

A faded background image of a large, ornate, light-colored building with multiple towers and arched windows, likely a university building. The text is overlaid on this image.

WAYNE STATE HUMANITIES CLINIC ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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CONTENTS

ABOUT.....	2
2021 INTERNS.....	3
SURVIVING AND THRIVING IN A PANDEMIC.....	4
EMPOWERING DETROIT COMMUNITIES.....	5
PREPARING HUMANISTS FOR DIVERSE CAREERS.....	6
SUSTAINABILITY.....	8

ABOUT

The Humanities Clinic is an innovative internship program that enhances graduate teaching in the humanities and social sciences at Wayne State University by hiring humanities and social science graduate students to work as paid, semester-long interns with Detroit non-profits and small businesses. The mission of the Humanities Clinic is to bring humanities and social science expertise to communities throughout Detroit and to prepare graduate students for meaningful and diverse careers while supporting local businesses and non-profits.

This year, in an effort to continue Wayne State's commitment to improving graduate education through professional experiences, the Graduate School, Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, generously funded the creation of a new Humanities Career Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Wayne State. This post-doctoral fellowship signals the Graduate School, Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' desire to understand and meet the need for skills-based learning among humanities and social science graduate students. This work advances Wayne State as a leader in graduate education.

The Humanities Career Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow will facilitate a Council of Graduate Schools NEW PATHS initiative aimed at increasing professional networking and job preparedness among first- and second-year English and history graduate students. The post-doctoral fellow will also lead the Humanities Clinic, mentor interns from all humanities and social science departments, and build and sustain community partnerships with non-profits and small businesses throughout Detroit. These efforts will help to prepare humanities and social science students for diverse careers, address the need for transferable job skills, and deepen connections with Detroit communities.

OUR SPONSORS

The Graduate School
Office of the Provost
Office of the Vice President for Research
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of History
Department of English
Council of Graduate Schools
Ford Community Corps

2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Heidelberg Project
Greenmead Historical and Newburgh Cemetery
Henry Ford Health System
Wayne State University Department of Pediatrics, Urban Children's Health Collaborative
Motor Cities National Heritage Area
Business and Community Law Clinic, Wayne State Law School
Deeply Rooted Enterprises
Detroit Sound Conservancy
Georgia Street Community Collective
Pewabic Pottery
STEM Genius
Detroit Public Schools Foundation
Green Door Initiative
Food Rescue US
Urban Aging News

2021 INTERNS

Carly Braxton, English: Green Door Initiative; Food Rescue US

Jocie Osika, Anthropology: Henry Ford Health System; Greenmead Historical Park/Newburgh Cemetery

Najma Akhther, Communications: Henry Ford Health System; Motor Cities National Heritage Area

Jaroslava Pallas-Brink, Anthropology: Pewabic Pottery; Detroit Sound Conservancy

Reid Hulleza, Political Science: Business and Community Law Clinic; Deeply Rooted Enterprises

Rebecca Phoenix, History: Greenmead Historical Park/Newburgh Cemetery; Motor Cities National Heritage Site

Haley Scott, Social Work, Anthropology: Heidelberg Project

Hamza Danjuma, English: Business and Community Law Clinic; STEM Genius

Leah Lynch, Sociology: Henry Ford Health System; Wayne State University Department of Pediatrics – Urban Children's Health Collaborative; Detroit Urban Aging News

Nicole Mullins, Anthropology: Detroit Public Schools Foundation; Business and Community Law Clinic; Detroit Urban Aging News

Bernadette Kelly, English: Georgia Street Community Collective; Detroit Sound Conservancy

Dominic Nanni, English: STEM Genius; Georgia Street Community Collective

SURVIVING AND THRIVING IN A PANDEMIC

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt life around the globe, nonprofits and businesses right here in Detroit have faced unprecedented challenges. Yet these challenges have provided new opportunities for Humanities Clinic interns to support Detroit communities. In turn, interns have gained job skills that they can transfer to diverse careers beyond the academy.

Operating remotely has not stopped our interns from forming important professional connections and doing critical work in Detroit communities. As organizations like Food Rescue US and Henry Ford Health System were actively working to alleviate food and health care disparities exacerbated by COVID-19, Humanities Clinic interns helped these organizations increase their impact through data collection and analysis, community outreach, media development, and educational programming. When entire neighborhoods were flooded this past summer, our interns supported organizations like the Green Door Initiative by interviewing displaced people and writing a series of blog posts about environmental justice. Interns also worked with the Georgia Street Collective, organizing a health fair and educational programs. Others contributed to archival research projects at the Heidelberg Project, Greenmead Historical Park, and Detroit Sound Conservancy, organizations dedicated to preserving Detroit's unique cultural heritage.

