

**PRF 2023-24 • “Engaging Portland”  
Call for Faculty Fellows**

The divide between university campuses and the communities in which they’re situated has been a perennial source of tension in higher education. We see this tension in long-standing “town/gown” rhetoric, in headlines highlighting the polarization of attitudes about the value of college, and in our own students who wonder how their education connects to the world in which they live. While certainly one response has been to politely ignore the gaps between campus and community and retrench into our traditional research interests and teaching practices, how might a university like UP respond more proactively? How can we begin to engage with the neighborhoods and city around us in ways that invigorate our work, our students, and our mission as an institution committed to the common good? What would it look like to become—in our university President’s words—a University *for* Portland?

The Public Research Fellows (PRF) begins from questions such as these to introduce our 2023-24 program: **Engaging Portland**. PRF is an interdisciplinary humanities program in the College of Arts & Sciences that, since 2019, has supported faculty and student teams in the creation of public-facing projects. This year, we invite faculty who are interested in connecting their teaching or research with the city of Portland and/or our surrounding region to apply to be a fellow. Faculty fellows may apply for one of two tracks:

1. **Undergraduate research project:** faculty fellows, either individually or in pairs/small groups, partner with 2-4 students to develop research projects on a topic or issue related to “Engaging Portland.” The project must result in a public-facing outcome of some kind, rather than an academic essay or conference presentation. Examples of public-facing research outcomes include (but are not limited to):
  - creative, interactive, and/or practical interventions (exhibits, curated spaces, prototypes, organizational plans, etc.)
  - community engagements with local institutions or organizations
  - podcasts, social media campaigns, online tools, or other digital humanities ventures
  - curated interdisciplinary events (speaker series, performances, workshops, etc.).
2. **Curriculum development project:** faculty fellows, either individually or in pairs/small groups, partner with 2-4 students to develop curricular projects on a topic or issue related to “Engaging Portland.” Examples of such curricular projects include (but are not limited to):
  - the development of new team-taught Core Exploration-level “big ideas” courses
  - the creation of course modules and/or assignments that connect with local communities
  - other curricular innovations that engage pedagogy with the city of Portland and/or local neighborhoods.

**Faculty fellows will earn a stipend of \$2500 and will have the following expectations** (*amounting to approximately 2.5 hours per week spread over the academic year*):

- meet with project group (student fellows and any faculty fellow collaborators) on a regular basis (ideally weekly or biweekly)
- participate in one to two all-program meetings each semester to connect with other fellows
- participate in and help to plan end-of-year program showcase

### **Student fellow participation:**

- Student fellows earn a total of 3 credits for their participation across the year: 1-credit of undergraduate research and a 1-credit public humanities readings course in both fall and spring semesters (enrollment in the course is mandatory for student participation in the program)
- Students may be brought on at the faculty fellow application stage or after faculty fellows are accepted; the program can help with recruitment by sending out an open call for accepted projects.

### **Want to learn more?**

- Explore the [PRF website](#) for descriptions of past projects ([2019-20](#); [2020-21](#); [2021-22](#))
- Drop in to our informal Q+A session: Monday 4/3 4-5pm, DB 202
- Reach out to program directors Jen McDaneld ([mcdaneld@up.edu](mailto:mcdaneld@up.edu)) or Molly Hiro ([hiro@up.edu](mailto:hiro@up.edu))

### **Applications due: T 4/18**

Send the attached application to Jen McDaneld ([mcdaneld@up.edu](mailto:mcdaneld@up.edu)) and Molly Hiro ([hiro@up.edu](mailto:hiro@up.edu)) by T April 18. Applications will be evaluated based on how well-developed and relevant to the theme “Engaging Portland” the project ideas are and how clearly the outcomes are framed as public-facing and/or community engaged. In the interest of getting as many UP faculty involved in PRF as possible, faculty who have not previously participated may receive preference.

**PRF 23-24  
Engaging Portland  
Faculty Fellow Application  
Due: T 4/18**

**Title of project:**

**Which track are you applying for?**

Undergraduate research project

or

Curriculum development project

**Name(s)/Department(s) of faculty members working on project:**

**Do you have students who have agreed to serve as your student fellows?\*** If so, include their names/years/majors below:

**Description of project (maximum 500 words):** Describe the topic of the research or curricular project, its scope, and how it relates to the theme “Engaging Portland.”

**Potential Outputs, Activities, and Public Engagement:** Describe the potential public-facing outcomes or curricular elements you hope to develop and how you plan to develop them.

**\*Note:** you need not have identified student fellows at the time of applying, but you will need to have recruited them by no later than mid-August 2023—so they can register for the readings course before the semester begins. The program can help with recruitment by sending out an open call for student participants for each project.