



# WAYNE STATE HUMANITIES CLINIC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PREPARED BY

LILLIAN WILSON, PhD, Managing Director  
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## **ABOUT**

The Wayne State Humanities Clinic is an innovative internship program that enhances teaching in the humanities by hiring graduate students to work as paid, semester-long interns with Detroit non-profits and small businesses. The mission of the Humanities Clinic is to bring humanities and social science expertise to communities throughout Detroit and to prepare graduate students for meaningful and diverse careers while supporting local businesses and non-profits.

The Humanities Clinic began in 2017 with funding from a National Endowment for the Humanities NextGenPhD grant. Since then, it has quadrupled the number of internships and community partnerships it offers. The Clinic is based in the Department of History and hires graduate students from all humanities and social science departments. Professor and Chair Elizabeth Faue is Executive Director, Lillian Wilson, PhD, is Managing Director, and Lily Jiale Chen is the Graduate Student Assistant.

## **OUR SPONSORS**

Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition Grant  
Wayne State Graduate School  
The Office of the Vice President for Research  
The Office of the Provost  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Wayne State Department of History  
Wayne State Department of English

## **2022 COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

AAUP-AFT, Local 6075  
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History  
City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board  
Detroit Historical Society  
Detroit Institute of Arts  
Detroit Sound Conservancy  
Destined For Greatness Mentoring & Community Resource Center  
Eldercare and Caregiver Solutions  
Food Rescue US - Detroit  
Georgia Street Community Collective  
Heidelberg Project  
Henry Ford Health System  
Pewabic Pottery  
Detroit Water Stories/The ResiliENT Project  
Share Detroit  
WSU Press  
WSU School of Information Sciences Detroit Mural Mapping Project  
WSU School of Social Work  
Urban Aging News

## 2022 INTERNS

<b>Intern</b>	<b>Home Department</b>	<b>Community Partner(s)</b>
Fatima Albrehi	Communications	Urban Aging News Detroit Water Stories
K.M. Begian-Lewis	English	Detroit Sound Conservancy Detroit Institute of Arts
Lily Jiale Chen	Public History	Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History Detroit Historical Society
Saba Dubaishi	Philosophy	AAUP-AFT, Local 6075
Meghna Dutta	Sociology	Georgia Street Community Collective, Destined For Greatness Mentoring & Community Resource Center
Brendan Flynn	Political Science	Henry Ford Health System
Amanda Horn	Sociology	WSU School of Social Work Eldercare and Caregiver Solutions
Francis Issah	English	Detroit Water Stories/The ResiliENT Project
Bernadette Kelly	English	WSU School of Information Sciences Detroit Mural Mapping Project Food Rescue US - Detroit
Colleen Linn	Anthropology & Urban Sustainability	City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board
Jocie Osika	Anthropology	City of Detroit Historic Designation Board
Rebecca Phoenix	Public History & MLIS	Heidelberg Project
Aimee Shulman	History	Heidelberg Project Pewabic Pottery
Carly Slank	Anthropology	WSU Press
Grace Williams	English	Share Detroit
Mary Yousif	Classical & Modern Languages and Culture	Henry Ford Health System

## **CHARTING A NEW COURSE: HUMANITIES EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POST-PANDEMIC**

While Detroit, and the world, adjusts to a post-pandemic way of life, the Wayne State Humanities Clinic has adapted to support Detroit communities. In 2022, 16 Humanities Clinic interns from 8 academic departments worked virtually and on-site with 18 community partners throughout Detroit. The Clinic remains committed to health-forward organizations like Henry Ford Healthcare System, Food Rescue US, and Georgia Street Community Collective. Meanwhile, hybrid internships have led to partnerships with cultural organizations and museums that were closed during the pandemic. At the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Historical Museum, and the Heidelberg Project, Humanities Clinic interns conducted archival research for exhibitions, technical writing for copyright projects, and organized archives of photographs and memorabilia. This has helped fulfill the increasing need among museums and archives for in-person work and met student needs for museum and archival training.

A second year of generous support from a Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition grant funded two new Humanities Clinic initiatives. The first is a series of job talks with alumni working in diverse careers. In March 2022, history PhD alum Andrew Hnatow, and English PhD alum Judith Lakamper, discussed how they used their humanities training to build careers in publishing. In September 2022, English PhD alum Rachel Dortin discussed how she left a tenure-track job to work as a writer at an environmental non-profit. These events have given graduate students an opportunity to network with alumni, and expanded student's awareness of diverse careers. The second initiative funded by the Humanities Coalition grant is a cultural competency training, and a safety-in-the-field training, for all Humanities Clinic interns. This training will improve the quality of support Humanities Clinic interns provide to the diverse communities that our partner organizations collaborate with.

