

Public Humanities Project: The Rhetoric of Space – Gender, Disability, and Body Inclusivity in Flagstaff

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July 16, 2025

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How it started: Fall 2025 NAU Version (CURE Grant)

Now preparing for Spring 2026 Community Version
(Lovett Grant)

ENG 105

~60 students (mostly freshman)

Introduction



**Taylor Thompson (PI/Grant
Recipient & ENG 105 Instructor)**



**Grant Assistant
(English GTA, July
2025)**



City Partners

Involved Parties



Confirmed Partners

- ❖ **Beautification, Arts & Sciences Program**
- ❖ **Indigenous Commission**

In Discussion (this summer and fall)

- ❖ **Heritage Preservation Commission**
- ❖ **Open Spaces Commission**
- ❖ **Sustainability Commission**
- ❖ **Commission on Inclusion and Adaptive Living**
- ❖ **Commission on Diversity Awareness**

City Partners

Curriculum & Timeline

Spring 2026



Curriculum

1 Students first complete a Self-Reflection on their experiences with body rhetoric (accessibility, presentation, representation, etc.)

2 Students then complete an observation of a community issue for a Rhetorical Analysis paper (small-scale)

3 Students form **groups** of 3-5 and decide on one issue to move forward with and complete various Foundation Documents as part of research

4 Students complete a group Proposal for solving the issue, as well as an affiliated Project; they prepare a public-facing presentation

January

Self-Reflection

February

Rhetorical Analysis

March

Foundation Documents

April & May

Proposal, Project, & Presentation

Class Timeline

March through May

City Partners provide support to various student teams whose proposals require information about the specific City Partner's processes

City Partners

Commission's Role

Students choose an issue related to historical or cultural conservation (or that needs to be informed as to the importance of/involvement with heritage preservation) in the Flagstaff Community

- Students reach out directly to the Commission with questions about processes and constraints (possibly attend a meeting or present)
- There will be ~15 groups, and it is predicted that 25-50% may choose a project that would suggest collaboration with the Commission

Benefits

- ★ Student's and NAU more involved and aware of community issues
- ★ Possibly future Commission members!

Goals

Students, NAU, Community

Student Goals (Individual)

- More aware of community needs, ways of change/processes
- Emboldened view of contributions to the world around them
- Students learn about professional documents

NAU Goals (Institution)

- More connected to the community
- Partnerships established for future collaboration

Community Goals

- Amplified community voices
- Better representation and acknowledgement of community issues
- More digital tools available

Goals

The Clara M. Lovett Humanities in Action grant is meant to help fund costs associated with a community partnered project.

Potential uses:

- ❖ Community event in May
- ❖ Funding for small project implementation (like murals, signage, website domains, etc.)
- ❖ Funding for visiting speakers

Grant Funding

Thank you!

Questions?