



Annual Report 2012-13

Welcome to Lang CESJ!

We are situated within the Dean's Office at Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts dedicated to promoting, supporting and implementing purposeful community-based teaching, learning and engagement at Lang, The New School and beyond. We invite students and faculty to find ways to integrate ethical community engagement and social justice activism both inside and outside of the classroom. We invite our alumni and community partners to share needs that the college/university can support through our courses, collaborations and programs. Lang is proud to have civic engagement and social justice not only as a legacy, but also as an ongoing practice of teaching, learning and scholarship.

This year's annual report demonstrates how we've worked hard this year to re-claim our activist mission. We began the year with a Theory of Change facilitated retreat to set our intention and pathway for the 2012-13 school year. Jacqueline Jenkins, Ph.D., community-schools project director at NSPE/Milano's Center for New York City Affairs guided us in this process at our annual staff retreat, which was held at Teachers College, Columbia University over a two-day period. Dr. Jenkins checked in with us periodically throughout the year to help gauge our progress. At the conclusion of the year, I am proud to report that we moved levers with regard to student engagement and we met our intended goals through the careful implementation of key interventions that I'll share with you in this report. I invited you to learn about our work this year and hope you join us year in 2013-14.

Warmly,
Judy Pryor-Ramirez, M.A.
Director of Civic Engagement and Social Justice
Lecturer, Sociology
Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts

Highlights from the year

Student Engagement

We kicked the year off with a new program, "Social Change Thursdays", a weekly forum for students to discuss individual and social transformation. Cupcakes always provided at this venue! Approximately 50 Lang students participated in this new program.

University Engagement

This year was a hallmark for intentional engagement with other units across the university. We provided facilitated workshops and co-sponsored events with Lang's First Year and Seminar Fellows Programs, University Housing and Residence Life, Office of Student Development and Activities, Student Health and Wellness, and the University Social Justice Initiatives Office. Through these collaborations, we were able to leverage a collective set of resources to provide robust experiences for Lang students through retreats, themed housing, and public programs related to social justice issues.

Community Engagement

We developed six new partners this year, engaged with six emerging partners and strengthened five existing partners. From an old partner with a new program site in East Harlem to new partners in the East Village, Harlem and the Far Rockaways, we are making our mark in the city with our intentional relationships with various organizations. Take a look at our engagement matrix:

New Partners:

1. Dept of Youth & Comm. Dev.
2. Public Allies
3. GO Project
4. Harlem Grown
5. Latino Justice
6. Respond & Rebuild

Emerging Partners:

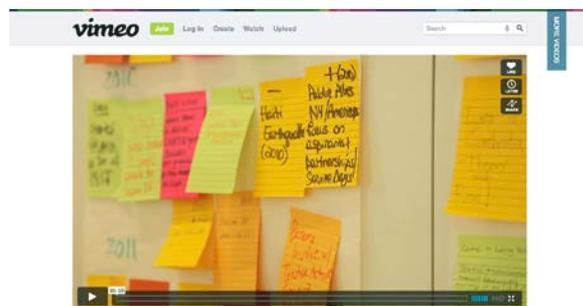
1. Advocacy Lab
2. Generation Citizen
3. Let's Get Ready
4. Girls Write Now
5. The Laundromat Project
6. Lower East Side Girls Club

Strengthening Partnerships:

1. I Have a Dream East Harlem
2. Ponheary Ly Foundation
3. Sadie Nash Leadership Project
4. Groundswell
5. Global Action Project

