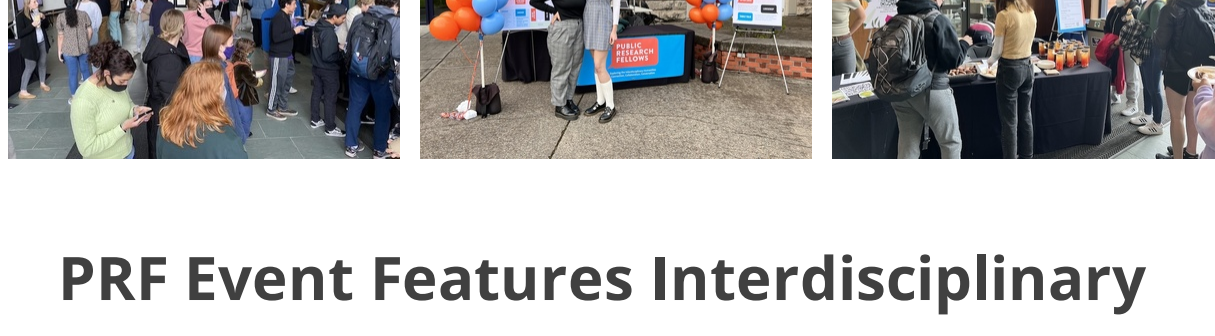


# PUBLIC RESEARCH FELLOWS

HUMANITIES COLLABORATIVE • COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

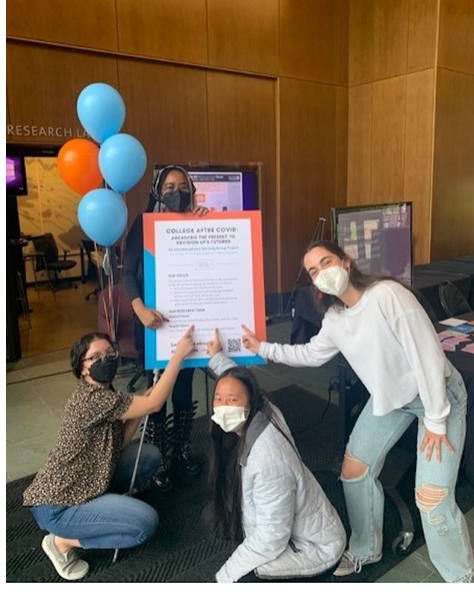
## IN THIS ISSUE

- PRF Showcase Recap
- Student Fellows Reflect on Their PRF Experience
- PRF 22-23: Engaging Humanities



## PRF Event Features Interdisciplinary Research, Collaboration

The program's first in-person showcase **drew more than 100 participants** including students, faculty and staff, and community members who dropped by to check out a series of interactive exhibits hosted by the PRF working groups. Student and faculty fellows got the chance to show off their projects and engage with attendees who could participate in a range of activities, from sampling food and drink from local producers, to attending the premiere of the original documentary "We Don't Know How This Ends," to listening to live musical performances. **Check out some of the project outcomes and reflections from student fellows below.**



### COLLEGE AFTER COVID

"I have learned so much regarding the creativity and brainstorming process...The biggest lessons I will take away from PRF are to be adaptable, flexible, and ready for anything, and be willing to push yourself outside your comfort zone especially when it comes to pushing the boundaries on the ways you present and gather information."

—Junior Mia Lindsay

"Everything that went into our collaboration, from brainstorming to settling the final details, taught me so much about efficient and effective teamwork...I met students from majors other than mine in the program; I found that together we were very inspired by the possibilities in combining our backgrounds."

—Junior Jordan Ducree

[Check out pieces of the College After Covid archive here>>](#)

[Watch the original documentary "We Don't Know How This Ends" here>>](#)

### TABLE TALK

"Researching through and with the community has been one of the most fulfilling and challenging experiences here at UP."

