

**WAYNE  
STATE  
HUMANITIES  
CLINIC  
2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

Prepared by

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Lillian Wilson, Ph.D.  
Managing Director

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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
HUMANITIES CLINIC

## ABOUT

The Wayne State Humanities Clinic is an innovative internship program that enhances teaching in the humanities by hiring 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.

The Humanities Clinic began in 2017 with funding from a National Endowment for the Humanities NextGenPhD grant. Since then, it has quadrupled the number of internships and community partnerships it offers. The Clinic is based in the Department of History and hires graduate students from all humanities and social science departments. History Professor Elizabeth Faue, Ph.D., is Executive Director, Lillian Wilson, Ph.D., is Managing Director, and Denisa Molnar is the Graduate Student Assistant.

## OUR SPONSORS

Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition Grant  
Michigan Humanities Council  
Wayne State Graduate School  
The Office of the Vice President for Research  
The Office of the Provost  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Wayne State Department of History  
Wayne State Department of English  
Labor@Wayne  
Wayne State Humanities Center

## 2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

American Association of University Professors/American Federation of Teachers (AAUP-AFT)  
Arab American National Museum  
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History  
Detroit Creativity Project  
Detroit Historical Museum  
Detroit Institute of Arts  
#FilmIsAlive  
Georgia Street Community/Detroit Hamtramck Coalition of Advancing Healthy Environments  
Heidelberg Project  
Henry Ford Health System  
Labor@Wayne  
MotorCities National Heritage  
Pewabic Pottery  
SHARE Detroit  
Wayne State Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR)  
Wayne State Humanities Center  
Wayne State University Press  
Native Michigan Stories Oral History Project

## 2023 INTERNS

INTERN	HOME DEPARTMENT	COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Alamia Annous	English	#FilmIsAlive Arab American National Museum
Sarah Henry Boggs	Library Science	Charles H. Wright Museum Wayne State Humanities Center
Lily Chen	History	Wayne State University Press
Brendan Flynn	Political Science	Henry Ford Health System Georgia Street/Detroit Hamtramck Coalition
Maddie Henry	English	#FilmIsAlive Detroit Creativity Project
Julie Julison	Anthropology	Wayne State Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR) Heidelberg Project
Hyeonah Kim	Political Science	Wayne State Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR)
Anna Lindner	Communications	SHARE Detroit
Bailey Meyerhoff	English	#FilmIsAlive Heidelberg Project
Denisa Molnar	History	Wayne State Humanities Center Native Michigan Stories Oral History Project
John Popiel	History	Detroit Historical Museum Labor@Wayne
Aimee Schulman	History	Pewabic Pottery MotorCities National Heritage
Molli Spalter	English	Detroit Institute of Arts Wright Museum
Colleen Hart	English	Wayne State University Press

## CONNECTING STUDENTS TO COMMUNITIES AND CAREERS

Now in its seventh year, the Wayne State Humanities Clinic is an established pipeline between graduate students, Detroit communities, and diverse careers. The National Humanities Alliance recently recognized the Humanities Clinic as a leading internship program in its “Approaches to Training in the Public Humanities,” report. In 2023, the Humanities Clinic hired 14 graduate student interns to work with 18 community partners. These included education-focused organizations like the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Detroit Creativity Project, Wayne State University Press, and health-centered organizations like Henry Ford Health System, the Wayne State Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR), and Georgia Street Community Collective/Detroit Hamtramck Coalition for Advancing Healthy Environments. Graduate students had the opportunity to apply skills like data analysis, research, and writing to growing fields like education administration and healthcare.

Our partnerships with Detroit museums continue to flourish, too. This year, the Humanities Clinic worked with the city’s largest museums including the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Historical Museum, and the Arab American National Museum. Interns conducted archival research for exhibitions, collected data for online archives, and contributed to grant-writing projects. Through this work, the Humanities Clinic is training the next generation of museum leaders.

