City of Vancouver Archives

ANNUAL REPORT 2023
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As City Clerk, it is my pleasure to present the 46th annual published report of the City of Vancouver Archives. Established in 1933, the Archives is dedicated to the preservation of the corporate memory of the City of Vancouver and the documentary heritage of the local community.

Each year the Archives team undertakes special projects focused on improved preservation and public access. I am continually impressed by the team’s innovative and progressive nature, communications with the public and professionalism.

Some of these special projects would not be possible without external partners including the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives to whom I would like to give a special thank you. The Friends’ volunteer board meets throughout the year and raises funds for the Archives. Thank you to: Jill Kelly, Merrilee Robson, Kevin Bowers, Neal Jennings, John Atkin, Tom Carter, Aaron Chapman, Jennifer Chutter, Margaret Sutherland and Elana Zysblat. Your work is appreciated!

In 2023 the Friends held three fundraisers: an online lecture, a walking tour and a book reading at the Archives raising a total of $2,445. They also provided grants of over $23,000 to the Archives. These grants were critical to fund two projects. The first involved digitizing 8,000 photographic negatives taken as part of the City’s Heritage Inventory projects from 1964 to 1977. This completes digitization of all Heritage Inventory photographs in the Archives’ holdings, including those related to the 1986 Heritage Inventory, over 22,000 images in total. The second project focused on creation of preliminary descriptions of 7,500 photographic prints from the Vancouver Courier newspaper’s photo collection donated in 2008. This lays the groundwork for digitization of these photographs in 2025.

If you have not done so already, please check out the Archives on the City of Vancouver’s website, follow on one of its social channels or come visit in person—a beautiful setting for an important City resource.

Katrina Leckovic
City Clerk
It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the Archives’ 80th anniversary, and suddenly, just like that, we were 90. On June 12, 1933, Major JS Matthews was appointed City Archivist, officially founding the City Archives, and we decided to honour the occasion with some low-key celebrations: nothing like the grand events of our 75th, but something fun to scratch the celebratory itch on the way to 100.

We decided to focus the anniversary on raising our post-pandemic profile, with the main event a social media campaign on Instagram, Facebook and X, highlighting 90 different records groups from our holdings during the 90 days leading up to the anniversary. Each post was tagged with #VanArchives90th, and some of the records groups highlighted were familiar and popular ones: the City Council minutes, the Yucho Chow Community Archive Collection, the BC Gay and Lesbian Archives, the Pacific National Exhibition fonds, the Yaletown Productions Ltd. fonds. Others were lesser known but important gems. Led by our two archival assistants, Bronwyn Smyth and Christine Tutt, the campaign was a great success and garnered considerable social media engagement. If you missed it, check out the hashtag, or a visual representation of all 90 posts on our YouTube channel.

The anniversary period made for a very busy spring. In March, the Friends of the Archives invited me to speak about the social media campaign at their annual general meeting and to reflect on how the holdings and our services have changed over time. In April, three of us participated in a Vancouver Heritage Foundation Lunch and Learn webinar, focusing on the services we offer now. On May 30th, City Council proclaimed June 12th “City of Vancouver Archives Day,” and on June 7th, a number of Councillors and Park Board Commissioners visited our Vanier Park site for a back-of-house tour and helped us cut the anniversary cake.

On June 14th, things wrapped up with a back-of-house tour for members of the Vancouver Historical Society. We also received some great media attention, both from the CBC and the Vancouver Sun.
Behind the scenes, staff continued to work on a number of projects, many of which are mentioned elsewhere in this report. One major accomplishment, however, was our work on making some of the Vancouver Sun negatives available to the public. Postmedia had donated all of their Sun and Province negatives to us in 2017—5.6 million of them in 250,000 envelopes, each envelope representing a single photo shoot or job. Since early 2020, we have been steadily working to transcribe the metadata on the envelopes and turn that into file-level archival descriptions. In 2023 we made a push to do the final quality control on this work and uploaded over 32,000 descriptions to our online database. More descriptions are waiting for final review, and we anticipate these will be added in 2024. In the meantime, our two archival assistants continue to transcribe and will shortly finish all the Sun negatives dating up to the mid-1980s.

