

Seattle Black Panther Party History and Memory Project



The Black Panther Party for Self Defense established its Seattle chapter in the spring of 1968. It was one of the first to be created outside of California. The Seattle chapter also lasted longer than most, surviving until 1978. Although the membership was never large, the organization made a major impact on the region. With their black berets and leather jackets and their commitment to armed self-defense, the organization became role models to some while scaring others. Either way, the organization showed Seattle that its struggles for racial justice had moved beyond persuasion and nonviolent protest. Hence, the Seattle Black Panther Party History and Memory Project unit is an extensive online collection of materials for any chapter of the Black Panther Party, including the Oakland chapter.

Links at <http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/BPP.htm>

lead to more than a dozen oral histories, scores of photographs, rare documents, and BPP publications, more than 100 newspaper articles, and the complete transcript and exhibits from the 1970 Congressional Hearings into the activities of the chapter. The above photo is a mirroring the Sacramento incident of 1967, on February 28, 1969, a group of BPP members in Seattle gathered on the steps of the Capitol to protest a bill that would make it a crime to exhibit firearms “in a manner manifesting intent to intimidate others” (photo by Washington State Archives).