—Senior Gina DiLisio



"As part of the humanities, there haven't been many opportunities for me to put my education to use in 'real life.' I got to learn what it means to be part of the humanities beyond the academic, and how to bridge that gap between us and the sciences."

—Junior Trini Sepulveda

[Read the stories of Portland's foodways on the Table Talk website>>](#)

[Learn more about local food with the Table Talk database>>](#)



### LOOSEUP

"Interdisciplinary research is challenging in a lot of ways, but it opens up a lot of doors...To better understand the effect the arts can have (to have quite literally done the research) brings a new perspective to my studies as a musician."

—Junior Lauren Cline

"I have always been interested in music and the arts, but haven't pursued these avenues much in college as a psychology major, so it was a great experience to learn more about disciplines I am not as familiar with...This experience exposed me to a completely different world within the College of Arts and Sciences."

—Junior Kendall Minter

## Program Wins NEH Grant, Launches PRF 22-23 "Engaging Humanities"



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

PRF is excited to announce that two of its co-founders, Molly Hiro and Jen McDanel, have won a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for their project "Core Humanities: Integration Through Curriculum, Campus, and Community." The grant will fund the development of engaged humanities core Exploration courses and the foundational planning of an Engaged Humanities Hub to support the long-term advancement of the humanities on UP's campus.

### What are the Engaged Humanities?

The engaged humanities make connections between the humanities and the world. For the humanities to be "engaged" simply means that they interact with other fields of inquiry and life beyond the classroom in concrete ways.

### Why do we need an Engaged Humanities Hub?

The practices of the humanities build meaningful knowledge and skills, but they often remain hidden behind classroom walls; this is partly responsible for the (mistaken) belief that the humanities don't have real-world value. The engaged humanities provide one way to counteract this problematic narrative, bringing the humanities more visibly into the other spheres of our lives: approaching timely issues by collaborating in our communities, reaching across scholarly disciplines, and linking to vital professional skills.

### PRF and the Engaged Humanities

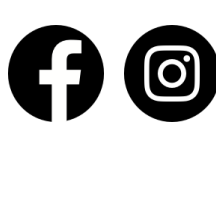
Since its kick-off in 2019, PRF has advanced the humanities through innovative undergraduate research and collaborative work that crosses disciplinary and campus boundaries. In the program's first year, faculty and student fellows explored the meanings of the women's suffrage centennial through [public-facing research projects](#); in Year 2 the program supported both [research and teaching fellows](#) as they developed work interrogating the theme of Displacement & Justice. This past year we experimented with hosting [three interdisciplinary working groups](#) that developed their own topics and outcomes, including a [website featuring narratives of local food cultures](#), a study measuring the connections between art and wellness, and [an archive of the UP community's experiences during the pandemic](#). Broader programming this year zeroed in on the interdisciplinarity that the working groups exemplified; [we hosted events and workshops](#) exploring the challenges and opportunities of connecting the humanities to the STEM and social science fields. With the help of the NEH grant, the program is poised to build a lasting, sustainable Hub that can weave together the threads of PRF's past work and develop it in exciting new directions.

### PRF 22-23 Theme: "Engaging Humanities"

Across the next year we plan to feature examples of innovative humanities-based research and teaching that connects scholarship with wider publics, non-humanities disciplines, and the world beyond academia. For example, in September English and Integrative Health and Wellness faculty will collaborate to bring [poet Naomi Shihab Nye](#) to campus for workshops that explore the integral role of creative writing and reading in building emotional, mental, and physical vitality. We hope to support and showcase several other examples of engaged humanities work across the year.

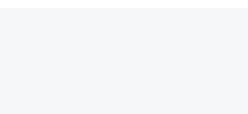
**Do you have an idea for an event, project, assignment, or workshop that explores what "engaging humanities" means from your perspective?** Is there a community organization or local connection to your humanities research or teaching that you'd like to pursue a collaboration with? We would love to hear from faculty, staff, and students as we feature innovative examples of engaged work and its impacts.

[Reach out to Molly Hiro and Jen McDanel with ideas and queries for next year>>](#)



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