University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, www.design.upenn.edu

PennDesign is home to graduate programs in City & Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, Historic Preservation, Architecture, and Fine Arts. It offers a creative and technology-rich environment for research, teaching, and learning.

Mapping the Du Bois Philadelphia Negro, www.mappingdubois.org

The Mapping Du Bois project is now in its fifth year. Directed by Assistant Professor of City & Regional Planning, Amy Hillier, the project aims to engage high school students and others in a dialog about race using W.E.B. Du Bois's 1899 classic book, *The Philadelphia Negro*, as its springboard. Du Bois came to Philadelphia in 1896 – 1897 to study the problems that blacks living in Center City between Spruce and South Streets—the heart of the black community—faced. To date, our team—which has included six Haverford students—has created an online interactive mapping system of the area Du Bois surveyed using 1900 US Census data and geographic information system (GIS) technology. Last summer we also completed a board game, "Surviving the Seventh Ward," and are nearing completion on a documentary.

There is much work still to do on this project. During the summer of 2010, our team will be working on all of the following:

- We have developed a number of curricular materials that we have tested with high school students in several different schools. Our goal now is to develop a coherent one-week curriculum that incorporates those materials along with readings and other activities. We hope to host two one-week teacher trainings in the summer of 2011. In preparation for that, we need to finish developing the curriculum this summer and testing it out during the school year next year. In addition to Amy Hillier, doctoral student Erika Kitzmiller (a former teacher) will help lead this effort.

- Completing our documentary. Two high school students with experience making documentaries have conducted a dozen interviews with scholars, authors, and people with a personal connection to the Seventh Ward. Two Haverford students helps us to put most of the documentary together, but we still need to incorporate some more historical documents and complete the final editing. The two high school students who started this project are now in college, but they will likely assist in the final stages of the documentary.

- Cataloging historical newspaper clippings. We have photographs of hundreds of newspaper articles from the 1890s that relate to public health in Philadelphia. In order to make them accessible to students and others, we need to reformat the images and catalog them according to searchable themes.

Necessary Skills

The key ingredient for a successful experience on this project really is curiosity and initiative. This project has been greatly enriched by the creative suggestions of the wide range of team members. Experience with archival research and ability to work with others are also very helpful. Students interested in urban and African American history who have a strong commitment to social justice will

probably get the most out of this experience. Working on this project will give an intern an opportunity to develop their archival research and writing skills as well as experience developing curriculum.

Previous experience editing documentaries with Final Cut Pro software would be very welcome, but even students with no previous experience with documentaries could make important contributions to our other summer projects.

Special Challenges

Students working on the Mapping Du Bois project will not be in a typical agency or institutional environment. The School of Design is a quiet place in the summer, and while the project director is committed to providing regular supervision, the student intern will need to be able to structure their time and work independently. The on-going nature of the project could also be a challenge. While we hope to complete specific parts of this project this summer, our work will be a small part of a much larger effort. Hopefully a student intern will be able to focus on the trees but still see the forest.

Special Rewards

The flexibility and relaxed atmosphere of this internship might be particularly welcome to an intern. Being at the University of Pennsylvania provides numerous opportunities for attending lectures and events, and being in the city means that there is a near infinite number of new places to visit. Student interns are expected to explore the city—including archives and historical sites—as part of their work. The Mapping Du Bois project has also been a fun project for most of us who have worked on it, and students have developed a sense of ownership to the larger project.

Work Environment

The student intern will work in the project office, a fairly large room with three computer work stations and a conference table, in the School of Design. While previous students have worked a regular work week (9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday), a student intern would be welcome to develop their own schedule (including weekends or evenings) since much of the work will be done independently. Students should expect to travel throughout the city for research and to visit sites and museums. Amy Hillier, the project director, will provide supervision.

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