On the facilities front, design work proceeded for our East Vancouver satellite site renovation. That work revealed that additional funding would be required, and I’m pleased to report that funding was secured in December. We will select a general contractor early in the new year, and anticipate construction starting in the early spring. Within 8 to 12 months of that, we will have a shiny new HVAC system and walk-in frozen storage unit, and new, deeper and more efficient shelving units that should give us capacity to grow for the next 10 to 15 years. We anticipate record retrievals from the satellite site will not be impacted during the construction.

I’m very much looking forward to what 2024 will bring, and as always, I am very grateful for the Archives’ staff’s commitment to their work, their innovative thinking, and good humor. Our 91st year will be a good one.

Heather M. Gordon
City Archivist
CITY RECORDS PROCESSED
Records scheduled for archival retention through the City of Vancouver Records and Information Management program arrive on a regular basis. The following is a list of public records processed this year.

DATABASE DESCRIPTIONS
At December 31, 2023, the number of descriptive records in the Archives’ database stood as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fonds/collection</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sous-fonds</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series</td>
<td>1,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-series</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File</td>
<td>234,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>227,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part</td>
<td>11,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>476,361</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DIGITAL OBJECTS ONLINE
At December 31, 2023, the number of digital objects in the Archives’ database stood as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image</td>
<td>205,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio</td>
<td>2,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>213,175</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINANCIAL REPORT
OPERATING REVENUE
Recoveries
Sale of digital reproductions, photocopies and tax searches $7,547
Grants 38,208
**TOTAL** $45,755

OPERATING EXPENDITURES
Salaries $1,081,892
Supplies and services 51,481
**TOTAL** $1,133,373

ENDOWMENT FUNDS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Matthews Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>3,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schwesinger Legacy</td>
<td>-$118</td>
<td>7,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$118</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,236</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CITY RECORDS PROCESSED
Records scheduled for archival retention through the City of Vancouver Records and Information Management program arrive on a regular basis. The following is a list of public records processed this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Retained &amp; Described</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Clerk’s Office</td>
<td>15.0m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Clerk’s Office</td>
<td>126 video files</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department Retained & Described
City Clerk’s Office 15.0m
PROFILE OF USERS
Users who do research on site at the Archives are as many and varied as their topics. We serve a wide variety of citizens, institutions and organizations. In 2023, on-site users represented 36% of our researchers; off-site users (those who rely on our services by telephone, e-mail, mail, and social media) represented 64%.

Researchers on site at the Archives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Vancouver Staff</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government - Federal, Provincial, Regional, Other Municipal, First Nations</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious/Cultural Institution</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society or Association</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University/College</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Industry</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Vancouver Government</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogy</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Cultural</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Assessment</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
Services to citizens are a top priority for the Archives. We serve the community by acquiring records from donors, preserving them, and making them available to a wide variety of users and researchers. The community accesses our services by website, e-mail, phone, fax, regular mail, personal visits, and tours.

SERVICE STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document retrievals</td>
<td>6,285</td>
<td>6,274</td>
<td>6,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail enquiries</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>1,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone enquiries</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher visits</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New researcher registrations</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media enquiries</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail &amp; fax enquiries</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Impressions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>searcharchives.vancouver.ca</td>
<td>185,201</td>
<td>1,164</td>
<td>1.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AuthentiCity Blog</td>
<td>Users</td>
<td>Pageviews</td>
<td>Engagement rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sessions</td>
<td>15,610</td>
<td>12,721</td>
<td>5.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Users</td>
<td>12,721</td>
<td>21,411</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook, Instagram &amp; Twitter</td>
<td>Posts</td>
<td>Impressions</td>
<td>Users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impressions</td>
<td>1.8 million</td>
<td>1,266,395</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Users</td>
<td>1,266,395</td>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>Videos</td>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Views</td>
<td>5,026</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIAL MEDIA DATA GROWTH

