

Lauren A. Meranda

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Why Every President Sucked

13" x 11" Hardcover Book, 2009

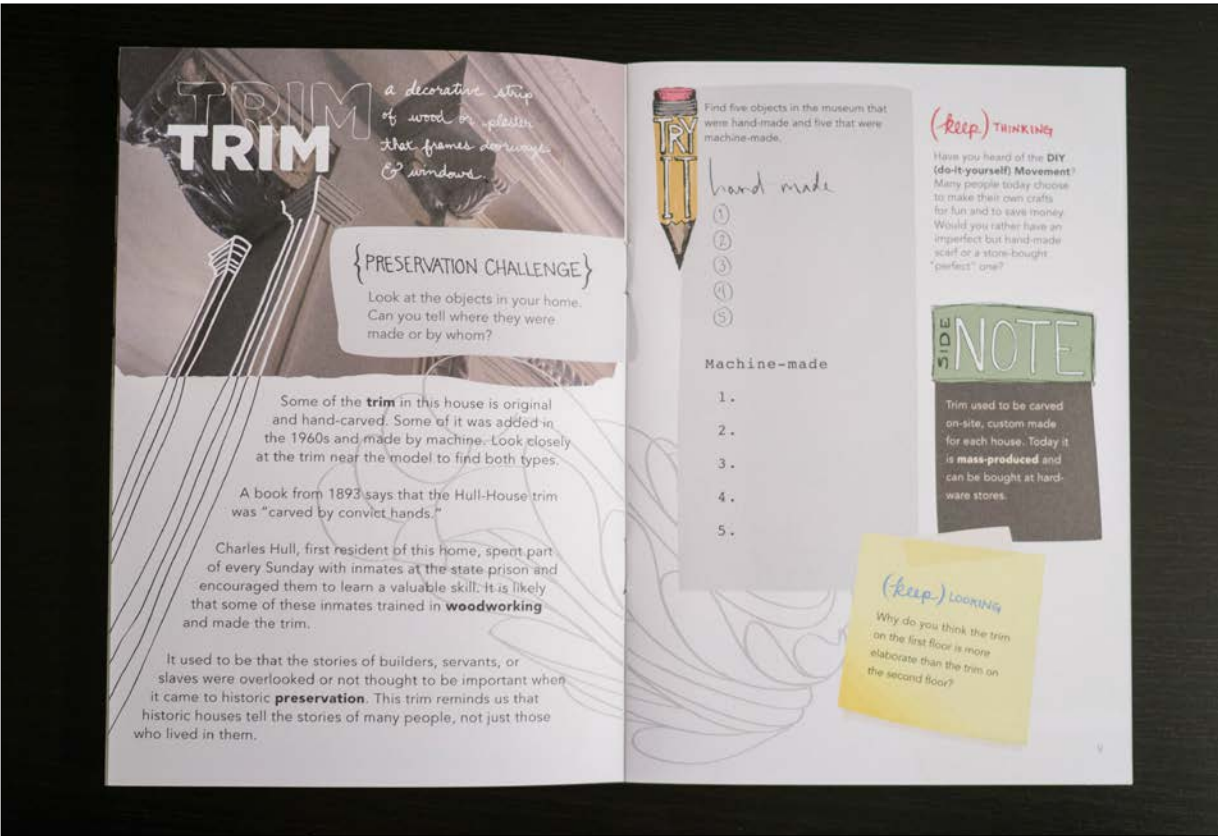
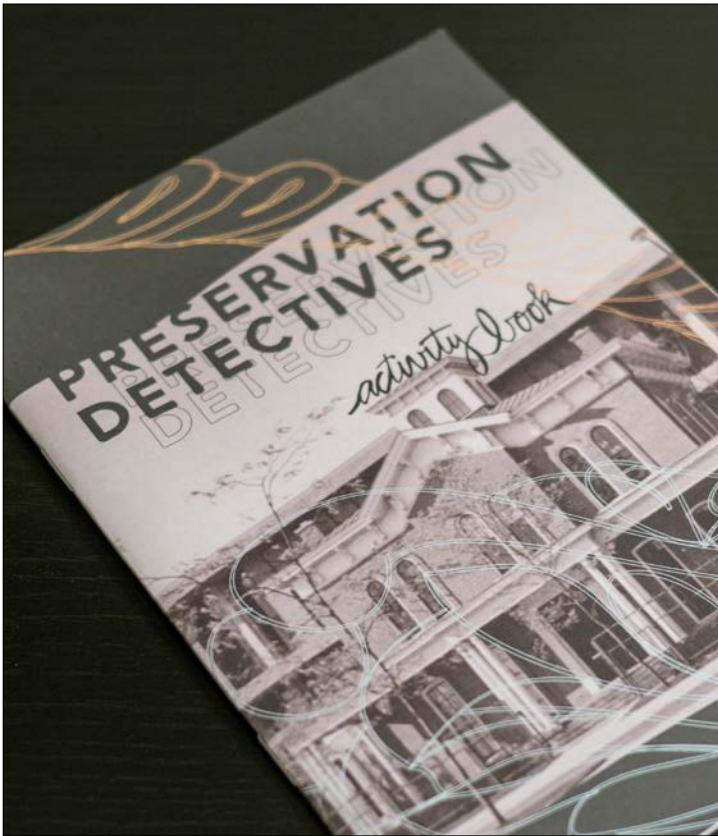
A collaboration with author and creative, Eric Olsen, this large-format book aims to halt a voter's future search for presidential perfection by detailing how each and every former president has failed to live up to those expectations. Combining historic photos with clean shapes, blocks of color overlays, and handwritten typography, traditional understandings of history are being reexamined under a newer, scrutinous, lens.



