

Fashion or Function?

Some clothing items are all about the function or purpose of the garment, while some focus on style and self-expression. What do you think about these clothing items in the MOHAI Collection? Fashion, function, or both?



Mackinaw Cruiser, 2013

Filson patented the “Mackinaw Cruiser” in 1914. It was originally designed for timber cruisers (workers who measure trees and collect forest data). The back has a double layer of wool for warmth and a roomy back pocket for storing maps.



MSR rain jacket, 1976

Seattle-based Mountain Safety Research (MSR) was one of the first companies to use Gore-Tex material for outdoor recreational wear. Gore-Tex is water-repellent, moisture wicking, and breathable. An MSR employee test-wore this rain jacket before it went into general production.



Seattle World's Fair top and skirt, 1962

This shirt and skirt are printed with a pattern that celebrates the 1962 World’s Fair in Seattle, and features images of the Space Needle, Monorail, arches of the US Science Pavilion, and the International Fountain.



Barnyard Cannibals vest, 2010

Pele Washington, a.k.a. B-Boy Play, is the leader of Seattle breakdance crew Barnyard Cannibals. Washington asked local graffiti artist Milestone to help create a look for his dance competitions. Milestone painted the back panel and removed the jacket sleeves to create this unique vest.

Designing Fashion

Fashion illustrations communicate *the idea* of the garment and express things like color, shape, and movement. **Technical drawings** communicate details about how a garment will be made. Designers also do research to identify potential materials.



Pattern drafting is the process of figuring out how to actually make the garment and creating templates that show how to cut and sew everything together. The pattern is then tested, usually by making the item out of a basic material, like muslin.

Then, the a **sample** is made using the actual materials and worn by a person to see how the garment looks, feels, and moves. The design is further refined by adjusting the materials and pattern before final approval.



Cardboard Costumes



Practice your design skills with cardboard costumes! Costumes are a great way to practice designing for visual effect, and cardboard is a great material for prototyping. Watch the video introduction on the MOHAI YouTube Channel (@mohaiprograms)!

What you'll need:



- Drawing supplies
- Cardboard
- Measuring tape or ruler & string
- Scissors or box cutter
- Cutting mat/surface
- Heavy duty glue and/or tape
- Decorating supplies

What you'll do:

1. Brainstorm

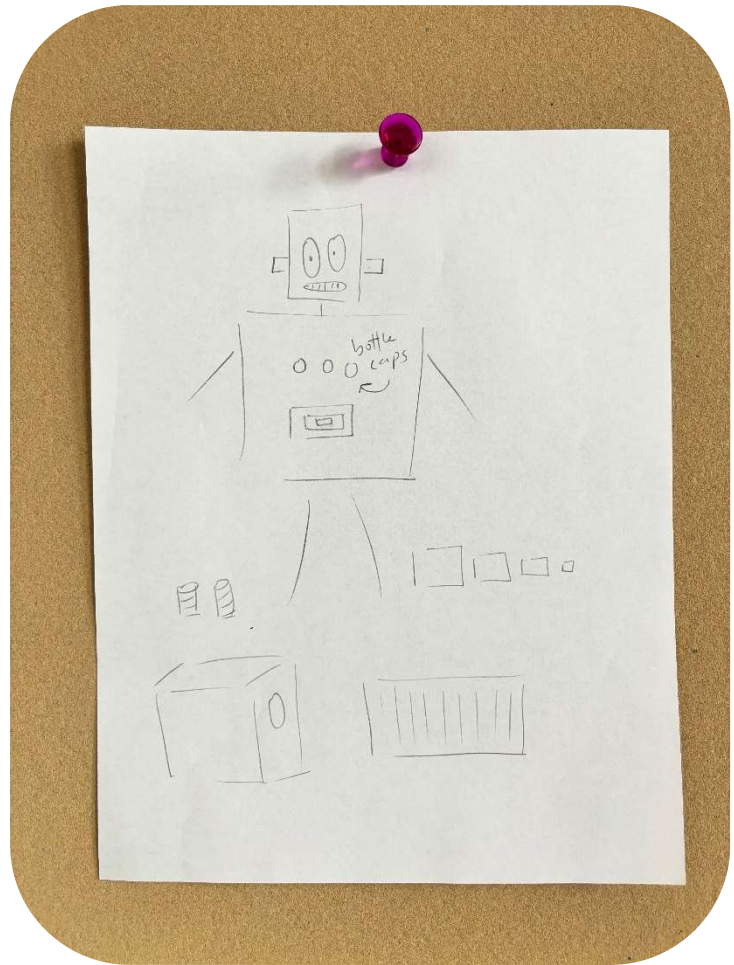
- Gather inspiration! Maybe your costume is based on an iconic Seattle landmark, a favorite animal, or character.
- Sketch out your idea on paper.



