

WHAT MAKES PORTLAND PORTLAND
Portland 1946-1975: an untitled digital humanities project

The postwar emergence of Portland's three regional clusters - advertising, sportswear, tech - is closely intertwined with the history of a fourth regional strength: independent film. Oregon Cartoon Institute's first digital humanities project will explore these interlinked histories in an interactive map designed to be visually engaging and accessible to the public, while at the same time containing an underlying layer of footnotes helpful to scholarly research.

The project team include Anne Richardson, director of Oregon Cartoon Institute; Carl Abbott, professor emeritus of Portland State University Toulon School of Urban Studies/Urban Planning; graphic novelist David Chelsea; Robert Johnston, director of the Teaching Of History program at the University of Illinois in Chicago; Eric Hillerns, co-founder of Design Week.

Tektronix, Viewmaster and Jantzen provided infrastructure which nurtured the careers of Oregon's first generation of sound era filmmakers, a group which included Frank Hood (1912 - 1987), Lew Cook (1909 -1983), and Homer Groening (1919 - 1996). These three WWII veterans would later directly inspire, and in some cases actively instruct, the extraordinary next generation of Portland filmmakers which included Will Vinton, Bill Plympton, Jim Blashfield, Matt Groening and Gus Van Sant.

The project will use new media, archival film, graphic journalism and scholarly research to illuminate the way three emerging regional clusters - advertising, sportswear, tech - nurtured the re-introduction of independent filmmaking to Portland in the postwar period.