Preservation Detectives

7"x 10" Educational Workbook, 2011

Part of a preservation initiative at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, visitors with children were given an activity book as an interactive guide to the historic house. Through hand-drawn illustrations and type, historic content and images are become relevant to a younger audience.



Hull-House Museum Brochure

9" x 5.3" folded; 9" x 16" unfolded, 2012

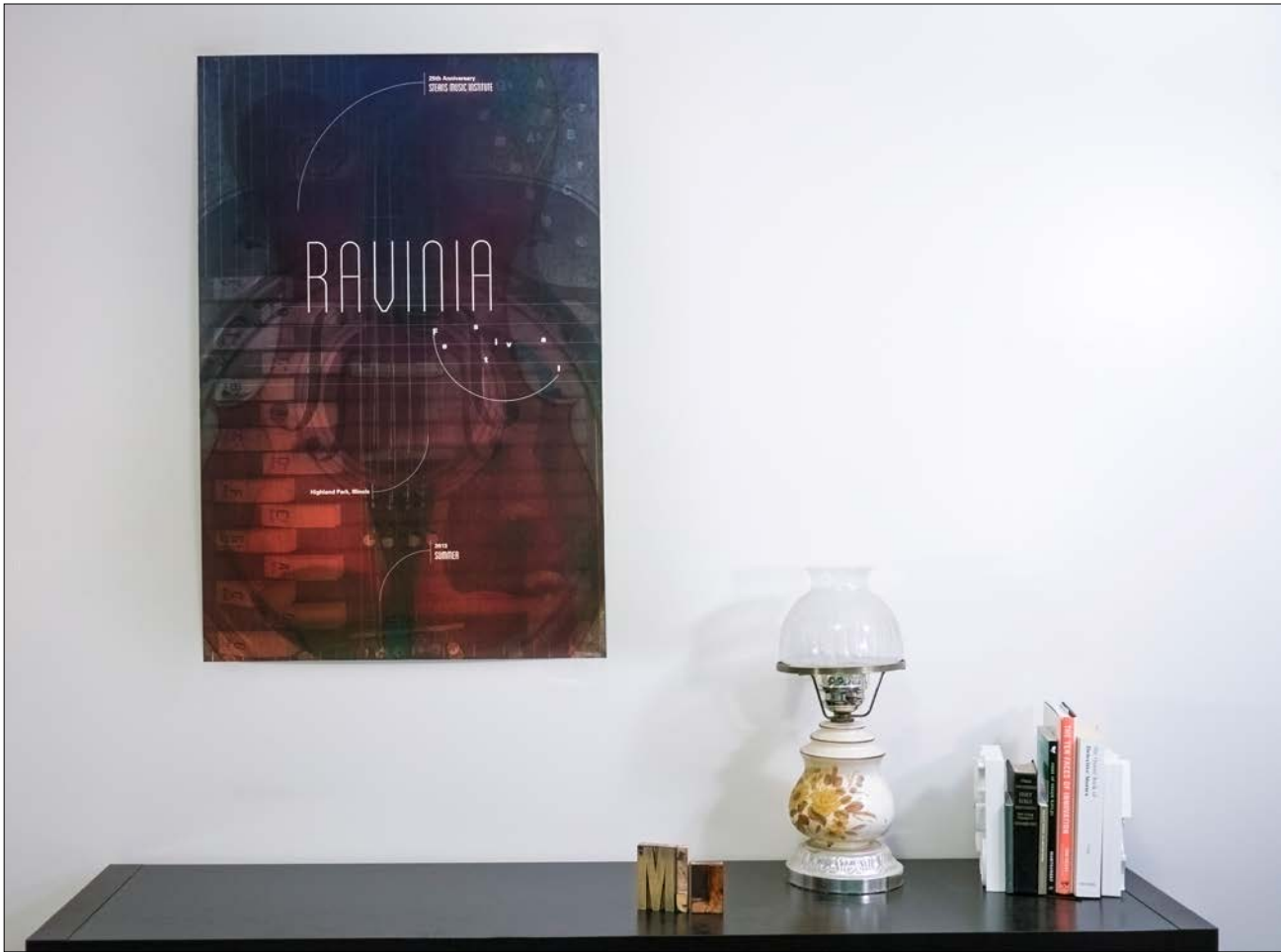
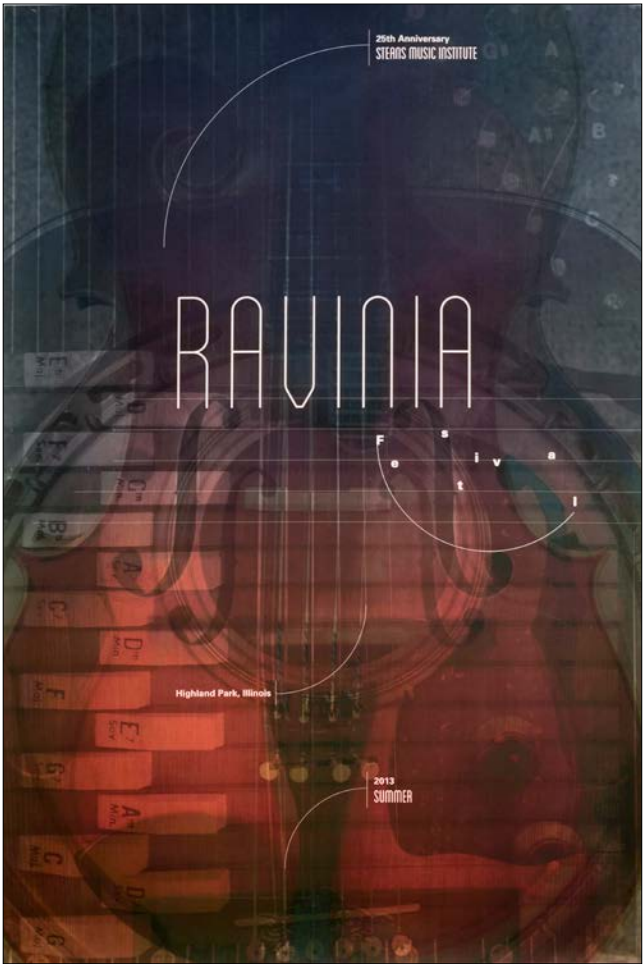
Issued to museum patrons upon visiting the historic site to enhance the experience, as well as issued at events outside of the museum to encourage visits.



Ravinia Festival Poster

A1 Poster, 2013

Ravina is an outdoor music venue outside of Chicago, IL. Reflecting the variety of musical genres featured at the park, images of stringed instruments are layered together to build an amalgamated form. The long thin letterforms were specifically designed for this poster to further reference the strings.



