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YouthBuild Providence Sustainability Learning Center Design

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The Co-Lab:

The RWU Public Humanities and Arts Collaborative

Our Mission: New Defining Narratives and Representations for the New England Region

The RWU Public Humanities and Arts Collaborative is dedicated to sharing and fostering inclusive narratives, representations, and histories that make historically marginalized or erased populations audible and visible. The Co-Lab at RWU cultivates knowledge rooted in authentic, reciprocal, and ethical collaboration between scholars, communities, and practitioners in the arts and humanities. We collaborate with communities to transform our disciplines through scholarship, programs, and methods that center community perspectives, needs, and knowledge.

Our Focus: Public Humanities and the Arts

The Co-Lab at RWU focuses on engaging the public in the areas of history, the visual and performing arts, heritage and heritage conservation, space and place, material and visual culture, historical narrative, and public education and intellectualism. Our investigation of topics related to inclusive narratives includes the spoken, the written, the visual, the theatrical, and the embodied, as we imagine the ways that people are both the producers and the products of their geographical and cultural landscapes.

Our Work: Supporting Faculty, Students, and Communities

In line with its mission, the Co-Lab:

- Fosters and supports course development and programming in the public humanities and arts
- Fosters and supports professional development opportunities in public humanities and arts teaching and practice
- Fosters and supports faculty and student research, scholarship, and creative work in the public humanities and arts
- Brokers and stewards relationships among students, faculty, and members of the community to enable historically-informed engagement on social problems.
- Pursues development new methods and models for interdisciplinary public humanities and arts

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Co-Lab teach courses or manage curriculum? No. The Co-Lab is a faculty-led initiative that sponsors and participates in curriculum development that engages with the public humanities and arts, but does not offer courses or manage a curriculum.

What kinds of support and programs will the Co-Lab offer? The Co-Lab is actively fundraising to support faculty and student research fellowships, curriculum and course development grants, professional development in teaching and scholarly skills in public humanities and arts, faculty and student-led public humanities projects, and public convenings.