AAPB NDSR Final Report

Host Mentor: Erin Yanke
Organization: KBOO Community Radio, Portland OR
Resident: Selena Chau

Original Project Plan
The KBOO Program Archiving and Preservation NSDR resident will aid in the design, development of a process for the digitization, preservation and cataloging of 7,500 historic KBOO programs dating from the late 1960’s. 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.

Integration plan - KBOO is committed to preserving it’s 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.

Changes to the Original Plan
The KBOO Archives themselves were not in a position to start where we thought we were. Selena spent time organizing content by digital rights. The plan was also wide ranging and covered a lot of ground. Selena helped us focus on prioritizing our needs into a database system. We were told that we would need to develop something from scratch, but Selena found the program Resource Space, which fits our needs perfectly.

Project Milestones & Deliverables
Deliverables

- 2-page recommendation summary for KBOO
- Digital Preservation Policy
- Current digital storage and archiving practices
- Diagram for current digital program production practices at KBOO (PDF version)
- PBCore-based data model for KBOO analog audio assets
- Workflow for open-reel preservation
- Digital Audio Guidelines and Procedures
- ResourceSpace Archive Database - Main purpose is to document and manage information in digitization and digital preservation workflows of news and public affairs analog items. Drupal will be the future access platform for audio.
- Recommended next steps for developing an integrated searchable database of born-digital and analog audio
- Orange binder of KBOO archives information, includes special logins
Milestones:

Sept, 2016 - Realistic Plan
In Selena’s intake process, we narrowed down the scope to help us with the database and metadata as the primary need of this position. She ended up hitting many of our dream milestones.

Oct, 2016 - Vendor Vetting
Selena found the vendors we’d been planning to work with unqualified to fit our needs. KBOO was an inexperienced organization, and didn’t know the right questions to ask about database creation and open reel digitization. The vendors quickly dropped off talking to us when Selena became our primary point person.

Feb, 2017 - Budget Process
In our 6 month budget re-do, Selena provided great leadership and got the staff archivist position as first priority staffing need for KBOO. This also helps us meet our strategic plan goals.

Feb - May, 2017 - Digitization Process
Selena went through an entire digitization process with KBOO 1/4” open reels with Media Preserve.

March 9, 2017
Selena led the NDSR Webinar: “ResourceSpace for Audiovisual Archiving”.

March 25, 2017 - KBOO Editathon
A day long event to get the KBOO community to learn about the archive. They helped with metadata, remembered volunteers who are no longer in the current institutional memory, and helped solve mysteries. This blogpost goes into more detail.

Project Impact
Station
The AAPB NDSR project was a boon for KBOO. We had long since prioritized digitizing our reels, worried that the old content was being lost. However, we were proceeding in a way that was nowhere near best practices. Selena Chau was the first real archivist we’ve had. Now we have clear systems, a database that fits our needs, documentation of every part of the digitization process, workflow documents, and recommendations for next steps that take into consideration our capacity to succeed. We also have the model of the Edit-a-thon to continue engaging our community in archival work. I feel that now we can claim that we have an archive, instead of accumulations of programming from the last 49 years. That would have been impossible without Selena Chau and the AAPB NDSR project.
Professional Community
The NDSR residency at KBOO has allowed us to be a leader for community radio stations nationally. As all community radio stations have collections of irreplaceable audio, we now share the model of best practice through Michael Huntsberger of the Radio Preservation Task Force. He came to KBOO for a site visit in April, 2017. He was completely blown away at the progress we had made in implementing best practice and getting particular parts of our collection digitized and catalogued. As all other community radio stations have this issue, his study will help spread the word about the NDSR residency and the solutions that Selena led us to, and also about the problems we've encountered.