

What is a Pop-Up Museum Unit Plan

Dear Educator,

The following materials have been prepared by Duquesne University Public History Department in partnership with the Hill House Community Center in preparation for the upcoming Our Hill, Our Home Pop-Up Museum to be held at the Blakey Center on November 13th and 14th. This community driven exhibit will seek to portray the Hill District through the ideas and objects of the people that live there. All members of the public are encouraged to bring their favorite objects and put them on display in a museum that will “pop-up” Friday evening and disappear forever on Saturday. We will gather together, share our objects, tell their stories, and eat some good food along the way. Our goal is for this to be an event that is embraced by all ages and all parts of the community. It is our hope that the material found on the following pages will encourage your students to join us and other parts of their community in this endeavor. We ask that you share these resources with your students and perhaps, time permitting; integrate them into your class. You are encouraged to adapt and utilize this material as you see fit.

I thank you for your time and hope to see you and your students at the exhibit.

Matt Bauman
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Background Information:

What is a Pop-Up Museum?

A Pop Up Museum is a temporary exhibit created by the people who show up to participate. It works by choosing a theme and venue and then inviting people to bring an object on-topic to share, like a community show-and-tell. Each participant writes a label for his or her object and puts it on display. A Pop Up Museum usually lasts for a few hours on one or two days, and focuses on bringing people together in conversation through stories, art, and objects.

There are many ways to have a Pop Up Museum. And anyone can have one.

What is the Our Hill, Our Home, Our Stories: Collecting Our Stories?

Our Hill, Our Home is a Pop-Up Exhibition occurring November 13th from 6-9 pm and 14th 9-5pm. The Hill House Community Center and the Duquesne University History Department are inviting everyone to join them in creating the story of the Hill District through objects and art. Participants will bring objects and be given the opportunity to label and display them. Together we will build a museum of the Hill District.

Glossary:

Artifact - an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest.

Audience – the people that event, such as a play, movie, concert, or meeting.

Collection A group of objects that have something in common, such as the owner, type of object, or location.

Community - a group of people with something in common, such as having a particular interest, attitude, or goals, living in the same neighborhood, or attending the same school.

Exhibit - an object or collection of objects on public display in a museum.

Form - a shape of a person, place, or object

Function - the purpose of a person, place, or object

Identity - a sense of self that reflects qualities, such as personality, interests, and culture. Group identity reflects the identity of more than one, such as a class or neighborhood.

Labeling -The process of preparing and affixing labels to accompany objects. These

labels are used to identify and show the significance of an object.

Landscape - a place that can be an exterior space, such as an outdoor environment, or an interior space, such as the corner of a drawer.

Museum an open public institution that acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, the tangible and intangible evidence of people and their environment.

Object - a material thing that can be seen and touched

Pop-Up Museum - temporary exhibit created by the people who show up to participate. It works by choosing a theme and venue and then inviting people to bring an object on-topic to share.

Provenance the history and ownership of an item from the time of its discovery or creation to the present day, from which authenticity and ownership is determined.

Symbol - a thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.

Theme - the subject of a talk, a piece of writing, a person's thoughts, or an exhibition; a topic.

Venue - the place where something happens, especially an organized event such as a concert, conference, or sports event.

What Does the Hill Mean to You?

Activity 1: Collaborative Community Poetry

Objective: Students will learn about spaces and how they can reflect aspects of individual and collective identity.

Activity: Using words or short phrases, students write two observations on an index card, which are the first things that come to mind when thinking about your community. Swap your card with the person next to you and transform both of their words or phrases into one sentence. Break up into groups of 4-5 people and arrange your sentences into a poem. Share the compiled poem with the rest of the class.

Activity 2: Community Perspectives and Symbolism

Objective: By looking at spaces and objects in the community students will learn that the individuals can view their environment in many different ways. They will also gain an understanding of the way we instill objects with symbolic meaning.

Activity: Think about a place or an object that reminds you of your community.

What are the thoughts and feelings that you associate with that object? This is what we call Symbolism.

Step 1: Pass out two note cards or post-its to all students

Step 2: Carefully think about a place or an object in your community. Write it on your first note card.

Step 3: On a second card write down a word or a few words that reflect your feelings or impressions of the thing you wrote on the first card.

Step 4: Teacher collects all the cards, shuffles them, and tapes them randomly to the board.

