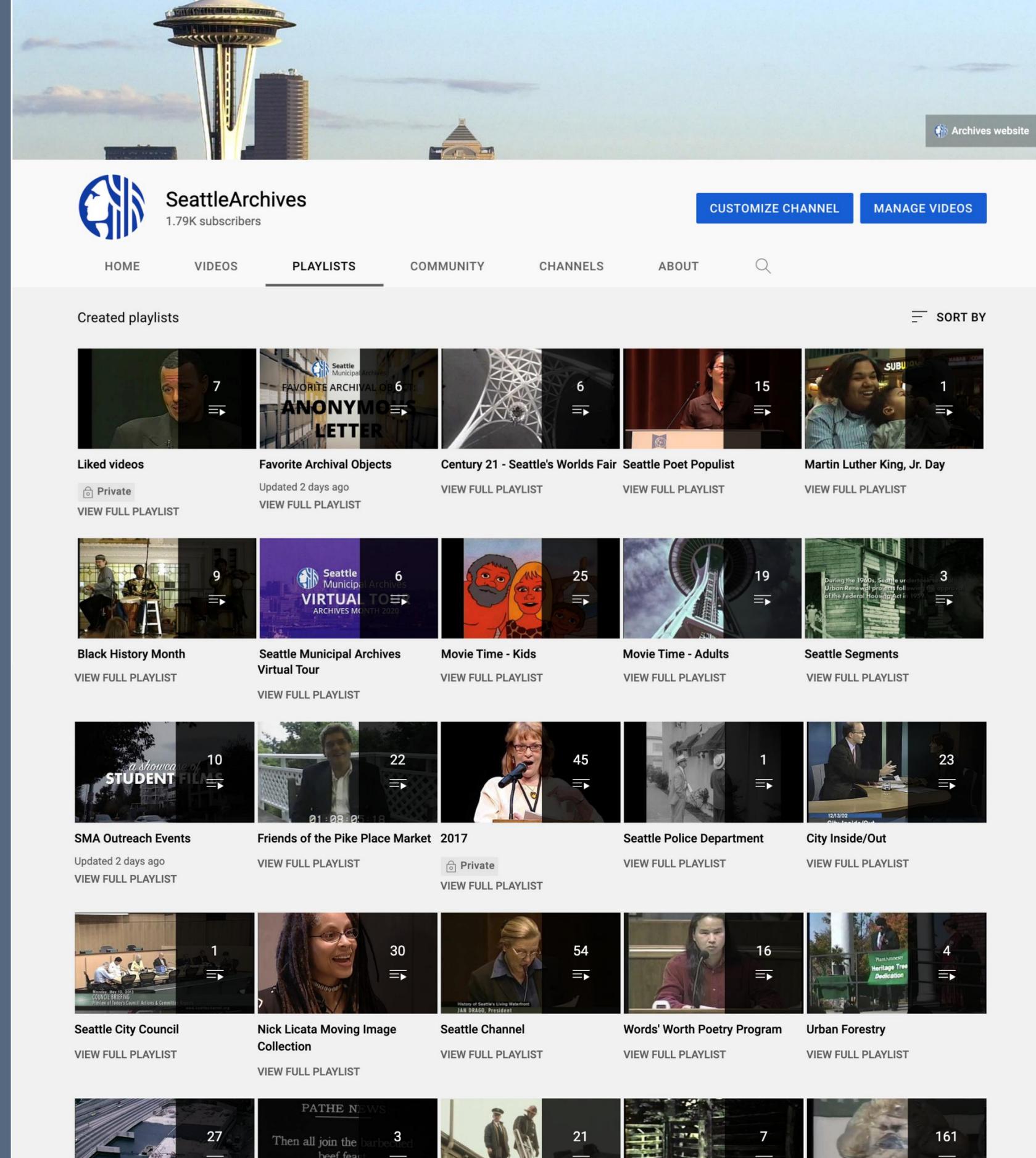


**What are other ways to
explore moving images?**



YouTube Channel

SMA's YouTube Channel features select moving images from our collections, curated into playlists by collection and topic. Some of these videos feature closed captioning.