To publicize this work, the Humanities Clinic recently launched an *HCommons* site where intern projects and reports are archived. Managing Director, Lillian Wilson, published an article in *GradEdge*, and made presentations about the Humanities Clinic at Humanities Without Walls, the National Humanities Alliance, Central Michigan University, and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

The Humanities Clinic would not be possible without support from our sponsors. We are grateful to the Council of Graduate Schools, the Wayne State University Graduate School, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of the Vice President for Research, the Office of the Provost, the Department of History, and the Department of English, for their ongoing support. Along with our community partners and Wayne State faculty and staff, our sponsors have made the Humanities Clinic a leader in graduate education as we continue to demonstrate how the humanities can help communities in need.

Professor Elizabeth Faue  
Executive Director

Lillian Wilson, PhD  
Managing Director

Lily Jiale Chen  
Graduate Student Assistant

## **CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY**

For the third year in a row, the Humanities Clinic has collaborated with the National Humanities Alliance to develop surveys that assess intern and community partner satisfaction, job skills, community engagement, and career preparedness.

**91%** of our community partners feel that the Humanities Clinic is an asset to Detroit communities and report having a “a clearer understanding of the breadth of skills humanities students have.”

**90%** of our community partners felt appreciated as valuable and respect collaborators.

**86%** of our community partners felt that their organization’s participation in this internship program was a worthwhile use of staff time and capacity.

**86%** of our community partners are more likely to consider job candidates from the humanities and social sciences.

**86%** of our community partners plan to accept a future intern from the Humanities Clinic.

These are the **top skills** that community partners **requested** in 2022:

1. Data analysis
2. Archival research
  - Copy editing
  - Digital archiving
3. Community outreach
  - Historical documentation
4. Project development
  - Social media development
  - Web development
5. Educational programming
6. Exhibition design
  - Grant writing
  - Fundraising
7. Other skills, including:
  - Interview and Coaching
  - Graphic design
  - Calendar management
  - Blog writing

## COMMUNITY PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

"We have become very impressed with the quality and caliber of the interns." -City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board

"I am excited for additional opportunities to host an intern." -Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

"We truly value this partnership and the impact it has had here at Pewabic." -Pewabic Pottery

"The strength of the intern's communication and critical thinking skills provided a valuable interdisciplinary perspective. [...] The Humanities Clinic internship program was a wonderful experience that my colleagues are jealous of!" -Henry Ford Health System

"I am adamant with how pleased I am with the intern's interest and dedication this summer." - Detroit Institute of Arts

"Our intern was impactful in a variety of ways, including bringing dedication and interest to the work, being a quick learner, asking good questions, and accomplishing a large part of the overall project, which will eventually have a small positive financial impact as well." -Wayne State University Press

"We always value and welcome this partnership as it keeps us connected to new thoughts and ideas about our work in the community." -Food Rescue US - Detroit

"I absolutely love the Humanities Clinic program and I appreciate the time we have had with our intern. I look forward to getting future interns to help us further our mission of helping Detroit's underserved communities." -Destined For Greatness Mentoring & Community Resource Center

"This was our third intern from the Humanities Clinic, and I have been pleased with each intern. My perception remains very positive of the Humanities Clinic and its strong service to the nonprofit sector in Detroit. Thank you!" -Share Detroit

"I got to meet an extremely capable and well-rounded individual set to leave the world a better place." -AAUP-AFT, Local 6075

"Our intern brought passion and expertise that translated well to our topic and setting. [...] We very much enjoy the student's participation, and we definitely benefit from this program." -Georgia Street Community Collective

"Our intern was astute, a good thinker, very methodological and highly dedicated." -The ResiliENT Project

## COMMUNITY TO CAREER

In 2022, the Humanities Clinic hired 16 interns from 8 academic departments. A majority of interns report feeling better prepared for the non-academic (and even academic) job market and more connected to off-campus communities after completing their internship.

**84%** of interns feel better prepared for the non-academic job market.

**84%** of interns think about their role in the community in new ways.

**79%** feel more connected to their community.

**73%** better understand how they can apply their academic training to a range of jobs.

**73%** feel better prepared for the academic job market.

These are the **top skills** that interns **gained** during their internship in 2022:

1. Project development
2. Community outreach
3. Archival research
4. Digital archiving
5. Historical documentation
  - Social media development
  - Web development
6. Qualitative data analysis
  - Quantitative data analysis
  - Grant writing
  - Fundraising
7. Copy editing
8. Exhibition design
9. Educational programming

## INTERN TESTIMONIALS

"The Humanities Clinic internship exposed me to new potential career paths and gave me experience with historic documentation, archives, website creation, and community outreach." -Colleen Linn, Anthropology

"The internship contributed to my understanding of social organization. [...] It also improved my understanding of government work." -Jocie Osika, Anthropology

"I have learned about the great contribution small businesses in creative industries in Detroit make towards the local economy." -Francis Issah, English

## **INTERN TESTIMONIALS**

"The internship taught me the ins and outs of organization and the different ways that organizations structure themselves. [...] After working and seeing the benefits to unionization, I find unionization as a crucial part of a functioning society." -Saba Dubaishi, Philosophy

"The internship made me more aware of resources available to aging individuals within the community, and how to take care of them. [...] I strengthened my skills in website development, crafting letters to event sponsors and donors, developing event fliers, brochures, etc." -Fatima Albrehi, Communications