48% Increase in posts
We gained 685,395 more followers in 2023 and our content was viewed 1.8 million times

64% Increase in views
118% Increase in followers

1.8 MILLION IMPRESSIONS!
PRIVATE-SECTOR ACQUISITIONS
In 2023, 53 private-sector accessions were completed. These included textual records, photographs, architectural drawings, maps, audio recordings, film, and video. Acquisitions of note include:

- Records of the late Sid Chow Tan, a community activist and filmmaker involved in the Downtown Eastside and the Chinese Canadian Head Tax and Exclusion Redress Movement. Material consists of over 1,200 video recordings as well as textual records, dating from 1979 to 2014.


- Drawings by architect Gerald Hamilton, representing Vancouver projects including the Vancouver Centennial Museum and Planetarium, three White Spot locations, the Banffshire Apartments, and the Fairmont Medical building. Donation dates from 1910 to 1972, but predominantly 1954-1972.

- A small volume of records that belonged to Vancouver architect Sydney Eveleigh (1870-1947) including photographs of his downtown buildings and two proposed drawings for the provincial courthouse, ca. 1890-1917.

- Photographs of Vancouver’s drag community taken by Rosamond Norbury, predominantly dating from the early 90s, but inclusive 1991-2003.

- An accrual to the Vancouver Historical Society fonds, 2014-2022, consisting of board and AGM minutes, newsletters and infoline reports.

- 55 VHS tapes of City Council meetings, taped from TV broadcast and dating 2001-2004. These pre-date the earliest Council video retained by the City.

- Two 8mm film reels documenting the construction of the Lion’s Gate Bridge, the Pier D fire, and the 1939 royal visit.

- 16mm film showing the aftermath of the Second Narrows Bridge collapse in 1958. Donation also includes a DVD of a documentary which chronicles the bridge collapse and incorporates some of the film footage.
OUR HOLDINGS

- **7.2 million** photographs
- **76,000** architectural drawings
- **6,800** maps
- **6,000** City publications
- **5,620** linear meters of textual records
- **5,500** moving image records
- **2,800** audio recordings
- **1,300** works of documentary art
- **95** TB of born-digital & digitized records
One of the major themes in the 2023 preservation programme was the revision and expansion of the Archives’ existing Emergency Plan. In coordination with the City’s Business Continuity Plan initiative, we decided it was a perfect time to freshen up the Archives staff’s knowledge on emergency response and disaster salvaging techniques with a half-day hands-on workshop. The workshop was a success and prompted many engaging questions to help refine our Emergency Plan; it also gave us the opportunity to put our upgraded disaster salvaging kit to test.

A few treatment highlights for the year include: tear repairs on our frequently requested Prisoners’ record book: volume 1 and the humidification/flattening of a series of newly acquired street banners. The rehousing of the millions of Vancouver Sun and Province photographs into frozen storage continued making steady progress this year, and these now fill more than eight freezer cabinets.

**PRESERVATION STATISTICS**

- Maps and plans treated: 88
- Photographs treated: 470
- Graphic materials treated: 1
- Text treated: 184
- Objects treated: 7

Other:
- E-mail enquiries: 4
In addition, a total of 109 digital reproduction orders were completed for a total of 4,172 images and pages. Revenue generated from reproduction charges was $7,325.

The digitization of the remaining 7,083 photographic negatives dated between 1967 and 1977, as part of the Heritage Inventory Project from the City’s Planning Department, was almost completed this year. Approximately 1,000 more negatives, as well as an additional 1,000 street intersection photos captured in the 1980s by the City’s Engineering Department will be digitized in January 2024. This project was made possible with the continuing support of the BC History Digitization Program and the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives.

