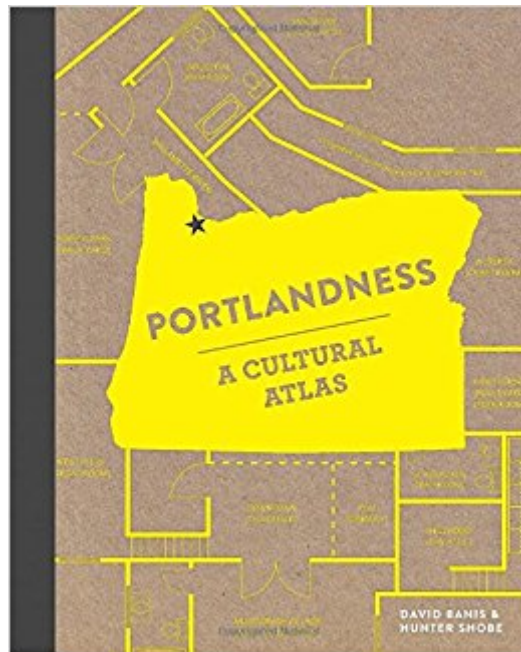


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Portlandness: A Cultural Atlas



Synopsis

The new cartography is about much more than just land! In 150 infographic maps of Portland, Oregon, two leading geographers explore unexpected topics like city chickens, wild coyote encounters, food-truck trends, and coffee culture. Modern cartography tells the hidden stories of Portland in these fascinating and colorful infographic maps. When mapmaking takes on nontraditional topics like patterns of graffiti, locations of strip clubs, or even which neighborhoods favor which house colors, finding your way around the city takes on a whole new meaning. Each map starts with the gathering of at least one data set about a given topic, then translating that to a visual format that blends traditional cartographic skills with modern graphic design.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[Portlandness] suggests that when we let go of our biases and set off on the city streets, we will stumble upon a Portland we barely imagine." —The Oregonian
"Portlandness: A Cultural Atlas should be required reading for newcomers and natives alike." —Portland Monthly
"Portland State University geography professors Banis and Shobe tap into the popularity of the TV show Portlandia with this entertaining and educational reference." —Library Journal
"Is there a Portland state-of-mind? Is there a way to objectively look at the peculiar state of being that seems to be Portland, here in the 2010's, and lay it all out for you, comprehensibly? If there is, Portlandness: A Cultural Atlas comes as close as anything can at the moment...a witty, earnest look at what it means to be Portland right here, right now." —Zehn Katzen

David Banis has managed the Center for Spatial Analysis and Research in the Geography Department at Portland State University since 2006, working with a wide variety of partners at the federal, state, and local levels. His work explores the diverse ways that cartographers can tell stories with maps, focusing on the mapping of nontraditional subjects. Â Hunter Shobe is a cultural geographer and assistant professor at Portland State University. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Oregon and has over fifteen years of experience researching the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of how people connect to places and environments.

I suspect nearly anyone who's ever lived in Portland and has a curious mind will delight in this book. It documents the most absurd things, from house color by neighborhood to noise level in Providence Park by minute in a Timbers game. It is utterly and completely Portland, except that it lacks a sense of humor. (We actually had a debate about whether this was appropriately called a 'Cultural Atlas', or if it should have been a 'Cultural Encyclopedia'. Either way, it'll help you find the neighborhood with the highest density of brewpubs.) Would it appeal to someone with no connection to Portland? Probably not. Even infographic addicts might be disappointed, as the infographics, though plentiful, play second fiddle to a great deal of explanatory text.

This book is PACKED full of interesting maps, facts, history, images, and impressions of Portland past and present. Every page has multiple maps and/or images to pour over. The book is beautifully bound and sturdy, the colors and cover are very attractive.

I've lived in Oregon my whole life, and am pretty familiar with Portland. Even so, this book is great! It's full of fun facts, the maps are gorgeous, and everyone who visits me just can't help but take a look. It's not necessary to read cover to cover, it's enjoyable to just pick up and randomly open to any section. In my opinion, if you are new to Portland, or if you just love the city, this is a great addition for your bookcase or coffee table.

***Full Disclosure: I worked on the book. :) ***Whether you live in, or even know Portland, this book is worth the modest price (between \$18 and \$25--for a hardback!). I was lucky enough to be involved in this project, so I have seen it evolve along much of its trajectory. The energy and love that's been invested into each subject still takes my breath away every time I open the book. This is NOT meant to be a travel atlas (although, if you want ideas for exploring Portland, Oregon, this might be EXACTLY what you are looking for). Every few pages is a new take on either the entire city, or on

some region or neighborhood. The perspectives offered are some engaging and thought-provoking combination of research, analysis, and cartographic/artistic representation. Also, if you are a map-lover, this book is a MUST for your collection.

Bought this for a family member. He loves it and that is all that matters.

Got this for my best friend's birthday after she moved to Portland and she's loved it as fun way to get to know her new city even better. But the best part about buying this book was that my mom saw it and loved it so much she bought three more copies, one for her and two for gifts. My best friend, my mom and I would all highly recommend!

i'm going to Portland on vacation this summer and I feel I know so much more about it now.

Fun way to explore Portland from many different perspectives. Who knew that there was so many different messages on Stop signs, and that there are so many cameras throughout downtown. It's full of interesting overlays that you wouldn't normally think of.

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