Public Program: Bringing Theory to Practice Workshop

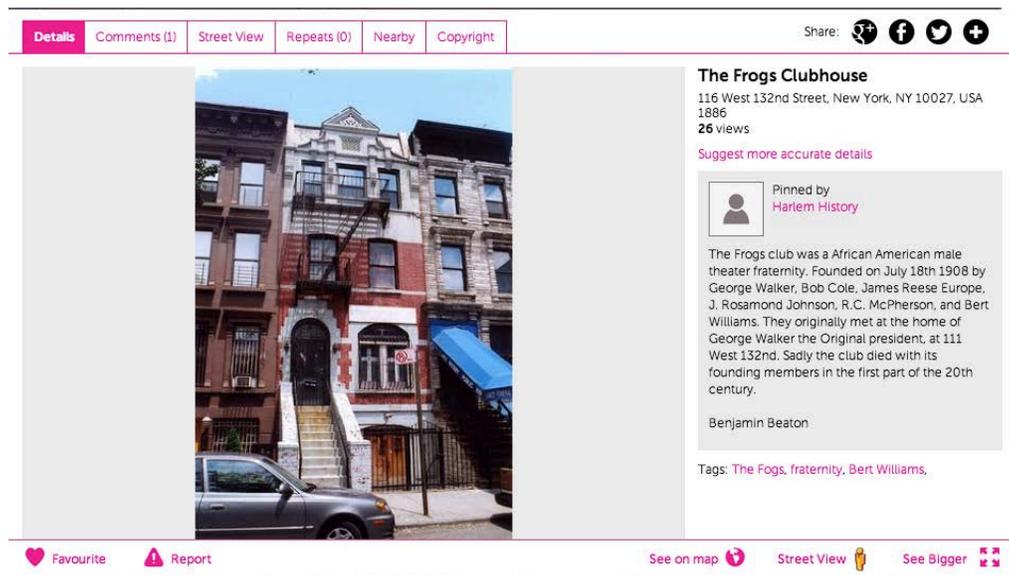
On December 5, 2012, we held a critical intervention that changed the course of the academic year. Through funding from the AAC&U project, Bringing Theory to Practice, a multi-stakeholder meeting brought our students, faculty, community partners, staff and alumni into conversation about Lang's activist mission and ways forward. The facilitated dialogue allowed for 35 stakeholders to think with Lang CESJ staff about its four areas of work: courses; advocacy/activism; research; and service. After the meeting, a group of 10 met to discuss ways to best support the office going forward. We anticipate applying to Bringing Theory to Practice funding again to move ideas generated from this first meeting into action.



To watch the full video, go to: <http://vimeo.com/56926655>

Sample Curricular Intervention: Politics Out of Doors (LHIS 2120)

Kathleen Hulser, an independent public historian, taught a course in spring 2013 that looked at how urban streets are a space of politics. With cooperating community historian, Eric Keith Washington who has done creative work with public history in Harlem, Hulser received a Lang CESJ faculty mini grant for her project entitled, "Segregated Death & Segregated Memory: A Local History Project on the Web." Students in her course produced a set of three online interpretations that relate to a study of how funerals of beloved figures in Harlem were conducted. Hulser and Washington co-led a workshop to develop her students' public history and archival skills so they could post to the online history-sharing website "History Pin" as a tour. Hulser writes "by marking the occasions of these significant passages and the role of local funeral homes which historically functioned as a part of a segregated small business sector, students will perform a public service, while learning valuable history skills."



The screenshot shows a History Pin interface for a location named "The Frogs Clubhouse". The main image is a photograph of a multi-story brick building with a fire escape. The interface includes a navigation bar with tabs for "Details", "Comments (1)", "Street View", "Repeats (0)", "Nearby", and "Copyright". On the right side, there is a "Share" button with social media icons. Below the main image, there is a "Pinned by Harlem History" section with a profile picture icon. The text in this section reads: "The Frogs club was a African American male theater fraternity. Founded on July 18th 1908 by George Walker, Bob Cole, James Reese Europe, J. Rosamond Johnson, R.C. McPherson, and Bert Williams. They originally met at the home of George Walker the Original president, at 111 West 132nd. Sadly the club died with its founding members in the first part of the 20th century." Below this text is the name "Benjamin Beaton" and a "Tags" section with the tag "The Frogs, fraternity, Bert Williams." At the bottom of the interface, there are buttons for "Favourite", "Report", "See on map", "Street View", and "See Bigger".

