

## **Hidden Narratives at Graceland Cemetery: An Opportunity for Faculty Consultants through Community Project Based Learning**

Through a generous grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, DePaul's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences invites all university full time faculty to apply to develop topical, public-facing digital audio tours and/or small museum exhibits for Graceland Cemetery in the context of a project-based learning class for DePaul undergraduates. These courses will be taught during the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years. Faculty chosen to participate will be awarded a stipend of \$9000 for project and course development in either the December Intersession or the Summer prior to their course offering. Faculty may also apply for up to \$1000.00 in additional funds to support material costs of their class projects and/or a part-time student worker as a project assistant. Platforms for digital audio tours and museum infrastructure are being provided to Graceland as part of the grant and are not a part of the faculty support awards.

This grant is a part of the Donnelley Foundations Broadening Narratives program designed to use existing collections to tell the stories of overlooked Chicago people and communities. Their website (<https://gddf.org/collections/>) describes the impetus for the program as follows:

“Collections are comprised of diverse narratives that provide perspectives from the past, contribute to a better-informed present, and lead to a more inclusive, sustainable and healthier future. We encourage collecting organizations ... to amplify overlooked voices and animate and expand the stories and insights derived from their collections. Diverse narratives include the stories and perspectives of culturally specific communities—African Americans, Indigenous peoples, and other people of color—LGBTQ perspectives, working-class narratives, small community experiences, as well as other underrepresented groups and viewpoints. Emerging, compelling underrepresented perspectives reflective of collections in the areas of science, public health, and the natural world are also important to our regions' collective narratives.”

### **This grant funds DePaul faculty to co-design, with Graceland, a project that:**

- Uses the archives of Graceland Cemetery, particularly the documentary archives in Graceland's collections and/or the headstones and landscapes of Graceland that are their own form of archive.
- Meets the needs of Graceland as a partnering institution and engages the community.
- Results in a public-facing outcome: either a self-guided digital audio tour and/or a museum exhibit that shares previously hidden narratives about Chicago's past with the broader public.
- Is the focal point of an undergraduate course at DePaul that asks students to work together to contribute substantively to the project's success and allows them to uncover and share hidden narratives of Chicago's Graceland Cemetery.

### **Application Timeline**

The application timeline for Hidden Narratives 2024 is outlined below. Interested faculty should feel free to contact the project lead faculty, Jane Baxter, at [jbaxter@depaul.edu](mailto:jbaxter@depaul.edu). Dr. Baxter is available to present to departments or groups of faculty, as well as to consult with individual faculty members interested in participating!

Call for Application posted	September 9, 2024
Online Application opens	September 16, 2024
Online Application closes	October 25, 2024
Appointment Notifications	November 15, 2024

### **Eligibility**

All DePaul full time faculty are eligible to apply.

### **Program Description**

Graceland Cemetery is not only a renowned cultural institution in Chicago, but also the final resting place of tens of thousands of Chicagoans. Stories of the rich, famous, and powerful interred in Graceland are plentiful, but there are also extraordinary stories of ordinary Chicagoans waiting to be told. Graceland’s archives are also distinctive in that they include not only extensive documentary records relating to the site’s interments, but also the physical and material archive of the cemetery itself. In this initiative, Graceland is also the chosen community partner for a series of targeted projects by DePaul faculty.

Faculty are invited to propose a project that uses the textual, material, and physical archives of Graceland to bring stories of underrepresented communities, groups, and/or viewpoints to the public. Graceland has requested two types of projects to bring hidden narratives in their archives to public audiences: **digital, self-guided audio tours** that can be accessed by visitors and **museum displays** that have both a physical presence in their visitor center/waiting area and an online presence for remote engagement. Projects may also incorporate public experiences or events in the development of the final deliverable. Projects must be of a scope and scale that can be completed within the grant period.

Faculty must also teach a course for DePaul undergraduates in which students will actively engage with the community partner and participate in the development of the project content. Graceland will welcome DePaul students in these courses to work in their archives and/or conduct research on the cemetery monuments and landscapes as part of a course experience.

### **Application Guidelines**

A complete application requires the following items, each of which is described in detail below.

1. Completed Online Application Form
2. Sample syllabus from existing course
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Approval from Chair/Director and/or Dean

### **1. Completed Online Application Form**

The online application must be submitted between the application's opening date (September 16, 2024) and closing date (October 25, 2024 at 11:59 pm). The application form includes the following:

1. What population in Graceland will be the topic of your hidden narratives project? How would the cemetery's archive provide a means to broaden the narrative about this population? (500 words max)
2. Please provide a brief, preliminary budget narrative detailing supplies and student support that would be needed (up to \$1000) to effectively implement this project. (100 words max)
3. How does this proposed topic relate to your research and teaching experience and interests? (300 words max)
4. Describe the public facing outcome (tour or exhibit) for this project and any other public engagement you foresee as part of the project implementation. It is recognized that this project will change as you work with Graceland, but please provide your current project vision. How would students participate in the creation and development of this project outcome (please be specific)? (800 words max).
5. Describe your experience with engaging undergraduates and community groups with project-based learning. If possible, please provide links to or examples of project-based course outcomes from your teaching. (600 words max)
6. What course in your home unit would be a good course to house the proposed project? Does this course carry Liberal Studies credit? Please identify departments or programs with which this course could be cross listed.
7. Please give a ranked list of preferred quarters for teaching your course: Winter 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Winter 2026, Spring 2026. Please note any quarters that you would not be able to teach this course because of the nature of your project or your other teaching commitments.

### **2. Sample Syllabus**

Please include a sample syllabus from an existing course that is representative of your teaching approach and philosophy. The syllabus will be ideally, but not necessarily, from a project-based learning course.

### **3. Curriculum Vitae**

Please submit a full CV that includes teaching and service roles in addition to your scholarly record.

#### **4. Approval from Chair or Program Director**

The application must be supported by a confidential approval from the faculty member's Chairs/Program Director, who must confirm that the applicant's home unit will support the faculty member's participation in the program and the associated course, including actively promoting the course offering to students. Provide the name and DePaul email address of the Chair/Program Director in the unit information section of the application. The online application system will then invite the faculty member's Chair/Program Director to complete the approval section directly onto the application file. Applicants who are themselves Chairs or Program Directors should provide contact information for their Dean.

#### **5. Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated by a team from DePaul and Graceland Cemetery. Please be mindful of this external audience component when preparing your application and make every effort to present your idea in accessible, jargon-free language. Finalists will be recommended to the Dean for final approval and will be selected with the goal of creating a cohort of projects and courses that provide Graceland with a true broadening of narratives from their archives that can be shared with the public across multiple platforms.

#### **6. Additional Responsibilities/Opportunities**

Faculty participating in this program will be required to complete a brief reflection/exit survey at the end of their project period. The project lead is also exploring publication opportunities for project participants that will be optional for those selected into the program.