

Broadway High School Archives

Preserving and sharing the history of Seattle's first high school

Team: Anna R Hurwitz, Kaylynn Guerra, Caitlin Soha, Kari Whitney

- 1902 - 1946** → Seattle's first high school
- 1974** → Original building demolished; Alumni rescue five bags of artifacts and launch the archives
- 2014** → Aging Alumni Association disbands; materials languish, mice and dust invade
- 2019** → Emerging archivists assess and reinvigorate 250 linear feet of ephemera, textiles, awards, and documents, creating a contemporary archive for use by the community



The Challenge: Who Owns This Thing?

- Surviving Alumni?
- Host Site: Seattle Central College?
- Seattle Public School Archives?
- Other community stakeholders?



The Process: Mold, Mice, and Tigers (Oh My!)

- Comprehensive internal and external assessment and inventory report
- Significant preservation activities: deaccessioning and rehousing while maintaining original order
- Creation of multiple entry points: Archivists' Blog, Finding Aid & Wikipedia article.



The Outcome: A Renewed Community Resource

- Engaged stakeholders
- Collaborative relationships
- Archives remain in community of origin
- Accessible resource for students, educators, genealogists, alumni, and researchers