We were also proud to collaborate with Eric Hemenway at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Wayne State history professor Dr. Karen Marrero, to secure a Michigan Humanities Council “Great Michigan Stories” grant. This will fund the “Michigan Native Stories” oral history project with Anishinaabe communities throughout the state. Three Humanities Clinic interns will transcribe oral histories for the project.

To supplement these internships, the Humanities Clinic hosted a second year of career talks and workshops. These were made possible by a Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition grant. In March, community partners from SHARE Detroit led a workshop on nonprofit management, fundraising, and community engagement. In October, Wayne State alumni Wendy Bartlo (Ph.D., Anthropology) and Matt Hoerauf (M.A., History) discussed their careers in strategic planning at a university and a nonprofit. These events gave students further opportunities to network with professionals who have used their humanities training to build careers beyond the classroom.

The tremendous output of the Humanities Clinic would not be possible without our sponsors. We are especially grateful to the Council of Graduate Schools, the Michigan Humanities Council, the Wayne State University Graduate School, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of the Provost, Department of History, Department of English, Labor@Wayne, and the Wayne State Humanities Center. Their support has made the Humanities Clinic a leader in graduate education and an asset to Detroit communities.

Lillian Wilson, Ph.D.

Managing Director & Humanities Career Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow

## CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY

Since 2020, the Humanities Clinic has collaborated with the National Humanities Alliance to develop surveys that assess intern and community partner satisfaction, job skills, community engagement, and career preparedness. Of our 2023 community partners:

100%

are more likely to consider job candidates from the humanities and social sciences

100%

say the Humanities Clinic is an asset to Detroit communities

100%

felt appreciated as valuable and respected collaborators

100%

say that their organization's participation in the Humanities Clinic was a worthwhile use of staff time and capacity

These are the top skills that our community partners requested:



## COMMUNITY PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

“Interns were motivated and highly skilled at navigating complex tasks. They were extremely thoughtful in their workflow process, asked relevant questions frequently, and completed tasks thoroughly.”

-Wayne State Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR)

“Our Humanities Clinic intern has greatly helped us shape and improve our procedures and policies.”

-Detroit Creativity Project

“The impact of the Humanities Clinic was significant and entirely positive. Interns brought creativity, intelligent critique, efficient work habits, skills with social media and writing, and good project management.”

-Wayne State Humanities Center

“Our intern provided historical and present-day context for our work. I am encouraged to participate in the Humanities Clinic next year because I can rely on the quality of the intern’s work.”

-Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

“We were impacted incredibly positively by having a Humanities Clinic intern with a humanities background. Our intern’s ability to read a huge variety of material, parse it for relevance and historical context, and make recommendations for the future of our publishing program, was hugely helpful to our team.”

-Wayne State University Press

“The intern we hosted was very kind and had both strong human relations and writing skills which are necessary characteristics in Development.”

-Arab American National Museum

“Our partnership with the Humanities Clinic has been so incredibly helpful during the last few years, and I appreciate it even more every summer. As a non-profit, we often need extra help. The Humanities Clinic has allowed us to focus on things that would otherwise sit and wait (and wait).”

-Pewabic Pottery

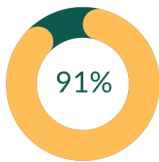


## COMMUNITY TO CAREER

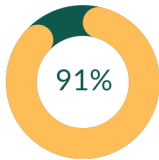
In 2023, the Humanities Clinic hired 14 interns from 6 academic departments. A majority of interns report feeling better prepared for the non-academic (and even academic) job market and more connected to off-campus communities after completing their internship. Of our 2023 interns:



better understand how they can apply their academic training to a range of jobs



feel better prepared for the non-academic job market



feel more connected to their community

These are the top skills that interns gained during their internship:



## INTERN TESTIMONIALS

“[...] The context in which this internship was created allowed me to explore my place in society and my community in the grander scheme of social justice.”

“I believe that the interdisciplinary team was indeed very valuable. Being able to share ideas and build more skills from fellow peers has indeed been a great feature of the clinic.”