Person dressed as robot to advertise Channel 13, Seattle, 1960. MOHAI, Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, PI21634

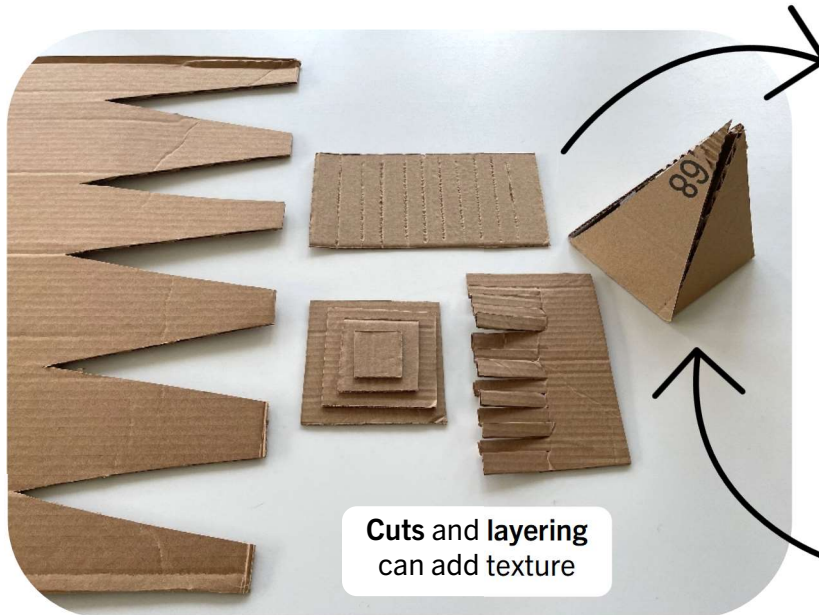


The Westinghouse Televox robot, March 1929 MOHAI, Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, PI21646



2. Map out your costume

- Think about how you will build your costume. What parts and pieces do you need?
- You can get a lot of different effects with cardboard...

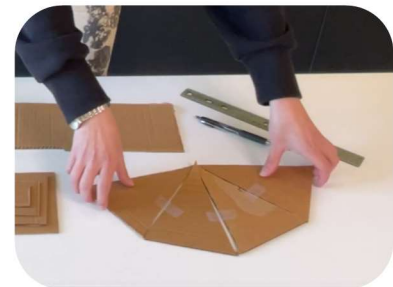


Cuts and layering
can add texture

Scoring: making creases in the cardboard allows it to fold and bend more easily



Plates can form a new 3D shape



Darts: cut out triangles and attach the sides together to give the cardboard a new shape



Draw out your pieces before cutting!

- Don't forget that cardboard folds easier in some directions than others!
- Take measurements of your body to make sure you are cutting things to the right size.
- Make sure to leave room for joints/seams and movement!



3. Build your prototype

- Cut and loosely assemble your pieces together so they are easy to alter if needed.
- Does everything fit together well? Are you getting the effect you want?
- Now is a great time to test the fit and alter or create new pieces.



4. Refine your design

- Once everything is the way you want it, securely attach everything together.
- Add decorations! Where can color, motion, and other special effects be added?



5. Try it on! How does it feel, fit, and move?

Share your cardboard costume on social media with us!

