

**Public Research Fellows 2024-25**  
**Engaged Humanities @ UP: Everyday Democracy**  
**Call for Faculty Fellows**

The Public Research Fellows, a program of the College of Arts & Sciences that supports innovative, collaborative, publicly engaged projects is seeking a program fellow for 2024-25. The program has won an NEH grant for the coming year to build engaged humanities curriculum, projects, and programming, and is looking for 3 additional faculty fellows to join us in exploring our **24-25 theme “Everyday Democracy.”**

Headline after headline informs us that we’ve never been a more divided nation, that our democratic norms are fraying, that polarization and isolation are determining whom we engage with and how we think. While political divides often take center stage in these discussions, especially in an election year, other forms of division along lines of age, geography, or education can be just as difficult to breach. This year’s theme, “Everyday Democracy,” suggests that bridging these gulfs and re-energizing democracy might begin with ordinary gestures as simple as talking with one another or engaging locally.

With the support of an NEH Humanities Connections grant, the program is bringing together an interdisciplinary working group of faculty, students, and community partners to co-create projects and courses related to everyday civil dialogue and civic life. A core group of faculty—the three NEH project directors: Jen McDanel (ENG), Molly Hiro (ENG), and Andrew Guest (PSY), along with Sruthi Rothenfluch (PHL), Anne Santiago (POL), and Shaz Vijlee (EGR) have been working on developing the theme for the year and are seeking 3 additional faculty fellows to join us as Everyday Democracy Fellows. Faculty from all disciplinary perspectives are encouraged to apply.

**What Would Everyday Democracy Fellows Do?**

Faculty fellows partner with 2-4 students to develop research or curricular projects on a topic or issue related to “Everyday Democracy.” The project must result in a public-facing outcome of some kind, rather than an academic essay or conference presentation. Examples of outcomes include (but certainly 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
- 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 civic life, 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 student fellows on a regular basis (ideally biweekly)
- develop a project with a publicly engaged outcome
- participate in one or two all-program meetings each semester to connect with other fellows

Additionally, fellows will be invited to join any or all of the meetings of the Civic Humanities working group for the year (every other week), focused on discussing readings, engaging with community partners, and developing programming and longer-term project(s) related to the theme.

**Student fellow participation:**

The program can help you recruit students or you can recruit your own if you have collaborators in mind.

Student fellows earn a total of 4 credits for their participation across the year: 1-credit of undergraduate research and a 1-credit engaged humanities readings course in both fall and spring semesters (enrollment in the courses is mandatory for student participation in the program). See the [Call for Student Fellows](#) for more details on student participation.

**Questions?**

Reach out to Jen McDanel, Program Director: [mcdanel@up.edu](mailto:mcdanel@up.edu).

**Applications due: M 8/5**

Send the attached application to Jen McDanel ([mcdanel@up.edu](mailto:mcdanel@up.edu)) and Molly Hiro ([hiro@up.edu](mailto:hiro@up.edu)) by M 8/5. Applications will be evaluated based on how well-developed and relevant to the theme “Everyday Democracy” 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 24-25  
Engaged Humanities @ UP: Everyday Democracy  
Faculty Fellow Application  
Due: 8/5/2024**

**Title of project:**

**Name(s)/Department(s):**

**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 “Everyday Democracy.”

**Potential Outputs, Activities, and Public Engagement:** Describe the potential publicly engaged 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; the program can help with recruitment.