Step 5: Ask students to match location with feelings cards. Have students write their answers on Student Handout 2. The teacher should do this as well to compare with students.

Step 6: Have students write a brief reflection on the outcome of the card matching on Student Handout 2.

Activity 3: Writing Object Labels

Objective: By looking at personal objects and designing museum labels the class will transform their personal objects into a representation of their classroom.

Activity: Students will select an object from your backpack. How does the personal objects reflect their identity? Students will be instructed on proper construction of a museum **label** and asked to label their object. The objects and labels will be collected and put on display. The class will take part in a gallery walk to examine the objects of their classmates. How does becoming part of a group exhibit change the meaning of the personal objects? How does the exhibit reflect both self and group identity?

Activity 4: Reflective Essay

Objective: Students will brainstorm then write a reflective essay adding summative element to the project. They will use this essay to identify an object that they believe reflects their vision of the Hill District. The students will then create their own pop-up museum and be encouraged to take part in the Our Hill, Our Home, Our Stories Exhibition.

Activity 1:

Student Handout

Name: _____

What makes the Hill District Special? How does it reflect who you are? A **community** is a group of people who share something in common, such as having a particular interest, attitude, or goals, living in the same neighborhood, or attending the same school. Communities develop an **Identity**, a sense of self, which reflects qualities, such as personality, emotions, and culture.

Step 1: What comes to your mind when you think about your community? Write down two words or short phrases on the lines below.

Step 2: Swap your paper the person next to you and transform both of their words or phrases into one sentence. Write that sentence in the space below.

Step 3: Break up into groups of 4-5 people and arrange your sentences in any order you would like to create a poem. Write your Poem below.

Step 4: Share the compiled poem with the rest of the class

Activity 2: Community Perspectives and Symbolism

Think about a **landscape** or an **object** that reminds you of your community. What are the thoughts and feelings that you associate with that object? This is what we call **Symbolism**.

Step 1: Carefully think about a landscape or an object in your community. Write it on your first note card.

Step 2: On a second card write down a word or a few words that reflect your feelings or impressions of the thing you wrote on the first card.

Step 3: The Teacher will now collect both cards, shuffle them, and tape them randomly to the board.

Step 4: See if you can match the correct cards in the space below.

What did you notice about the cards that were matched? Where your matches similar to your classmates? Your Teachers? Why do you think they were so similar or different?

Activity 3: Student Handout

Name: _____

Writing Object Labels

Step 1: Select an object from your backpack, pocket, or desk. How does the personal object reflect your identity?

Step 2: A museum label is a very short but important piece of writing. A good label should tell your audience

1. What is the Object?
2. Where did it come from/ who made it
3. What is its **form** and **function**?
4. Why is it important/ what can we learn from it.

Write a museum label for your object.

Step 3: Place your object in the area designated by your teacher. Walk around and view the object of your classmates.

How has the meaning of your personal special objects changed by becoming part of a group exhibit? How does the exhibit reflect both self and group identity?

Activity 4 **Student Handout**
Reflective Essay

Name: _____

Think about your community the good and the bad, the special and the everyday. If you had to describe the Hill District in one sentence what would it be?

Think about an object you own that you associate with the Hill District past present or future. What is it? Where did it come from? How does it make you feel?

Bring this object, or a picture/ drawing to our next class and we will create a pop-up museum. You can also bring this object/picture/drawing to the Blakely Center on November 13th and 14th and it will be put on display for the entire community.