Thanks to generous support from The Graduate School, the Office of the Provost, The Graduate School, Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Humanities Clinic expanded in 2021 to include a new Graduate Student Assistant, D'Arcy Cook, a history PhD student. Lillian Wilson, PhD, was hired as the Humanities Career Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow.

The Humanities Clinic grew this year thanks to generous support from the Graduate School, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Office of the Provost, the Department of History, the Department of English, and private donors. We are grateful to our sponsors, our community partners, and Wayne State faculty who have remained committed to the Clinic's mission of bringing humanities expertise to Detroit communities and preparing the next generation of humanists for diverse careers, especially during these trying times.

Professor Elizabeth Faue
Director

Lillian Wilson, PhD
Coordinator & Humanities Career Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow

D'Arcy Cook
Graduate Student Assistant

EMPOWERING DETROIT COMMUNITIES

The 2021 Humanities Clinic employed 12 interns from 7 academic departments to work with 15 community partners. These are the top skills that community partners requested in 2021:

- compiling and analyzing data
- project development
- social media/web development
- community outreach
- copy editing
- archival research
- historical documentation
- digital archiving
- educational programming and curriculum development
- historical site analysis and surveying
- grant writing

COMMUNITY PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

“Interns were in tune with the environmental and racial justice views of the grass roots organizations and were able to create a creative and informative trifold with the information collected. They also assisted with the preparations for a local health fair where the information will be available.”

“Our workplace benefitted greatly from having Nicole whose background was in Anthropology. Her expertise in research and in understanding people and place was imperative to the work that she performed for us.”

“In reflection, I feel that I have a greater appreciation for the humanities. I find that the humanities are so important in these times.”

“We were introduced to an amazing resource to the community.”

“We encouraged our intern to apply her experience with academic research, also her background in Social Work and Anthropology throughout her time with us this summer. We were very much impressed with the level of expertise that she brought to our project!”

“The research acumen of our interns was extremely valuable in fast tracking their role in the project. Based on our initial conversations it was easy to unearth these strengths and direct them toward resources which would help the research. We encouraged them to use primary sources and they took initiative to reach out within their academic circles to dig a bit further.”

PREPARING HUMANISTS FOR DIVERSE CAREERS

In 2021, for the second year in a row, the Humanities Clinic partnered with the National Humanities Alliance to design and implement surveys to measure the impact of Humanities Clinic internships on 1) graduate students and 2) the community partners the Clinic supports. The 2021 intern survey included additional questions about the impact of internships on students' career goals, job preparedness, and community engagement. Of the interns surveyed:

100% feel better prepared for the non-academic job market
 100% better understand how they can apply their academic training to a range of jobs
 83% feel better prepared for the academic job market
 83% feel more connected to their community
 66% are more likely to consider careers other than tenure-track teaching.

Graduate students also gave the following feedback on their Humanities Clinic internships:

“Working with the humanities clinic has solidified my confidence in my ability to make a way for myself doing what I love while also bettering the world and lives of those around me.”

“Being new to Detroit, the Clinic has helped me form new relationships and networks with local organizations that would be beneficial to me inside and outside the classroom.”

“The research and grant writing experience will be integral to my career as a scholar and researcher. However, my summer internships have also exposed me to other ways I can use these skills. There are so many organizations (outside of academia) that can use researchers and writers, and there are ways we can give our time and talents to help them thrive. I am grateful to have interned through the Humanities Clinic during Summer 2021.”

