

Fondren Fellows Project

Any questions can be directed to fondrenfellows@rice.edu



Name

Norie Guthrie and Fay Yarbrough

Project Title

Mapping Olivewood Cemetery

Proposal Description:

Working with data, images, and a map provided by the Descendants of Olivewood and its volunteers, you will have a chance to create an ArcGIS StoryMap that will tell the story of the historic Black cemetery and its residents.

Project Summary:

Olivewood Cemetery is an historic Black cemetery located at 1300 Summer St. It is maintained by volunteers and suffers from the environmental effects of building encroachment and its proximity to White Oak Bayou.

The fellow working on this project will be provided a map of the cemetery, photographs of the grave markers, and a spreadsheet of relevant data related to the residents. Because of the space's size, the fellow will need to use a GPS device or an app via ArcGIS to create the coordinates for each plot. After the ArcGIS map is complete, using the data provided, which includes information like (occupation, veteran status, founders, birth/death dates, political activists, etc.) the fellow will craft a narrative of the cemetery and the descendants using a StoryMap.

At a basic level, this project will enhance people's abilities to find information about relatives located in the cemetery. It also offers the fellow a chance to work with community members. Furthermore, some of Olivewood Cemetery's graves are falling into the bayou. This map will help provide an important snapshot of the cemetery in 2024/2025.

Considering that the map, images of the grave markers, and the data for this project will be close to a finished state by August, this should be a doable project for a fellow, assuming that they have to time to devote at least 10 hours per week to the project.

After the map is complete, the fellow will present the map at a panel including the Olivewood volunteers.

How many fellows are you requesting?

We would be requesting one fellow. The first two months would include getting the coordinates of the plots. The next two months would be finalizing the data. The spring semester would be devoted to creating the StoryMap. Dr. Yarbrough and I would have weekly meetings with the fellow, sometimes joined by the Olivewood volunteers.

Key tasks:

The fellow working on this project will be provided a map of the cemetery, photographs of the grave markers, and a spreadsheet of relevant data related to the residents. Because of the space's size, the fellow will need to use a GPS device or an app via ArcGIS to create the coordinates for each plot. After the ArcGIS map is complete, using the data provided, which includes information like (occupation, veteran status, founders, birth/death dates, political activists, etc.) the fellow will craft a narrative of the cemetery and the descendants using a StoryMap.

Qualifications for applicants:

The student needs to have ArcGIS and StoryMap experience, as well as a Humanities background which will assist in creating the narrative.

What would students learn through their participation in this project?

They would learn:

- How to produce a body of work for Houston community members
- How to gather coordinates for a small-scale area
- How to finalize data for a large dataset
- How to create a narrative that deals with sensitive subject matter
- How to present their work to an audience