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Design After Loss

7" x 10" Embossed Hardcover Book, 2012

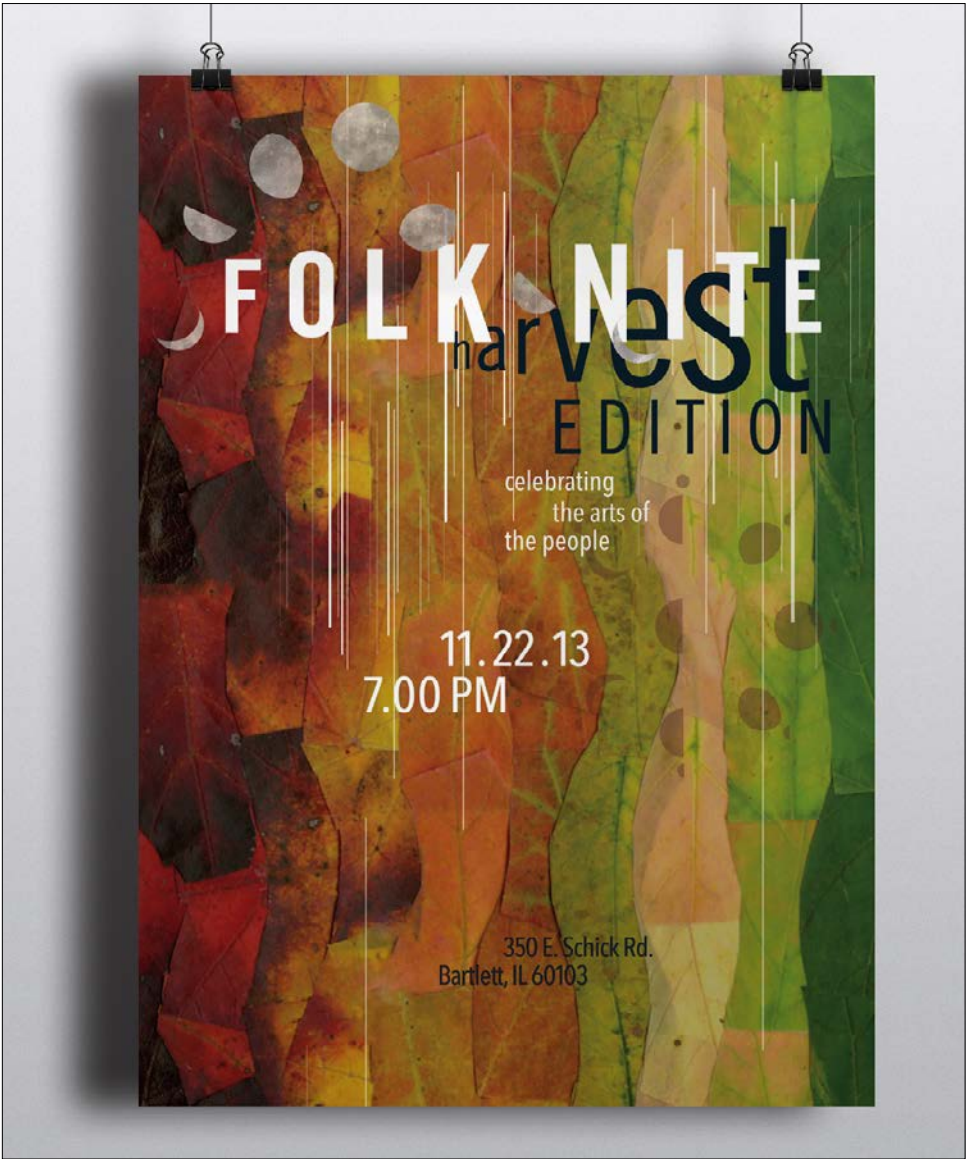
This self-authored book pays homage to the solemnity of collective tragic events and the natural reaction of groups to memorialize together. The growing shape in the top center of every page is a shadow of each section of the book that has come before. Images are separated from the text with a reverse flip-out disrupting the flow of reading, confronting the viewer with the content, and allowing for moments of reflection.



Folk Night Harvest Edition

18" x 24" Poster, 11" x 17" Signs, 2013

A biannual event celebrating the arts of the people through an evening of performances and visual arts. Handcrafted from found autumn leaves, the background contrasts the rhythm of the typography and sharpness of the vector graphics.



