

Course

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“We’ve created art-space social work, I’m claiming that term,” said Theresa Ronquillo, the faculty advisor for the course. “I think that community-based art practices in social work are a great way to engage people and promote activism. ... the idea is to connect with different kinds of communities.”

This project is largely unprecedented, since there are few resources for the mixed heritage community to collaborate and share stories in this way. Intergenerational Roots aims to address this gap and spearhead the process of collecting these stories.

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“We wanted the main goal to be how to build and engage to the community. Bring our discussion beyond the classroom,” Jaynina Smith-Prince said. Smith-Prince, who just finished her last year as a Masters in Social Work student at the UW, acted as a T.A. for the course-coordinating the student projects as well as participating in the interviews herself.

The course, initially conceptualized by Ronquillo, a part-time professor at the UW School of Social Work, began last fall with getting to know the issues that surround the

mixed heritage community. Students reflected on questions of identity, thinking about what it means to answer, “what are you?” or to check a box marked “other” on a form. Topics like how to address discrimination, what it feels like to be called not — enough, or how race intersects with being a woman or a student were addressed and analyzed by the group.

Students spent the second quarter collecting recorded interviews from their friends and family about their experiences with discrimination, race and identity, finding that a connected, community narrative emerged rather than individual, isolated experiences.

“I’ve never been in a class like this before,” Smith-Prince said. “I’m really grateful that, as a part of my education, I had an opportunity to talk with my family and connect with where we came from. It really gives me perspective.”

“I created a structure and hoped the students would drive the direction of the project,” Ronquillo said. But what makes their project unique is that “we don’t just show a linear, universal U.S. experience, we show a different, intergenerational perspective. We centered this project with mixed heritage in mind, but what came out of it was a deeper course that addressed class and caste and living displaced. We found a generational perspective.”

For the third part of the course, spring students decided to compile the footage into a documentary format, focusing on engaging the community they were hoping to represent, though with only two months in the quarter, students felt the pressure.

“What we’re attempting to do—what we are doing, is kind of crazy,” Duncalf said.

Tuskegee Airmen



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Tuskegee Airman, Sgt. George W. Hickman signs an autograph for Anthony Motley before a panel discussion about the history of the Tuskegee airman Sunday May 29th at the Flight Museum. The airmen also participated in a Memorial Day Ceremony Monday May 30th at the Museum.

“No one’s really done exactly what we’re doing before, so in that sense we feel like we’re kind of pioneers. It’s exciting.”

Named after the all too familiar spiel individuals of mixed heritage often give when asked about their background, their film “Beyond the Spiel” is a “work in progress,” Ronquillo said. “We wanted to be able to show something on Thursday and to also invite the public to help shape the direction of the film.”

“We thought it would be the best way for

whatever exhibit we do to get feedback from community members,” Smith-Prince said. “We focused on the notion that even though it is the end of the year, this project is not ending. We’d like to keep going.”

Though some of the students are graduating, others have expressed interest in continuing next year. Ronquillo said they might give the film’s rights to MIXED, the multiracial student organization on campus that sponsored the course.

District

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district spanning hundreds of miles across the northern border of the state. Other districts would be expanded or squeezed, depending on their population concentration.

Currently, a group of nonprofits called the Win/Win Network, is lobbying to create a majority people of color district for the first time in the state’s history. The proposal would run from Southeast Seattle to Federal Way.

Powell said they have a number of criteria for creating the new district and reforming existing districts, number one of which is making sure districts are “practical.” That means making districts contiguous and compact, not splitting communities of interest and ensuring they contain roughly the same number of people.

Powell said she wants the commission to avoid gerrymandering districts — that is carving up districts to the benefit and detriment of specific political, social or ethnic groups. In many states, minority

communities have been historically gerrymandered into different districts ensuring they will never have a majority vote.

The commission was established in 1983 by voters, effectively taking the control of redrawing district lines from the people who benefited most — the legislature. Commissioners are not allowed to hold public office during their time on the commission and they aren’t allowed to run for office for an additional two years after they’ve left the commission.

The new district may be attracting a congressman who is losing his district due to population atrophy in Ohio. Democrat Rep. Dennis Kucinich, who has made several presidential runs, is toying with the idea of relocating to Washington state in order to keep his job.

Oregon

In Oregon, the legislature decides on boundaries. As history shows, it’s been decades since the legislature has been able to do this job.

During the last census, when lawmakers failed to produce a map that could be agreed upon by the governor, Secretary of State Bill Bradbury was forced by law to create one.

If lawmakers fail again, it’ll be up to Secretary of State Kate Brown to redraw district boundaries, a job she says she has no interest in pursuing.

“I have said from the beginning that the diverse, unique, and knowledgeable perspectives of the 90 legislators, augmented by considerable public input, could produce a sound and reasonable plan,” she said in a statement. “Having these varied voices at the table is better for Oregonians than one person drawing a map, no matter how much public involvement is included.”

House and Senate Redistricting Committees released their plans on June 7. All plans can be reviewed on their website <http://www.leg.state.or.us/redistricting>

SCHEDULE

Commissioner Meetings begin at 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.*

The agenda for public forums*:

6 p.m. - Pre-forum Open House

6:30 p.m. - Introduction of Commissioners, Redistricting Overview (interactive webcast begins)

7 p.m. - Public Comment and Meeting Summary Meetings and forums

Meeting Type	City	Date	Location
Public Forum	Wenatchee	Thursday, June 9	TBD
Public Forum	Seattle	Monday, June 13	TBD
Commissioner Meeting	Olympia	Tuesday, June 14	J A Cherberg Bldg. - Hearing Room 3
Public Forum	Auburn	Tuesday, June 14	TBD
Public Forum	Bremerton	Thursday, June 30	TBD
Public Forum	Tacoma	Monday, July 11	TBD
Public Forum	Spokane	Tuesday, July 12	TBD
Commissioner Meeting	TBD	TBD	TBD
Public Forum	Walla Walla	Wednesday, July 13	TBD
Public Forum	Moses Lake	Thursday, July 14	TBD
Commissioner Meeting	Olympia	Tuesday, August 9	J A Cherberg Bldg. - Hearing Room 3
Commissioner Meeting	Olympia	Tuesday, September 13	J A Cherberg Bldg. - Hearing Room 3
Commissioner Meeting	Olympia	Tuesday, October 11	J A Cherberg Bldg. - Hearing Room 3
Commissioner Meeting	Olympia	Tuesday, November 8	J A Cherberg Bldg. - Hearing Room 3

Youth

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ect,” stated Food Bank Executive Director Joe Gruber. “We’ll have room to accept significantly more food donations and offer outreach and training onsite so more customer families can be linked to the important services they need to help meet their basic needs.” The agency distributes 40,000-45,000 pounds of food each week. (www.udistrictfoodbank.org)

The vibrant University District is a good place for the apartment complex, Lee said, as residents access transit nearby, and be close to jobs and educational opportunities in the neighborhood.

“In these times of economic devastation, young people become the last to bear the burden of homelessness and the last to be considered for help out of homelessness,”

said YouthCare Executive Director Melinda Giovengo. YouthCare provides emergency services, housing, education and job training for homeless and runaway youth. (www.youthcare.org)

An estimated 800 to 1,200 young adults are homeless in King County and there are few housing options linked with appropriate services to address their needs.

The Low Income Housing Institute is a non-profit organization with a portfolio of over 1,800 affordable housing units in the Puget Sound region. LIHI’s housing serves low-income and formerly homeless individuals and families most in need including seniors, youth, veterans, large families and people with special needs. (www.LIHI.org)