

**University of Pennsylvania, School of Design**  
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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](http://www.mappingdubois.org)**

The Mapping Du Bois project is now in its fourth 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 four 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. We are also nearing completion on a board game and documentary intended to engage high school students in the story of Du Bois's work in Philadelphia and its meaning for us today.

There is much work still to do on this project. During the summer of 2009, our team will be working on all of the following:

- Completing our board game. During the summer of 2008, Haverford student Duncan Cooper developed an excellent concept and game board for our game. Players become real people from the Old Seventh Ward (the area Du Bois studied), as identified through historical sources, and travel through the Seventh Ward where they encounter challenges typical of the day and are required to answer questions, act out or draw concepts, and read passages from *The Philadelphia Negro* in order to advance. This coming summer, we need to develop those character profiles and finish creating game cards.
- Completing our documentary. Two high school students with experience making documentaries have filmed a dozen or so interviews with scholars, authors, and people with a personal connection to the Seventh Ward. We will continue editing this spring, but we will likely need assistance with that process this summer. This work will include researching historical documents to include in the documentary and writing the final narrative for the documentary.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.

- Begin work on a study of the impact of the Cross-town Expressway. Philadelphia planners identified an extensive network of expressways to facilitate travel around and through Philadelphia. Several of these roads—including the Vine Street Expressway and I-95—were eventually built. The Cross-town Expressway, intended to run across South Street, never was, but it was still thought to have devastated the black community. We will begin collecting data about the changes in businesses along South Street during this time period to see what impact the plans had on the type and ownership of businesses.

There is also room within the Mapping Du Bois project for a summer intern to develop a project of their own. Previous Haverford students have developed their own ideas, one of which led to a senior history thesis. Other projects might include research or developing curriculum for high school students. In the past, we have had a large number of students working on the project. This summer, it will likely be a small group—the project director and a senior urban studies student. There may be two or three other undergraduate and graduate students working on a related project (PhilaPlace, with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) in the same space.

### **Necessary Skills**

Technical skills in working with images or GIS are welcome but not necessary. 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. Depending upon their interest, students could also develop skills editing a documentary and working with GIS.

### **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 work 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.