Seattle Municipal Archives

The mission of the Archives is to support the goals of the City of Seattle and the citizens of the City by identifying, acquiring, arranging, describing, preserving, and making accessible - for the use of City agencies, scholars, students, and the general public - the records of enduring value created or received by City agencies and elected officials.

[More...](#)

- Share
- Favorite
- RSS
- Edit
- History
- Play All

ABOUT

COLLECTION



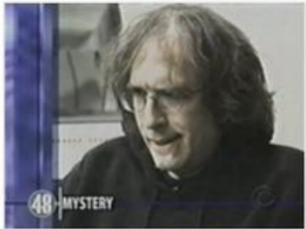
Seattle bridge footage
by City of Seattle, Engineering Department

384 8 0



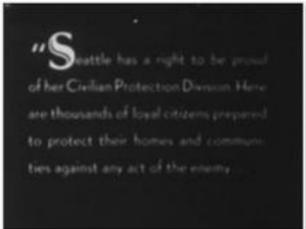
Noam Chomsky at UW
by Seattle Channel

22 0 0



48 Hours - Seattle's Cold Case Detectives
by CBS

195 5 0



Bombing of Seattle
by Civilian War Commission

40 0 0



International District After Dawn
by Seattle Channel

54 0 0



Demise of Railroad Avenue - The Story of the
by City of Seattle, Engineering Department

203 4 0



Women in the Trades - Eleanor Parliament - Tape
by Seattle Channel

18 1 0



Mayor's Press Conference - 03/03/1998
by Seattle Channel

17 0 0



Disaster SAT PSA/The Big Help
by Seattle Channel

5 0 0



The Hidden Face of Racism
by Jim Compton

45 0 0



Human Rights Day 1999
by Seattle Channel

8 0 0



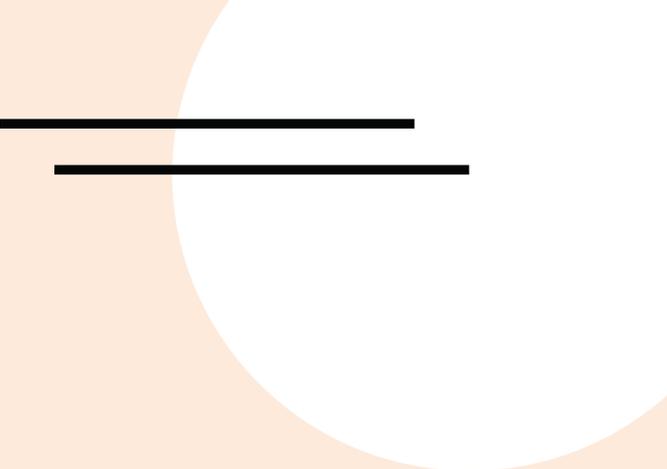
Seattle Municipal Archives
Seattle's Bicycle Program
by City of Seattle, Department of Parks and Recreation

152 3 0



Internet Archive

Select moving image records are available in the SMA subcollection, part of the MIPoPS collection on Internet Archive. If a video is available there, the download will be more consistently successful and long videos will be slightly higher quality. Use the item identifier number to search for the moving image record you are looking for. Some of these videos feature closed captioning.



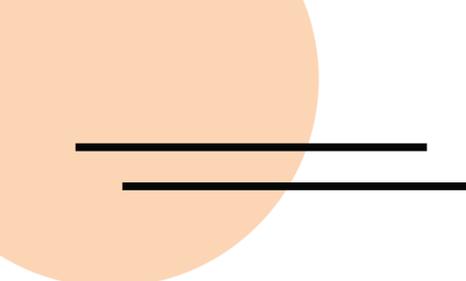
Seattle Segments

MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITS

SMA holds records created by or for City agencies and elected officials, including moving images, photographs, textual records, maps, and audio recordings. Context and the interrelatedness of the records is an important concept when using the records for research.

Seattle Segments use a variety of formats to explore pieces of Seattle's history and this interconnectedness. Excerpts from moving images and audio recordings are woven together with photographs and textual records in these short pieces and provide an opportunity for a deeper exploration into topics than is possible with one format alone. Resources for additional research are listed for each topic. Topics include:

- West Seattle Bridge
- Houseboats in Seattle
- Urban Renewal: Yesler-Atlantic "T"



Contact Us!

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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