

## Project Collaborators & Key Speakers

Kirk Holbrook and key staff at the CEC Hill District

Njaimeh Njie, local artist and activity

Boris Michev, Hillman Library

Dr. Nora Mattern, SCI

Dr. Ervin Dyer, Africana Studies

## Learning Outcomes

Students will explore histories and narratives pertaining to the violence of colonial settlement, population displacement and contemporary legacies of these histories in regard to contested ownership of place and space. We will consider uneven participation in contemporary democratic processes due to these contexts as we explore implications like gerrymandering, redlining, etc.

Students will learn to use digital tools to build dynamic texts that incorporate visual and audio elements to express the partner organization's relationship to space and place.

Students will learn techniques for crafting culturally sensitive and conscientious representations of places and peoples that demonstrate their evolving sensitivities to individual, community and organizations' relationships to place.

Students will explore and consider ethical and sociological concerns associated with composing writing about specific places and peoples by engaging with experts on written portraiture, digitization and archival practices in local and global contexts.



# The Politics of Power & Place



In this four-week program, students will have an opportunity to build a digital story that indicates the work undertaken and the focused mission for the University of Pittsburgh's Hill District Community Engagement Center. As we partner with the CEC Hill District we will learn about the evolution of the organization's relationship to residents of the Hill District, its mission to attend to needs in the community and the evolution of the organization in the context of the Hill District's cultural and political history.

In this collaborative making experience, students will also learn about concerns that arise in the making and circulation of digital storytelling in relation to other analogue forms of communication. We will consider the legacies of ownership and histories of displacement in the Hill District in the name of urban renewal. We will also explore how this experience compares to other examples of political and cultural displacement in locations like Cape Town, South Africa and Belfast, Northern Ireland.

## Supporters and Prospective Sustainable Partnerships

**Global Experience Office** – future iterations as a Maymester program in South Africa and Ireland [rotation by year]

**Honors College** – sponsorship of some student participants

**Undergraduate Dean's Office** – potential joint sponsorship of guest speakers

## DEI Values

Our making projects will give voice to organizations that seek to rectify past injustices. But the effort will be discrete, small and deliberate. Only over time will the scale of this work become discernible as we link the local to the global.

We will collaborate with Hillman Libraries to document our work as we build a local repository of collaborations in key communities to demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as fundamental practices in each story. As students undertake projects they will consider what is required for populations to access digital forms of communication, community members will have occasion to learn alongside students, and partner organizations will be able to leverage digital communication as another tool in their core work.