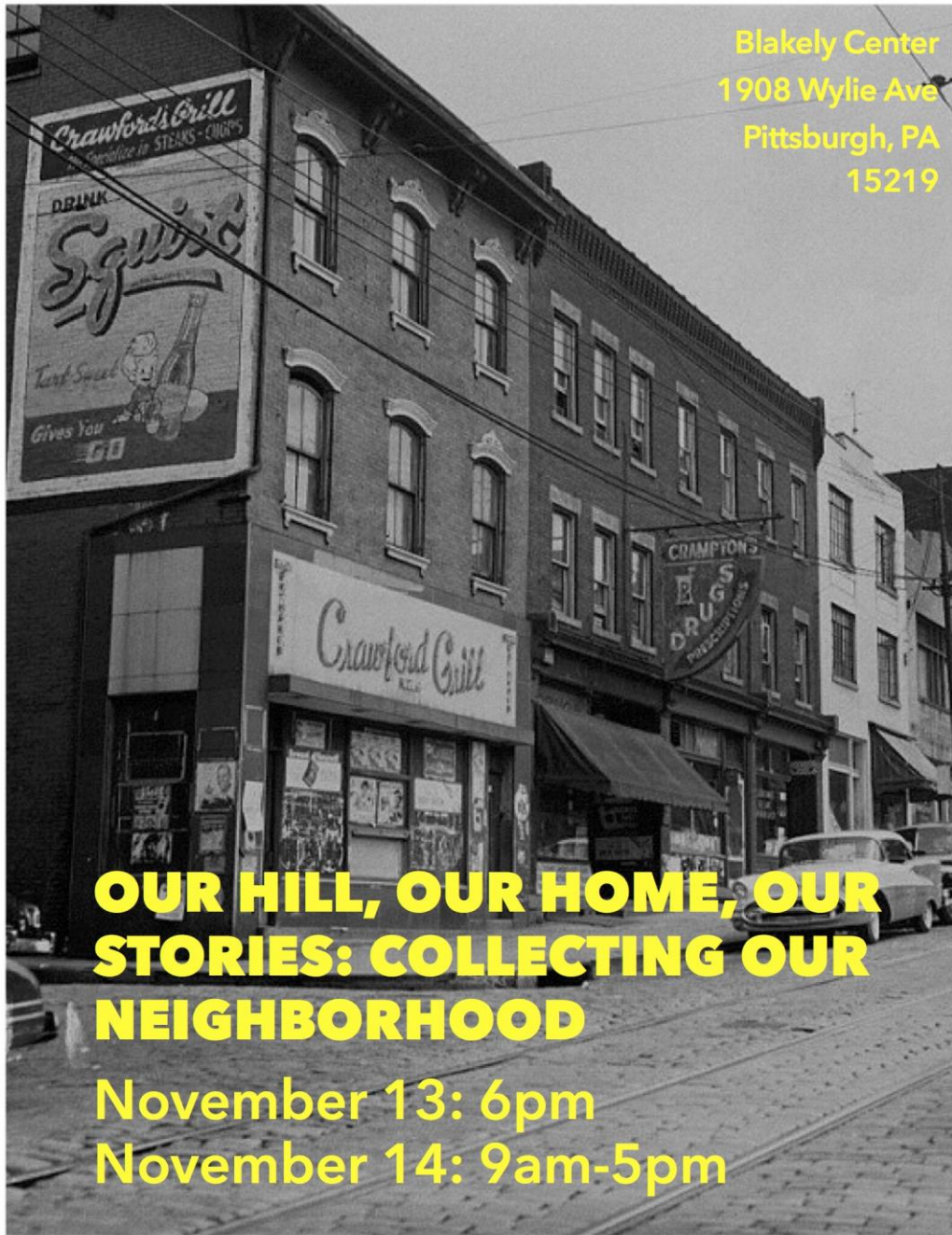
Dear Students, Families, and Community Members,

On November 13th 6-9 pm and 14th 9-5pm the Hill House Community Center and the Duquesne University History Department are inviting everyone to join them at the Blakely Center at 1908 Wiley Ave. for a pop-up exhibit called ***Our Hill, Our Home, Our Stories: Collecting Our Neighborhood***. Together we will construct a temporary museum that tells the story of the Hill District. We will enjoy good stories, good company, and good food.

We are asking community members of all ages to bring objects that represent the Hill to them. These objects can be practical or artistic they can be personal or historic. Everyone's objects and stories are important and we want to see and hear them all. Bring you object to the center, we will help you label it and put it on display. Together we can tell the story of the Hill District past, present, and future.

I hope you can join us,

The Our Hill, Our Home Team.



Blakely Center
1908 Wylie Ave
Pittsburgh, PA
15219

**OUR HILL, OUR HOME, OUR
STORIES: COLLECTING OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD**

**November 13: 6pm
November 14: 9am-5pm**

This exhibition is a collaborative effort between Duquesne University Public History students

and the people of the Hill, featuring collectors of Hill District history. They will share

their own stories through their collections.

What's your story?

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- ▶ facebook.com/ourhillourhome
- ▶ @HILLstories
- ▶ #ourhillourhome

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