"The internship made me more capable of understanding how to do [social justice and organizing] in a more impactful way, thanks to connections I made and details of community work I learned more about. [...] My understanding of all of the humanities fields required for a successful museum has definitely changed." -K.M. Begian-Lewis, English

"[Eldercare and Caregiver Solutions and I] were perfectly matched with interests, goals, and working with them has and will continue to be beneficial for networking, research skills, etc. I've also gained a really valuable mentor." -Amanda Horn, Sociology

"I am able to better understand the disparities within minority communities. [...] I now have a different outlook on how to work with my surrounding communities." -Mary Yousif, Classical & Modern Languages and Cultures

"I gained a basic understanding of the behind-the-scenes processes and roles within a publishing company, which is essential to my plans to enter this field of work after completing my degree." -Carly Slank, Anthropology

"[Georgia Street Community Collective and Destined For Greatness] helped me gain experience in community building and women empowerment through various projects." -Meghna Dutta, Sociology

"My Humanities Clinic internship prepared me for working with a diverse body of people through collaboration or community outreach. My internship also nurtured my writing skills in terms of building a narrative, writing for a wide audience, and completing on-the-ground research." -Bernadette Kelly, English

"The internship has strengthened my theories about the purpose of humanities as tools to be used for the common good and community, not ivory tower exclusive research." -Rebecca Phoenix, History



## THE IMPACT OF A HUMANITIES CLINIC INTERNSHIP: SIX EXAMPLES

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS GAINED	COMMUNITY PARTNER	PROJECT OUTCOMES/IMPACT
Data collection and analysis, oral and written communication, copy editing	<p><b>Detroit Historical Society</b>            Since its founding in 1921, the Detroit Historical Society has been dedicated to ensuring that the history of our region is preserved so that current and future generations of metro Detroiters can better understand the people, places and events that helped shape our lives.</p>	An intern conducted research on early Detroit history and wrote and edited copy for the <i>Origins: Life Where the River Bends</i> permanent exhibit. The intern also conducted oral history interviews for the Detroit Historical Society's Hustle Project.
Data collection and analysis, oral and written communication, copy editing	<p><b>Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History</b>            The mission of the Wright Museum is to open minds and changes lives through the exploration and celebration of African American history and culture.</p>	An intern conducted research on Idlewild, Michigan, using primary and secondary sources and compiled images and written material for an upcoming Black Leisure exhibit at the Wright.
Data collection and analysis, community outreach, archival research, oral and written communication	<p><b>Detroit Institute of Arts</b>            Founded in 1885, the museum covers 658,000 square feet that includes more than 100 galleries, a 1,150-seat auditorium, a 380-seat lecture/recital hall, an art reference library, and a state-of-the-art conservation services laboratory.</p>	An intern reached out to artists and artist's estates for information about art works in the DIA's collection that were accessioned after 2020 to provide accurate information to the museum database.
Data collection, oral and written communication, media and program development	<p><b>Urban Aging Newspaper</b>            Urban Aging News is a free, quarterly publication available at over 200-plus community sites in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties including libraries, senior centers, churches and more.</p>	An intern designed the Aging Matters Education & Expo-Conversations for Caregivers event program booklet, assisted with writing the document's content, and wrote sponsor/vendor letters.
Oral history, community outreach, compiling data and data analysis	<p><b>Detroit Water Stories</b>            The ResiliENT Project is a trans-media oral history project, exploring how water security affects the everyday lives of Detroit residents, with broader implications for residents of other large US cities.</p>	Interns reviewed oral history interview recordings and ensured transcripts were intelligible and correct. Interns also researched additional subjects to be interviewed for the oral history project.
Data collection and communication, media and program development, oral and written communication	<p><b>Eldercare and Caregiver Solutions</b>            Eldercare and Caregiver Solutions (ECS) is a company established to educate and help seniors and family caregivers find solution to deal with the challenges of aging.</p>	Interns set up operational spreadsheets for a Caregiver Support Group Educational Program. This helped expand the curriculum for support group sessions by including additional local services and resources.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS**

Michelle May-Curry and Younger Oliver, *Approaches to Training in the Public Humanities*. Washington D.C.: National Humanities Alliance, 2023, p. 13

Lillian Wilson, "In the Weeds: Evaluating Digital Engagement," New Jersey Council for the Humanities, presentation on November 29, 2022

Lillian Wilson, "Beyond the Classroom: What You Can Do With Your History Degree," Central Michigan University, presentation on November 11, 2022

"Beyond the Tenure Track: From English PhD to Environmental Non-Profit with Alum Rachel Dortin," event on September 20, 2022, sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition Grant

Lillian Wilson, "Empowering Humanities Graduate Students Through Internships," article in *GradEdge*, Summer 2022

Lillian Wilson, "Arts and Cultural Work in Detroit," presentation at Humanities Without Walls, June 28, 2022

"Professional Networking and Publishing with Alumni Andrew Hnatow and Judith Lakamper," event on March 23, 2022, sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Coalition Grant

## **CONTACT US**

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