In early 2023, we reconfigured our office layout to create a single, centralized digitization lab, which kicked off an exciting year for the digitization team. The new layout in the digitization lab not only improved the efficiency of our scanning and processing capabilities, more importantly, it carved out a dedicated space for the latest addition to our fleet of scanning equipment, the Atiz BookDrive Mark 2 book scanner. The acquisition of the book scanner will allow us to begin digitizing and making available online the remainder of the City Council meeting minutes that are still in bound format, dating from the earliest volume in 1886 to the more recent ones in the early 2000s. It will also considerably expand our capability to digitize many other records in our holdings that were not feasible before due to the physical restriction of their binding. We look forward to widening the scope of our in-house digitization programme with our new book scanner—stay tuned for updates!

**DIGITIZATION STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Images (photographs, maps and art)</td>
<td>8,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages of text</td>
<td>2,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pieces of tax microfiche</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Films</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHS tapes</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, a total of 109 digital reproduction orders were completed for a total of 4,172 images and pages. Revenue generated from reproduction charges was $7,325.
PARTNERSHIPS
In 2023, the Archives collaborated on projects with a number of outside organizations including the following:
• Crossing Fonds
• Historypin
• Internet Archive
• InterPARES
• Vancouver Heritage Foundation

LOANS
• Panoramic photographs for display in the Mayor’s Office and boardroom
• Panoramic photographs for display in Councillors Bligh’s, Carr’s, Dominato’s, Fry’s, Kirby-Yung’s, Klassen’s, Meiszner’s, Montague’s, and Zhou’s offices
• Panoramic photographs for display in the City Clerk’s Office corridor and reception area
• King John Sword replica to St. John Ambulance BC & Yukon Council Provincial Headquarters

EXHIBITIONS & DISPLAYS
• W.J. Moore Panoramas (Gallery)
• Otter Moments (Gallery)
• Archives 90th Anniversary (Video Wall)
• Vancouver Vignettes (Video Wall)

TOURS
Several back-of-house tours and Reading Room group orientations were held in 2023, including the following:
• Councillors Rebecca Bligh, Adriane Carr, Pete Fry, Mike Klassen, and Lenny Zhou; Park Board Commissioners Laura Christensen, Marie-Claire Howard and Scott Jensen; Trevor Ford, Mayor’s Office
• Emily Carr University of Art and Design photography students
• Eslha7an Learning Centre students
• Kwantlen Polytechnic University History students
• UBC History students
• UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture students
• UBC Theatre students
• Riley Park South Cambie Community Visions Committee members
• Shimane University (Japan) academics
• Vancouver Historical Society members
• Conservators from UBC Library, Fudan University, China and University of Newcastle, Australia
• Surrey Museum and Archives’ Young Canada Works interns
• Library staff from Lululemon
• Bryan Wood
• Anne Wyness

VOLUNTEERS
Kathy Kinakin worked on re-housing and photo identification projects throughout the year.
ORGANIZATION AND STAFF
In 2023, City of Vancouver Archives staffing stood at eight regular full time positions.

City Archivist: Heather Gordon

Archival Assistants: Bronwyn Smyth, Christine Tutt

Archivists: Kira Baker (TFT), Sammy Van Herk (AUX), Chak Yung

Conservator: Paola Merkins (TFT)

Digital Archivists: Glenn Dingwall, Jana Grazley, Sharon Walz

Digital Conservator: Dorcas Tong

Digitization Technician: Mandy Roddick (AUX)

SPECIAL EVENTS/OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS
• Bronwyn Smyth and Christine Tutt developed content for the Archives’ 90th Anniversary social media campaign, including a version for display on the Archives’ Gallery and City Hall video walls.

• Heather Gordon, Kira Baker and Bronwyn Smyth co-presented a webinar on the Archives’ services and holdings for the Vancouver Heritage Foundation’s “Lunch and Learn” series on April 13.

• Bronwyn Smyth served on the Vancouver Heritage Foundation’s 2024 WALL Committee. The WALL is a large format artists’ space on the side of the CBC building at 700 Hamilton Street, programmed in partnership with the Foundation, CBC/Radio Canada and the City’s Public Art Program. The featured artist is selected annually by committee.

• The Archives staffed a booth at the Places that Matter Community Celebration on February 22.