Plea for Playgrounds

5" x 7", 2014

Booklet designed and printed to accompany the exhibition of playground equipment sculptures created by artist Jim Duignan. The booklet is a modern day reproduction and redesign of the 1905 Plea published by the City of Chicago. The text written by Jennifer Gray highlights the importance of playgrounds in an urban setting and contains historic images of playgrounds from around the city. The entire book is printed as one color, and the cover contains spot gloss to emulate the embossed city seal of the original.



Art & Feminism Postcard

4" x 6", 2014

Created for a series of events hosted by the UIC School of Art & Art History on art & feminism for the College Art Association Conference.



<div>2/13</div> <div>5:30pm–10:30pm / Gallery 400</div> <div>Double Feature Feminist Films</div> <div>5:30pm / <i>Breaking the Frame</i>, a documentary about feminist artist Carolee Schneeman</div> <div>7:20pm / reception between the films</div> <div>8:00pm / Cheryl Dunye's <i>The Watermelon Woman</i>, filmmaker in attendance</div> <div>GALLERY 400, University of Illinois at Chicago 400 S Peoria St, Chicago, IL 60607</div> <div>threewalls 119 N Peoria St, Chicago, IL 60607</div>	<div>2/14</div> <div>10:00am–5:00pm / threewalls</div> <div>TRACERS Takes on Feminism</div> <div>TRACERS BOOK CLUB hosts three discussions about feminism's relationship to LGBTQ issues at 10am–12pm; motherhood at 1pm–3pm; race at 3pm–5pm.</div> <div>8:00pm–9:30pm / Gallery 400</div> <div>Being Like Leaves:</div> <div>Faith Wilding reads from her memoir</div> <div>The noted performance artist and author Faith Wilding presents selected readings from her memoir.</div>
<div>GALLERY 400</div> <div>Threewalls</div> <div>UIC GENDER AND SEXUALITY CENTER</div> <div>Art & Art History at Chicago</div>	

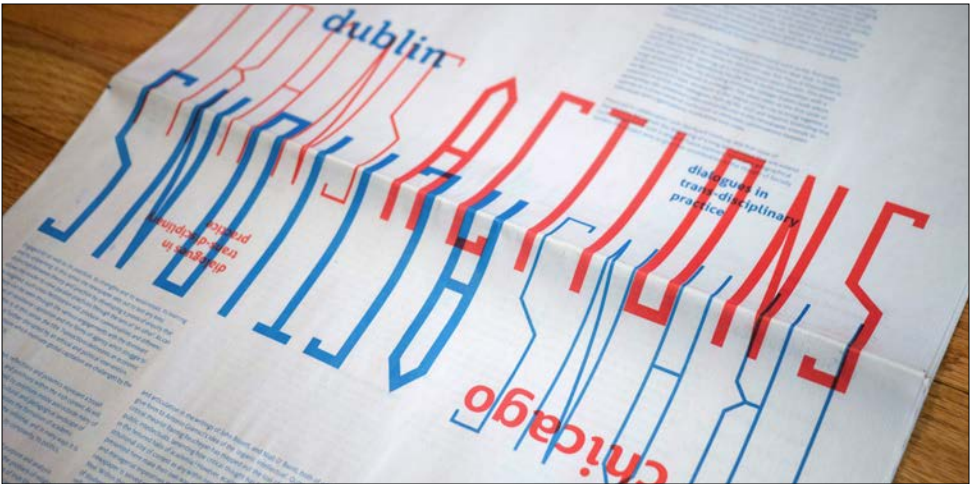
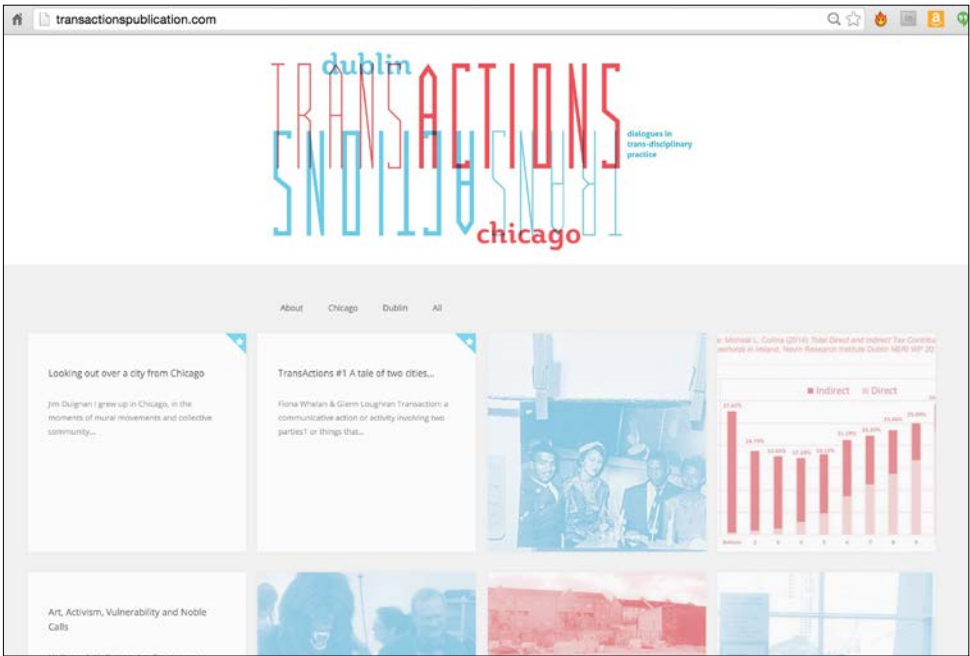
TransActions Publication