THE IMPACT OF A HUMANITIES CLINIC INTERNSHIP

In 2021, Humanities Clinic interns collaborated with one another and our community partners to address challenges facing Detroit communities. Five examples of these collaborations are highlighted below.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS GAINED	COMMUNITY PARTNER	PROJECT OUTCOMES/ IMPACT
Data collection and communication, community outreach, media and program development, oral and written communication	Business and Community Law Clinic, Wayne State Law School BCLC at Wayne State University Law School offers free transactional legal services to qualifying organizations in Detroit and underserved areas across Michigan to create impact and increase equity.	Interns contacted potential community partners and worked to secure those relationships. Interns also compiled data and reports to publicize their work to prospective clients and participants. In all cases, interns improved their written and oral communication skills.
Oral history, data collection, community outreach,	Green Door Initiative	Interns interviewed victims of the summer flooding and other instances of environmental injustice and published

social media/web development, educational programming	Launched in 2010 to offer the realizable goal of good paying jobs with a strong career path; they advocate for equal protection under the law for environmental protection, open doors for young people to find their place in the effort, and seek policy options to improve the lot of African Americans and other marginalized peoples.	their findings in a collection of blog posts to the organization's website. Interns also helped apply to federal grants and developed a communication strategy to get information about the organization to new audiences.
Oral history, data collection and analysis, program development, community outreach, media development	Georgia Street Community Collective The mission of GSCC is to provide their community with health, education, leadership skills, protection, and the ability to rebuild and sustain their community.	Interns organized a community health fair, which involved coordinating volunteers, gathering and organizing health and toxics data, and distributed all the information in an accessible format.
Data collection and analysis, archival research, program development, copy editing, community outreach, media development, technical communication	Detroit Sound Conservancy Alarmed by the collective loss of creative voices, musical recordings, and cultural spaces, Detroit Sound Conservancy was established in 2012. DSC creates programs and provide leadership in the preservation of musical heritage in a spirit of partnership and celebration.	Interns drafted manuals for nonprofit governance and archival processing, working closely with the head archivist to tailor the manual to their needs. Interns also helped to design the food space for the remodeled Blue Bird Inn, using an anthropological lens to plan for community engagement and the aspirations of the organization.
Data collection and analysis, community outreach, media development, archival research, educational programming	Henry Ford Health System One of the country's largest medical groups with six regional hospitals, HFHS employs 30,000 metro-Detroiters, conducts 2,000 ongoing clinical trials and admits more than 113,000 patients each year.	Interns created a survey to gauge pediatric providers' perceptions of the effect of COVID-19 on the children they serve. Interns also researched how to improve Wayne State Medical School's curricula and culture to improve their chances of winning the ASPIRE-to-Excellence Award in Social Accountability.

SUSTAINABILITY

Thanks to the generous support from The Graduate School, Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Career Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow will lead several new initiatives aimed at expanding career prospects and transferable job skills among humanities and social science graduate students at Wayne State.

Among the new initiatives is a series of focus groups and professional networking workshops aimed at first- and second-year English and history PhD students who face an ever-diminishing tenure-track job market. In 2021, the Humanities Clinic and the Wayne State Graduate School received a Council of Graduate Schools “Networks that Empower Work-Life Satisfaction: Professional Development Training for Humanities Scholars” (NEW PATHS) grant to fund this work. In September, to kick-off the NEW PATHS initiative, the Humanities Clinic hosted a roundtable via Zoom with panelists and former Humanities Clinic interns Andrew Hnatow, PhD, Allie Penn, and Elizabeth Drake. Panelists discussed how a Humanities Clinic internship could help English and history students build careers in fields ranging from archival research and cultural resource management, to academic publishing and non-profit management.

The NEW PATHS initiative will continue in 2022 with a series of surveys, focus groups, and more professional networking events where students can meet English and history alumni with careers beyond the academy. The initiative will continue in Summer 2022 with four Humanities Clinic internships being reserved for first- and second-year English and history PhD students. Internships will be supported with funds pledged by the Department of History and the Department of English.

In 2021, the Humanities Clinic was also awarded two Ford Community Corps (FCC) grants that funded intern projects. The first was a database project for the Wayne County Council for the Arts and Humanities. There, a team of three Humanities Clinic interns from history, anthropology, and political science collaborated with one another, political science Professor Alisa Moldavanova, and Humanities Clinic Coordinator, Lillian Wilson, to create a comprehensive database of all arts organizations in Detroit. The second FCC grant funded an archival documentation project at the Heidelberg Project, an outdoor art environment in Detroit. A Humanities Clinic intern from anthropology worked on-site with staff at the Heidelberg to digitize physical archives with the goal of making archives more widely accessible to researchers and the community.

In 2022, the Humanities Clinic will continue to seek funding in the form of a major grant to sustain its efforts and expand as national model for graduate internship programs.

CONTACT

For more information about the Humanities Clinic visit us on Twitter, the web, or send us an email.

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