

# **KBOO Program Archiving and Preservation Project**

## **Project Summary**

The KBOO Program Archiving and Preservation NDSR resident will aid in the design and development of a process for the digitization, preservation, and cataloging of 7500 historic KBOO programs dating from the late 1960s. The project will involve designing the PBCore metadata catalogue, as well as investigating and developing systems for search and access to the digitally archived programs. The goal is a system for making archived programs accessible to KBOO programmers, other stations, researchers and the public.

## **Specific Project Goals and Objectives**

1. Survey existing PBCore database and suggest upgrades to improve access.
2. Research, outline and document KBOO's current digital storage and archiving practices for historic programs. Work with mentor(s) to design new strategies and produce a policies & procedures manual for saving and archiving programs.
3. Assess current digital program production practices of live programs at KBOO and design a way to link auto-saved programs to searchable database.

## **Project Timeframe and Deliverables**

### Months 1-2: Training and Orientation

1. Introduction to KBOO and to radio and audio production
2. Familiarize resident with existing Excel and PBCore databases and station archiving and preservation needs.
3. Familiarize resident with the existing tape and other media archives and their associated problems and needs.
4. Familiarize resident with current practices for recording saving live programming (born digital.)

### Months 3-7: Design and Implementation

1. Work with mentor to design project workflow in more detail
2. Revise PBCore directory architecture to meet needs of KBOO programmers and other users.
3. Supervise (with assistance from mentor) volunteers and interns in cataloging and digitizing some programs that are on stable media (deliverable)
4. Work with mentors and KBOO staff to design a system to link digitized programs to PBCore database and for accessing programs for broadcast (deliverable)
5. Work with mentor(s) to design new strategies and produce a policies & procedures manual for saving and archiving programs (deliverable)

## Months 8-9: Documentation and Final Reporting

1. Finalize archiving digitizing and archiving policies and procedures into a manual (deliverable)
2. Design (with mentor) work plan and recommendations for continuing digitization and preservation, especially of vulnerable and damaged reel-to-reel tapes (deliverable)
3. Identify key challenges and future needs for archiving and digital preservation and recommendations in a final report (deliverable)

### **Resources Required for Project**

- Mentors and resident. The lead mentor will schedule weekly meetings with the resident and facilitate interactions with other staff and volunteers.
- KBOO will provide a dedicated workstation with appropriate software and space in its offices for the resident.
- KBOO will provide access to studios and audio equipment as needed.
- Resident will function as part of KBOO staff and have access to Public Affairs, Engineering, and other staff as needed.

### **Project Context**

KBOO has almost 7500 audio tape archives in various formats dating to the late 1960s that have been sitting in a closet for decades. Many of the tapes, especially older reel-to-reel ones, are deteriorating with age, and KBOO is committed to preserving the contents digitally, while making the programs accessible to KBOO programmers, other non-commercial stations, academics, and the public. KBOO volunteers (Portland State Public History graduate students and interns) have begun cataloging and digitizing programs on less vulnerable formats such as minidiscs (completed), CDs and DATs.

KBOO's tapes are a vital part of Portland's and Oregon's cultural and political history. KBOO has been at the heart of the action of much of Portland's cultural and political life for almost 5 decades. The KBOO tape archives include exclusive interviews with Oregonians Bob Packwood, Ken Kesey (five separate programs), William Stafford, Gus Van Sant, Ursula Le Guin (six programs over as many years) and Portlander Ben Linder who was murdered by Contras while volunteering in Nicaragua. There are also interviews with national figures like Allen Ginsberg, Native American poet and filmmaker Sherman Alexie, Edward Abbey, Cesar Chavez, Annie Liebovitz, George McGovern, Ramsey Clark, Amory Lovins and hundreds of others. In addition there are live recorded programs documenting marches, demonstrations, community meetings and other events that give 'you are there' discussions with participants and reportage from behind the scenes. And there are live performances of original music by local and touring musicians, singers and songwriters (professionally recorded music will not be included for copyright reasons.)

## **Required Knowledge and Skills for Residents**

The ideal resident will have the following skills and knowledge:

- Radio production
- Audio media preservation
- Knowledge and understanding of analog and digital audio formats
- Database management
- Ability to work collaboratively in a decentralized organization
- Listening, oral and written communication skills

## **Preferred Knowledge and Experience of Residents**

- Familiarity with PBCore and/or Dublin Core
- Familiarity with postgreSQL database

## **Post-Residency Project Integration Plan**

KBOO is committed to preserving its historic programs and making them accessible. The NDSR resident will provide invaluable tools for achieving this by developing systems for documenting, preserving, digitizing, and making them accessible. The need for someone to do this important foundational work has hindered KBOO's ability to move forward with its digitization project.

KBOO will be applying for National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities Digitization and Preservation grants in spring 2016. These will be especially important for the deteriorating reel-to-reel tapes, which would need to be digitized by an outside contractor specializing in preservation. Having an NDSR resident would strengthen the applications, and if the NEA or NEH grant is awarded the resident would be involved in the start of this digital conversion process.

If the NEA and/or NEH grants are not awarded, KBOO will still use the materials developed by the NDSR resident in its digitization program, but it may take longer depending, among other things, on other sources of funding.