

City of Portland Archives & Records Center



Top: *Ninie Mae Locke, 1943. A2011-025.1*

Bottom: *Children at Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project Halloween Party, 1961. A2010-003*



Guide to historical City records related
to African Americans

Guide to City records related to African Americans

City government impacts people's lives through its programs, policies, and projects. Evidence of those decisions and actions are documented in the records created by City employees and elected officials as they perform their work. The City of Portland Archives and Records Center (PARC) is the official repository for these historical records and is a free resource for anyone interested in the workings of the City and its interactions with the community.

This guide highlights some of the records illustrating the interconnections and interactions between the City and the African American community. These, and the rest of the records in the City Archives, are available to anyone wishing to access them.

For our online catalog Efiles & our Open Research Hours go to:
www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/archives



Left: *Ninie Mae Locke, 1943. A2011-025.3*

Right: *ANIP Junior Patrol Baseball team, 1970. A2010-003*

Elected Officials

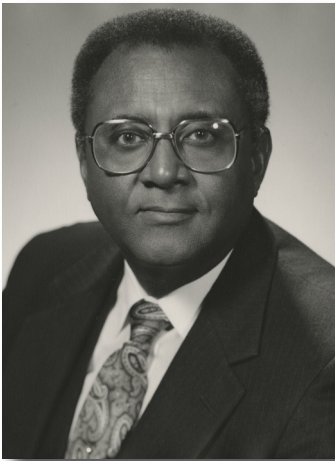
CHARLES JORDAN

Charles Jordan came to Portland in 1970 to lead the local office of the national Model Cities program. From 1974-84 Jordan served as Portland's first African American City Commissioner and later as Director of Parks & Recreation (1990-2003).

Records include policy papers, subject files, and correspondence.



Judge Mercedes Deiz swearing in Commissioner Jordan, March 13, 1974. A2012-005



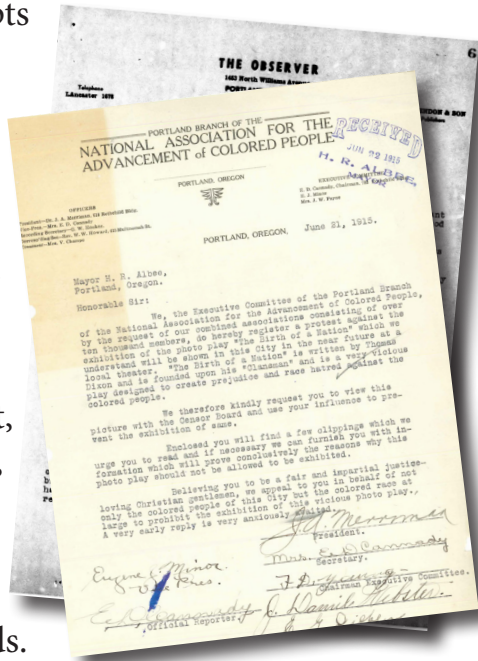
Commissioner Richard (Dick) Bogle, 1989 c. A2000-012.9

DICK BOGLE

Portland's second African American Commissioner, Richard Bogle is a member of one of Oregon's earliest African American families. First serving as a Portland police officer, Bogle later served on the Portland City Council from 1985 to 1992. Records include speeches, correspondence, and subject files.

City Council

The City Council adopts the City budget and passes laws, policies, and regulations that govern the City. Discussions and decisions surrounding topics such as school integration, South African Disinvestment, minority employment, and discrimination can be found within Council materials and elected officials' records.



Top right: NAACP letter to Council, 1915. A2001-049
Bottom: Camp Fire girls after tree planting, 1962. A2010-003

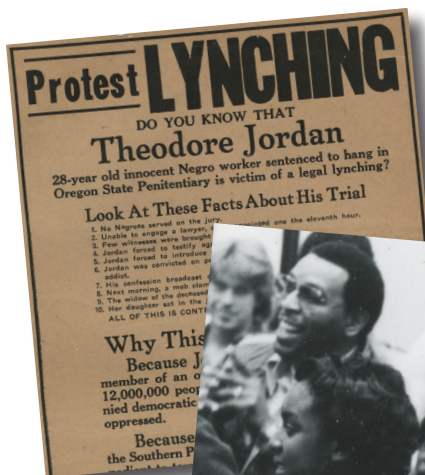
Police Investigative

Police investigative records span the 1930s to the early 1980s. Early investigative records gathered by the Portland Police contain information on communist, civil rights, and labor groups in Portland. Topics include International Labor Defense, race relations, civil rights, and anti-discrimination programs.



Kent Ford, Freddie Whitlow, and Percy Hampton at a Black Panthers demonstration at the U.S. Court-house, 1970. A2004-005.2959

Later records include information on civil rights marches and organizers, the Portland Black Panther Party, the Black United Front, and other primarily African American organizations.

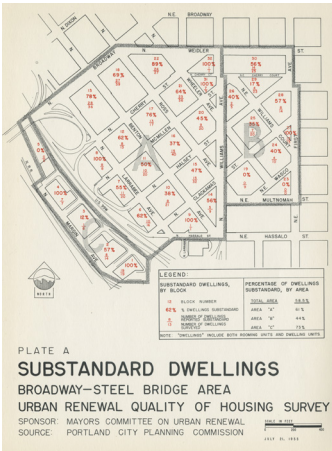


Left: International Labor Defense Jordan Case petition flyer, 1933. A2001-074

Right: Black United Front protest group at a PPS School Board meeting, 1982. A2004-005.1821

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PORTLAND (HAP)

Now called Home Forward, the HAP was established by City Council during World War II and is responsible for oversight of public housing programs in Portland. Records provide documentation of programs and residents.



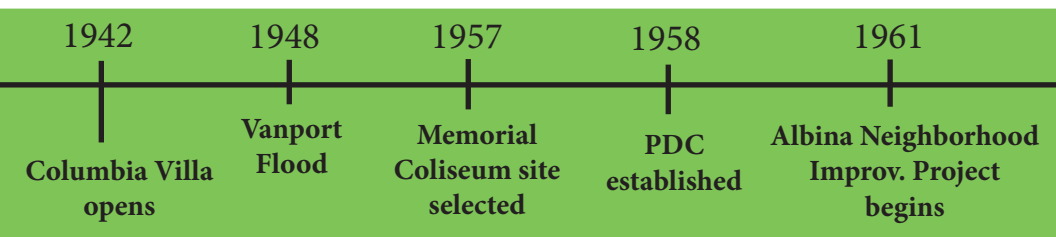
Map of Substandard Dwellings from Quality of Housing in the Broadway Steel Bridge Area report, 1955. 7700-02



Guilts Lake Fruit & Flower Day Care, 1948. A2011-025.11

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (PDC)

PDC programs have affected many neighborhoods and communities. Records beginning in the 1960s detail specific projects such as the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project (ANIP), Inner North/Northeast Neighborhood Development Program (NDP), Emanuel Hospital area, housing redevelopment, and the Urban Homestead Program.





Removal of the Cupola on N Russell and N Williams for the Emanuel Hospital urban renewal area, 1973. A2010-003

MODEL CITIES

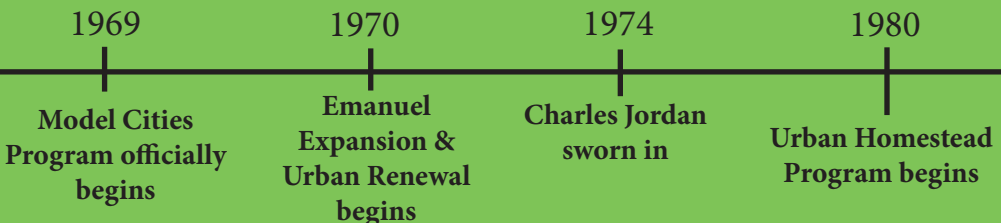
The Model Cities program was a Federal antipoverty plan that provided funding to many cities throughout the U.S. Inner North/Northeast Portland was selected to receive federal dollars. Many leaders in the African American community began their careers with Model Cities, with several continuing their government service and influencing government programs for years to come.

PLANNING

The Planning and Sustainability Bureau works to develop neighborhood plans. Designed in the 1990s, with community input, the Albina Neighborhood Plan has shaped Inner North/Northeast Portland development. Many important documents have been produced, including a *History of Portland's African American Community*.

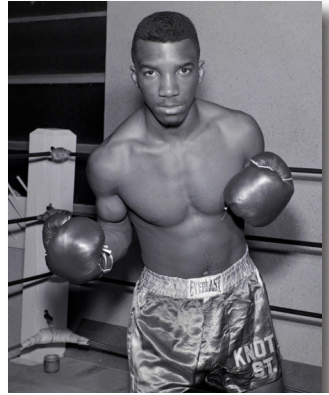


Albina Neighborhood Improvement Center meeting, 1963. A2010-003



Parks and Recreation

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation (PPR) serves all Portland communities. Records include development of new parks, like Denorval Unthank Park, and projects for existing facilities, such as Dawson Park. Also included are records for the Matt Dishman Community Center, formerly known as the Knott Street



Knott Street Boxer Tommy (Tony) Jacobs, 1966. A2012-005

Community Center, home to the Knott Street Boxing program. Many PPR materials illustrate life in historically African American neighborhoods.

Police and Fire Bureaus

Police Academy class, 1975. A2003-001.68



Both Fire & Rescue and the Police Bureau records contain information on the growth of the bureaus over time. For example, in 1971-72 the Fire Bureau implemented a targeted program, called Training 2, to encourage minority applicants.

Arts

Metropolitan Arts Commission (MAC) & Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC)

Both MAC and IFCC records contain materials about African American artists.



African American musicians playing for the Mayor's Youth Employment Program Summer '70, 1970. A2012-005

METROPOLITAN ARTS
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1023 Portland Oregon 97204

PROJECT GRANT EVALUATION
Please return to the Commission, 1120 SW 5th, Rm 1023, Portland, Oregon 97204, by the close of the project.

ORGANIZATION / INDIVIDUAL Andrew W. Hill
PROJECT TITLE Project Acculturation CON
TELEPHONE 726-5463

I. **Description of Project**

MAC Project Grant
Andrew Hill Project
Acculturation, 1994.
A2001-015

Sh... once a week. The two tech rehearsals
The Jazz Club located at 10 SW 3rd Avenue.
Project Employees: Artists: 3 Staff: 2 Ot...

Audience Total # of Events 1 Total audience reach
Demographics: Age range 3 to 78 Socio-economic rat...

City Photographer

The City Photographer covered many different types of City-related events, from meetings with officials at City Hall to documenting bureau programs throughout the city. The collection dates from the 1890s to 2013 and contains black and white and color images in various formats.



Sewer construction on SW 5th and SW Alder with workers, 1955.

A2005-005.447.3

MHRC

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission (MHRC), later called the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission, was established in 1969 as a joint City/County agency replacing the Portland Human Relations Commission. Its predecessor, the Portland Intergroup Relations Commission, was established in 1950 during Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee's administration. Materials regarding all of these groups can be found in the archives with a majority of records focusing on the MHRC. The general focus of these agencies was to create understanding and respect between economic, religious, ethnic, and social groups; arbitrate intergroup conflicts; and, conduct programs aimed at improving intergroup understanding. Specific topics included desegregation, equal employment, aging, and affirmative action.



Fair Rose (anti-discrimination) decal for display at businesses, ca. 1951. A2001-074

Research Guide

This guide merely touches the surface of the types of records available at the City Archives. To access these or any other records in the archives, visit our online catalog Efiles,



send us an email at parc@portlandoregon.gov, or come in when our research room is open.



Top: ANIP Junior Patrol at Memorial Coliseum circus day, 1968. A2010-003

Bottom: Group of ANIP volunteers for Clean Up on Mrs. Crane's block, 1961. A2010-003



Children participating in a Parks and Recreation led hike through Forest Park, 1953. A2001-045.681

Portland Archives & Records Center

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