Broadsheet Newspaper, 2015

TransActions is a socially engaged arts newspaper and dialogue. Artists and Educators Jim Duignan (Chicago) and Fiona Whelan (NCAD Dublin) present a series of perspectives on ethics, the city, aesthetics, labor, education and art through the questions around socially engaged arts between their communities within Chicago and Dublin. Through the form of generated and collected conversations with their communities and distribution of a newspaper, the publication draws on the writings, drawings, photographs, maps, prints, letters, essays, lessons, descriptions and ideas of youth, artists, educators, collectives and folks in a wide range of fields.

The newspaper is large broadsheet format. Once flipped, it reads from both directions—Dublin from one end and Chicago starting from the other with the content from each city meeting in the middle.

visit site
<http://transactionspublication.com/>

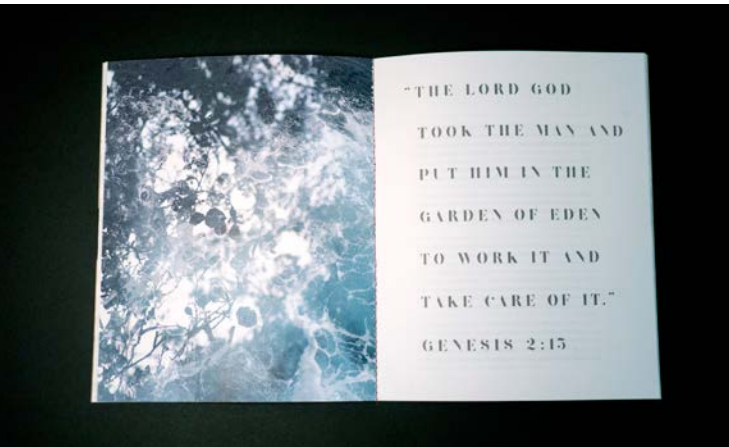


Creative Retreat Booklet

6.5" x 8", 2015

Accompanying a wondrous weekend away, this booklet guided students from Judson University through the creative retreat curriculum. The booklet included all the information they needed for the retreat, including a schedule, map, assignment guides, reflection quotes, and blank pages to brainstorm and reflect.

Each booklet features a lasercut cover, imagery developed from found shadows overlaid on photographs of natural elements revealed by vellum, and quotes related to creation and creativity.



Redefining Democracy

Hull-House Museum Core Exhibition, 2010

The Museum serves as a dynamic memorial to social reformer Jane Addams, the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and her colleagues whose work changed the lives of their immigrant neighbors as well as national and international public policy. The Museum preserves and develops the original Hull-House site for the interpretation and continuation of the historic settlement house vision, linking research, education, and social engagement.



Unfinished Business:
Art Education

Hull-House Museum Social Justice Exhibit, 2011

A community curated, participatory art exhibition that explores the importance of the arts and insists on cultural rights as part of a thriving democracy. The exhibit makes connections between Hull-House history and the contemporary moment, and seeks to unleash radical imaginations about a collective future. Interactive art-making stations throughout the space revive Hull-House’s commitment to learning-by-doing.