• Dorcas Tong delivered the presentation, “Ticking All the Boxes,” an overview of the Archives’ inventory and rehousing project at the bi-annual Pacific Conservation Group meeting on November 24.

• Paola Merkins served on the organizing committee of the 48th National Conference of the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property’s annual conference in Victoria.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT
• Dorcas Tong and Paola Merkins attended the bi-annual Pacific Conservation Group meeting at Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver.

• Dorcas Tong attended the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property’s annual conference in Victoria, at her own expense.

• Dorcas Tong virtually attended the American Institute for Conservation’s annual conference, “Conservation in the Age of Environmental, Social, and Economic Climate Change,” at her own expense.

• Paola Merkins attended the BC Municipal Safety Association webinar entitled “Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment” and a Fire Safety Plan Training session presented by the City’s Fire and Life Safety advisor Tracy Henderson.

• Paola Merkins attended the webinar “Fire Suppression for Museums” offered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation’s Connecting to Collections Care program and presented by the Smithsonian Institution.

• Paola Merkins attended a two-day photography identification and conservation workshop offered by the UBC Library Conservation Department at her own expense.

• Sammy Van Herk completed the City’s Prevention of Workplace Violence workshop.
STAFF PROJECTS

• Heather Gordon and Paola Merkins worked with Real Estate and Facilities Management staff on the design of upgrades to the Archives’ temporary satellite site in East Vancouver.

• With funding from the BC History Digitization Program and the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives, Archives staff undertook a project to make 8,084 Heritage Inventory and intersection photographic negatives from the City’s Planning and Engineering departments available online. Mandy Roddick, Sammy Van Herk, Jana Grazley and Dorcas Tong were involved in this project.

• Bronwyn Smyth and Christine Tutt continued to transcribe metadata from Vancouver Sun photo shoot job envelopes and boxed them for preservation in frozen storage. Jana Grazley uploaded to our online database much of the metadata created as a result of this project over the past three years, resulting in over 32,000 files available for public access.

• Sharon Walz completed a three-year project to process the more than 33,300 Vancouver Building Department/Permits and Licensing Department architectural drawings, most of which were associated with building permit applications.

• Kira Baker and Jana Grazley continued working on reparative description to review and revise legacy archival descriptions that contain problematic and outdated language.

• Glenn Dingwall completed a multi-year project to make all of the heritage consultancy files in the Hal Kalman fonds available to the public.

• Dorcas Tong led a half-day hands-on workshop for Archives’ staff on Emergency Response and Collection Salvage, which also led to the update and expansion of the Archives’ existing Emergency and Salvage Kit.

• Dorcas Tong, Mandy Roddick, Paola Merkins, and Heather Gordon reconfigured our digitization workspaces and procured and set up a new book scanner.

• Jana Grazley and Kira Baker continued collaboration on the 2022-2024 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada-funded project, Crossing Fonds: Pollinating Access and Interpretation, led by Dr. Sara Diamond and based out of Ontario College of Art & Design University.

• Glenn Dingwall continued participation in the InterPARES Trust AI Project, a multi-national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada-funded project investigating the potential application of artificial intelligence technologies to archival work, and the associated benefits and risks.

• Heather Gordon and Paola Merkins implemented a process to increase and facilitate access to the holdings kept at the Archives’ satellite site by augmenting the information available through the Archives’ location management system. A total of 9,354 files were imported, adding new data to existing records and new records to the system.
The Archives could not preserve Vancouver’s documentary heritage without the concern and active support of the many organizations and individuals who donate records and other materials.

Thank you to our 2023 donors.

