

## **Ballot Measure Archive Project**

### Committees and Vision

**Director:** Joshua Binus

**Digital Projects Manager:** George Eigo

**Community Partner & Non-Profit Fiscal Sponsor:** Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission

#### **Advisory Committee**

Carl Abbott	William Lang	John Matsusaka
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		Linda K. Williams

#### **Working Group**

Cain Allen	Clark Hansen	Ken Lomax
Cathy Croghan Alzner	Brian Johnson	Michael O'Rourke
Andrew Bryans	Seanna Kerrigan	Sandy Polishuk
George Eigo	Jim Kopp	Donna Sinclair
Richard Engeman	Peter Kopp	Jim Strassmaier

**Archive Development:** By the end of spring term 2009, Portland State University will have created an archive of historic materials that will cover approximately 114 ballot measures and occupy about 200 cubic feet of physical space. This effort alone has already made the project a success. When PSU's portion of the project is complete it will provide the public with a unique treasure trove of materials from which to engage the history of Oregon's initiative system.

**Website Development:** In order to ensure that the collection is meaningfully accessible to the general public, efforts have already begun to create a BMAP Website. Subsequently, we have started digitizing the archive's holdings (having scanned about 1,500 images to date) and have been steadily building up the content for the website-to-be. An agreement has also been finalized with a Portland-based firm to donate the equipment and labor to digitize a bulk of the archive's 8.5 X 11 in. typescript pages (into word-searchable pdfs) as well. Beyond this, we have been creating itemized inventories and content summaries for each collection and crafting short historical essays and bibliographies for each ballot measure.

**Oral Histories:** Using a conservative goal of conducting 6 oral history interviews per ballot measure (3 per side), there is a need to record more than 700 interviews, including initiative activists, secretaries of state, attorney generals, judges, pollsters, and public relations specialists. These interviews will need to be recorded to fill in gaps in the historical record and provide context to the historical materials collected by PSU.

**Permanent Repository:** Paramount in the final resting place of the Ballot Measure Archive is the goal of providing maximum access to the general public. An agreement has been worked out with the Oregon State Archives to shepherd the physical collection (the digital archive will be housed at Portland State's library) until the university builds an archive of its own.