Go to HistoryPin.com to view student entries:

<http://www.historypin.com/map/#!/geo:40.814286,-73.949291/zoom:16/dialog:21230031/tab:details/>

Sample Co-Curricular Intervention: Spring Break 2013 in the Rockaways

This year we sponsored our first alternative spring break trip since the New Orleans trip in 2010. We were excited to develop a critical and educative response to Hurricane Sandy that hit our region hard in the fall semester. A dozen Lang students participated in this four day program where we provided them with grounded academic education (pre and post-trip) by way of curated readings, engaging 90-minute academic seminars, and a community roundtable dialogue with our new community partners, Restore & Rebuild and Occupy Sandy. This program was a transformative learning experience for our students because they provided much needed service in the form of mold remediation for two family homes and a community theater in the Arverne section of the Far Rockaways; and they also were inspired by the seminar discussions after six hour work days to unpack the thorny issues and politics of service and disaster relief in marginalized communities with keen attention to the structural forces that impact these politics.

Summer 2013 Programming: Inaugural Summer Student Fellowship Program

June marked the start of our 10-week paid residential Undergraduate Summer Student Fellowship Program where four Lang students work 35 hours a week with a community partner and participate in a weekly 90-minute academic seminar with Lang CESJ staff. The first week, fellows were engaged in a variety of orientation week activities -- from a workshop on self care by our Wellness Office colleagues to discussing transformative learning theory in seminar to workshops by Lang colleagues about academic and personal planning and internship basics. We ended the week with a morning in East Harlem -- visiting the Museum of the City of New York to view the exhibition, 'Activist New York' and dining at local Mexican restaurant, El Paso. Fellows began their work the following week with our community partners across the city.

Summer 2013 Undergraduate Summer Student Fellows

Jessica Auger
Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Topsham, Maine
Fellowship: [Harlem Grown](#)

Cecilia Frescas
Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Albuquerque, NM
Fellowship: [Latino Justice](#)

Jessica Dobrowolski
Year: First Year Transfer
Hometown: Queens, NY
Fellowship: [GO Project](#)

Sarah Giffin
Year: Junior
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Fellowship: [Groundswell](#)



Summer Fellows and Lang CESJ Staff

Mission statement

Eugene Lang College is committed to civic engagement and social justice in the framework a liberal arts education. Civic engagement is the practice of reciprocal and self-reflexive intervention that brings communities into contact with each other and creates spaces where the relationship between power, knowledge, and social action can be studied. Civic engagement can include a wide continuum of interventions, ranging from community service to social issues activism to critical pedagogies. Civic engagement is integral to a liberal arts education, and a liberal arts education is integral to fostering a practice of civic engagement that is attentive and responsive to shifting social and political conditions. Social justice is considered the ethical core of the liberal arts education at Lang, so learning through civic engagement is much more than volunteer work. It integrates purposeful public service with academic grounding, instruction, and reflection.

The mission is carried out by Lang CESJ staff and the Lang faculty committee for CESJ.

Staff

Judy Pryor-Ramirez, Director and Lecturer, Sociology

Areas of Responsibility: University/College/External Relationship building and office management; Liaison to Faculty and Community Partners

PryorraJ@newschool.edu

Katherine Schmidt, Program Coordinator

Areas of Responsibility: Student Engagement, Student Program Development/Training and Social Media; Liaison to students and student groups

SchmidtK@newschool.edu

Elizabeth Oliver, Graduate Student Office Coordinator

Areas of Responsibility: Office administration & coordination, newsletter; Liaison to CESJ Committee

LangCESJ@newschool.edu

Faculty Committee 2012-13

- Danielle Goldman, Assistant Professor, Dance
- Jacqueline Jenkins, Project Director, Center for NYC Affairs
- Laura Liu, co-chair, Faculty Director of CESJ, & Assistant Professor, Urban Studies
- Natalia Mehlman-Petrzela, Assistant Professor, Education Studies
- Judy Pryor-Ramirez, co-chair, Director, Civic Engagement and Social Justice & Lecturer, Sociology
- Vyjayanthi Rao, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
- Jasmine Rault, Assistant Professor, Culture and Media
- Katherine Schmidt, Program Coordinator, Civic Engagement and Social Justice

Contact Us

Office of Civic Engagement and Social Justice

65 West 11th Street, Room 353

New York, NY 10011

Phone: 212.229.5100 x2227

Fax: 212.229.5625

Email: LangCESJ@newschool.edu

Website: www.newschool.edu/lang/civic-engagement

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lang.civicingagement