Backer, Julie
Bevilacqua, Margaret
Britton, Paul
Chalmers, Cheri
Clague, Michael
Coalition of Progressive Electors
Desmond, Stephen
Dlugen, Jack
Farmer, Frank
Farris, Diane
Flett, Donna
Hall, Peter
Holland, Jane
Houle, Paul
Hutton, Valerie
IBI Group Architects
Lappin, Lyn
Levenston, Michael
Mackie, John
McDougall, Keith
McFarlane, Rosemarie
Mosley, Eric
Nicholson, Andrea
Nicol, Janet
Norbury, Rosamond
Out In Harmony
Page, Malcolm
Penticton Museum
Pistor, Rossana
Richardson, Wendy
Rolston, Barry
Royal British Columbia Museum
Sacuta, Donna
Salmon Arm Museum
Slack, Terry
Stepp, Lisa
Swanson, Jean
Tan, Jordan
Taylor, Paul
Trail Museum and Archives
Tutt, Fred
Vancouver Historical Society
Vanderpoll, Wim
Ward, Sheila
Young, Terrance Charles
Zesko, Judy
The Board of Directors held nine meetings during the year. The Annual General Meeting was held on March 28 and featured City Archivist Heather Gordon speaking on the history of the Archives and its current services, and describing how the Archives planned to celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2023.

In 2023 the Friends provided funding to the Archives in the amount of $23,208 to assist with the initial description of 7,500 Vancouver Courier photographs and the digitization of 8,000 Heritage Inventory photographs, the latter taken as part of City of Vancouver Planning Department’s heritage inventory projects completed between 1964 and 1977.

The Friends held three successful fundraisers in 2023. On January 31, UBC history professor Laura Ishiguro presented an online lecture entitled “No Smoke Without Fire: Reimagining Women in Colonial Barkerville” on April 2; John Atkin, Bob Sung and Hayne Wai provided a walking tour of Vancouver’s Chinatown; and on April 23; Eve Lazarus spoke in person at the Archives on her favourite stories from her book, Vancouver Exposed: Searching for the City’s Hidden History.

The Committee is authorized by City Council to assist the Archives on matters such as acquisition policy, donations, revenue projects, educational matters, public relations, and physical plant. It also oversees the use of the Major Matthews Memorial Fund. Neal Jennings attends meetings in the role of liaison from the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives. The Committee did not meet in 2023.

Funding was received to digitize 8,280 photographic negatives taken as part of the City’s Heritage Inventory projects between 1964 and 1977 (predominately 1974).

Funding was received to digitize 8,280 photographic negatives taken as part of the City’s Heritage Inventory projects between 1964 and 1977 (predominately 1974).

Funding was received to preliminarily describe 7,500 photographic prints from the Vancouver Courier newspaper’s photo morgue.
Captions

IMAGE CAPTIONS AND REFERENCE CODES

Page 3:
• Official 90th anniversary cake cutting with (L to R) Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Commissioners Scott Jensen and Laura Christensen, Councillor Mike Klassen, Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard, Councillors Adriane Carr, Lenny Zhou and Pete Fry. Photo: Paola Merkins.

Page 4:

Page 7:
• One of the 33,000 Vancouver Sun photo shoots made available in 2023.

Page 9:
• Salvage Workshop. Photo: Mandy Roddick.
• Banners preservation treatment. Photos: Dorcas Tong.

Page 10:

Page 11:
• Top and bottom: Vancouver Historical Society tour, June 14, 2023. Photo: Paola Merkins.

Page 12:
• Councillor Klassen cuts the 90th anniversary cake while Commissioner Howard and Councillor Carr look on. Photo: Paola Merkins.

From the COV Heritage inventory project

Front cover:
• 43 Powell Street - Hotel Europe. Reference code: COV-S644-: CVA 1095-14141.

Contents page:
• 107-111 E. Pender Street - Richard Mar Jewelry and Tom’s Taxi. Reference code: COV-S644-: CVA 1095-09606.

Page 2:
• Vancouver City Hall, north side. Reference code: COV-S644-: CVA 1095-01831.

Page 5:
• 122 East Pender Street - Kwong Chai Tong Co. herbs. Reference code: COV-S644-: CVA 1095-09497.

Page 9:
• Salvage Workshop. Photo: Mandy Roddick.
• Banners preservation treatment. Photos: Dorcas Tong.

Page 10:

Page 11:
• Top and bottom: Vancouver Historical Society tour, June 14, 2023. Photo: Paola Merkins.

Page 15: