Overview of Princeton History and Iconography Initiatives

Campus Iconography Committee (CIC)

Composed of faculty, students, alumni and administrators, the Campus Iconography Committee oversees efforts to diversify campus art and iconography, and consider opportunities to express Princeton’s aspiration to be more diverse, inclusive and welcoming to all members of its community.

For questions or suggestions, please contact Debby Foster at dcfoster@princeton.edu.

CIC History Working Group

Constituted in September 2017 as a working group of the Campus Iconography Committee, the History Working Group identifies opportunities to provide visual displays and/or objects on campus that communicate nuanced interpretations of Princeton’s history, including temporary and permanent exhibits. The group is currently developing new walking tours, considering additional historical markers and partnering with ODOC to incorporate some of the lesser known histories into student orientation materials.

For questions or suggestions, please contact Abby Klionsky at klionsky@princeton.edu.

CIC Public Spaces Working Group

Constituted in September 2017 as a working group of the Campus Iconography Committee, the Public Spaces Working Group identifies campus interior and exterior spaces across campus to enliven in ways that reflect and connect with the increasingly diverse campus community. The group takes the lead on “public” spaces (i.e., spaces without a primary occupant) and is available to act as a consultant/advisor to occupants of “non-public” spaces to share thoughts, values and questions identified by the working group to date.

For questions or suggestions, please contact Jeff Whetstone at whetstone@princeton.edu.

CIC Portraiture Nominations Committee

Constituted in September 2017 as a working group of the Campus Iconography Committee, the Portraiture Nominations Committee collects ideas, performs research and makes recommendations to the Executive Vice President and Provost regarding the expansion of the University’s portrait collection. Members of the University community are encouraged to share their advice and ideas with the committee.

Please use the Portraiture Suggestion Form to share your advice and ideas with the Committee: https://evp.princeton.edu/portraiture-suggestion-form.

The committee will begin reviewing submissions in early December, so we encourage sharing suggestions by November 30, 2017; however, the committee will continue to review new suggestions through the first quarter of 2018.

CPUC Committee on Naming

In 2017 at the recommendation of the Committee on Naming, the Board of Trustees approved the renaming of West College, a prominent and central campus building, for the Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, an emeritus faculty member at Princeton, and the major auditorium in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs for Sir Arthur Lewis, a Nobel laureate in Economics, who served on the school’s faculty from 1963 to 1983. The Committee on Naming will soon issue a call for naming suggestions for two new sites that have been referred to them by the Board of Trustees. More information on those spaces will be available in mid-November.

For questions or suggestions, please contact https://namingcommittee.princeton.edu.
Princeton Histories Fund

The Princeton Histories Fund provides funding for the exploration of “aspects of Princeton’s history that have been forgotten, overlooked, subordinated, or suppressed.” The Fund has supported projects exploring slavery, LGBTQIA oral histories and Princeton’s connections to Trenton. Members of the University community are encouraged to submit funding proposals that encompass curricular, programming, research interests and campus climate projects.

To find out more about submitting a funding proposal, please contact Shawn Maxam at smaxam@princeton.edu.

Visit Programs Funded by the Histories Fund:


Princeton and Slavery Project: https://slavery.princeton.edu/.

Wilson Legacy Review Committee

In 2016, the Board of Trustees appointed a special committee to consider Woodrow Wilson's legacy at Princeton, and, more specifically, whether changes should be made in how the University recognizes Wilson's legacy. The committee considered information about Wilson from a range of scholars and biographers with an expertise relevant to an understanding of Wilson and a wide array of perspectives from the various constituencies that have an interest in Wilson's legacy and how it is represented on the campus. The board adopted the committee's report and recommendations, one of which was to create a marker showcasing the positive and negative elements of Wilson’s legacy. A committee of faculty, staff and students was formed, which considered a number of firms to create this marker. The installation will be housed on Scudder Plaza.

Additional background information about Woodrow Wilson can be found through an exhibit created at Princeton in 2016: “In the Nation’s Service? Woodrow Wilson Revisited”: http://www.puww.us/.

For questions or suggestions about the marker, please contact Elisabeth Donahue at edonahue@princeton.edu.