“I believe that the two internships have helped me gain a better understanding of my surroundings, here in the US. As an international student, I found that the oral history project has helped me gain a deeper understanding of the indigenous communities within Michigan and the need to preserve lesser-known histories. The research has opened my eyes to the importance of history and public dissemination which is something that I have always been interested in.”

“The work at the Charles H. Wright Museum was especially influential. I realized that organizing can occur in ways I had not considered before.”

“I think that public humanities projects really lend themselves to social justice work, since the gap between academia and the non-academic public is bridged – everyone works together to create knowledge. I guess that I just feel really moved by the concept and hope to continue doing projects like these in the future.”

“I believe that the internship at the Humanities Center benefitted both parties involved. Not only have I gained real experience within the field of archiving, but I have also helped the center organize and better preserve the materials within their archive.”

“The Heidelberg Project: I gained archival experience as well as a relatively intimate knowledge of the historic documents stored in their facility. We [the interns] were able to create for them what we believed to be a more efficient archiving system that will make their archive more streamlined for future use, allowing for easier access to its history and better likelihood of its use for future creative endeavors.”

“My liaison from the MotorCities was particularly pleased with the short essay draft I produced for MC regarding mid-20th-century Native American relocation to cities such as Detroit. I think they gained a greater appreciation for organized research, and they received a lot of different resources from that research to help push their organization further.”

“I loved this [interdisciplinary team]. This is one of the few times that I have got to work with people from other departments.”

“[...] It is inspiring learning from others, but also seeing how much work we can do together as a team.”



# THE IMPACT OF A HUMANITIES CLINIC INTERNSHIP

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS GAINED	COMMUNITY PARTNER	PROJECT OUTCOMES/IMPACT
Data collection and analysis, oral and written communication, copy editing	<p>Detroit Historical Society</p> <p>Since its founding in 1921, the Detroit Historical Society has been dedicated to ensuring that the history of our region is preserved so that current and future generations of metro Detroiters can better understand the people, places and events that helped shape our lives.</p>	An intern conducted research on historical objects and Detroit labor history.
Data collection and analysis, archival research, copy editing	<p>Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History</p> <p>The mission of the Wright Museum is to open minds and changes lives through the exploration and celebration of African American history and culture.</p>	An intern worked with in the museum's library on an inventory project for the Ed Littlejohn Collection of art-related books.
Data collection and analysis, community outreach, archival research, oral and written communication	<p>Detroit Institute of Arts</p> <p>Founded in 1885, the museum covers 658,000 square feet that includes more than 100 galleries, a 1,150-seat auditorium, a 380-seat lecture/recital hall, an art reference library, and a state-of-the-art conservation services laboratory.</p>	An intern contributed to an ongoing archival project by creating Wikidata records about female Michigan artists.
Data analysis, archival research, media and program development, copy editing	<p>Wayne State University Press</p> <p>Wayne State University Press is a distinctive urban publisher committed to supporting its parent institution's core research, teaching, and service mission by generating high-quality scholarly and general interest works of global importance.</p>	An intern helped gather material for relevance and historical context. They also helped publish a research project.
Community outreach, compiling data and data analysis, media and program development	<p>Arab American National Museum</p> <p>Since opening in 2005, AANM's goal has been to document, preserve and present the history, culture and contributions of Arab Americans.</p>	Interns wrote a case statement for the museum's new Heritage Garden. This supported development staff with fundraising appeals.
Data collection and communication, media and program development, copy editing	<p>Henry Ford Health System</p> <p>Henry Ford Health is one of the nation's leading academic medical centers, recognized for clinical excellence in cancer care, cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, and multi-organ transplants.</p>	An intern helped prepare a syllabus for a Healthcare Equity Course.

# PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

Michelle May-Curry and Younger Oliver, "Approaches to Training in the Public Humanities," Washington D.C.: National Humanities Alliance, 2023, p. 13.

"Nonprofit Management Workshop with SHARE Detroit," event on March 23, 2023, sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition Grant

"Humanities Clinic Fall Job Talk: Strategic Planning with Alumni Wendy Bartlo and Matthew Hoerauf" event on October 13, 2023, sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition Grant

## CONTACT US

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