Inside/Out:
Undocumented and Unafraid

36" x 53" Posters Installed in Row, 2012

This photographic installation depicts undocumented immigrant students at UIC. Each student bravely participated in a photo shoot and gave permission for the display of their images in a public space. The collaborative project between the Center for Cultural Understanding and Social Change, the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Members of the Immigrant Campaign *Coming Out of the Shadows*, and *Inside Out* was received with much controversy. The installation was vandalized multiple times and covered by multiple Chicago news outlets.



Exhibition at Art In These Times, 2012

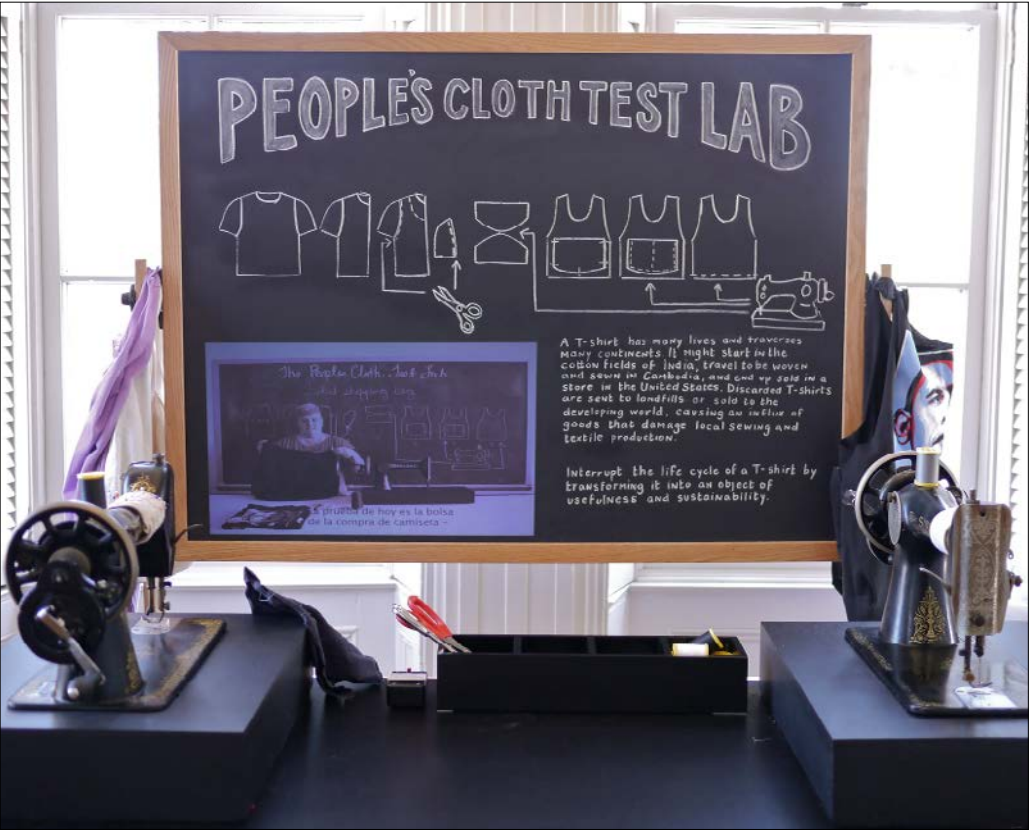
Regarded by some as innovative grassroots organizers and others as violent criminals, the history of the Chicago gang, the Conservative Vice Lords Inc. provides a lens for understanding the potential of grassroots organizing in urban communities. This evolving, multi-site project is a partnership between the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum and former members of the Conservative Vice Lords, led by CVL spokesman Bobby Gore and Benneth Lee, co-founder of the National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated.



Unfinished Business:
21st Century Home Economics

Hull-House Museum Social Justice Exhibit, 2012

The untold story of the first generation of home economists who were equal rights advocates, chemists and public health advocates, labor reformers and innovators who sought to redefine domesticity. Filled with participatory experiences and hands-on activities, the exhibit describes the home economists’ visionary work to create a world with healthy food for all, fair labor practices for domestic work, ethical consumerism and community childcare solutions.



Forward, Together Forward

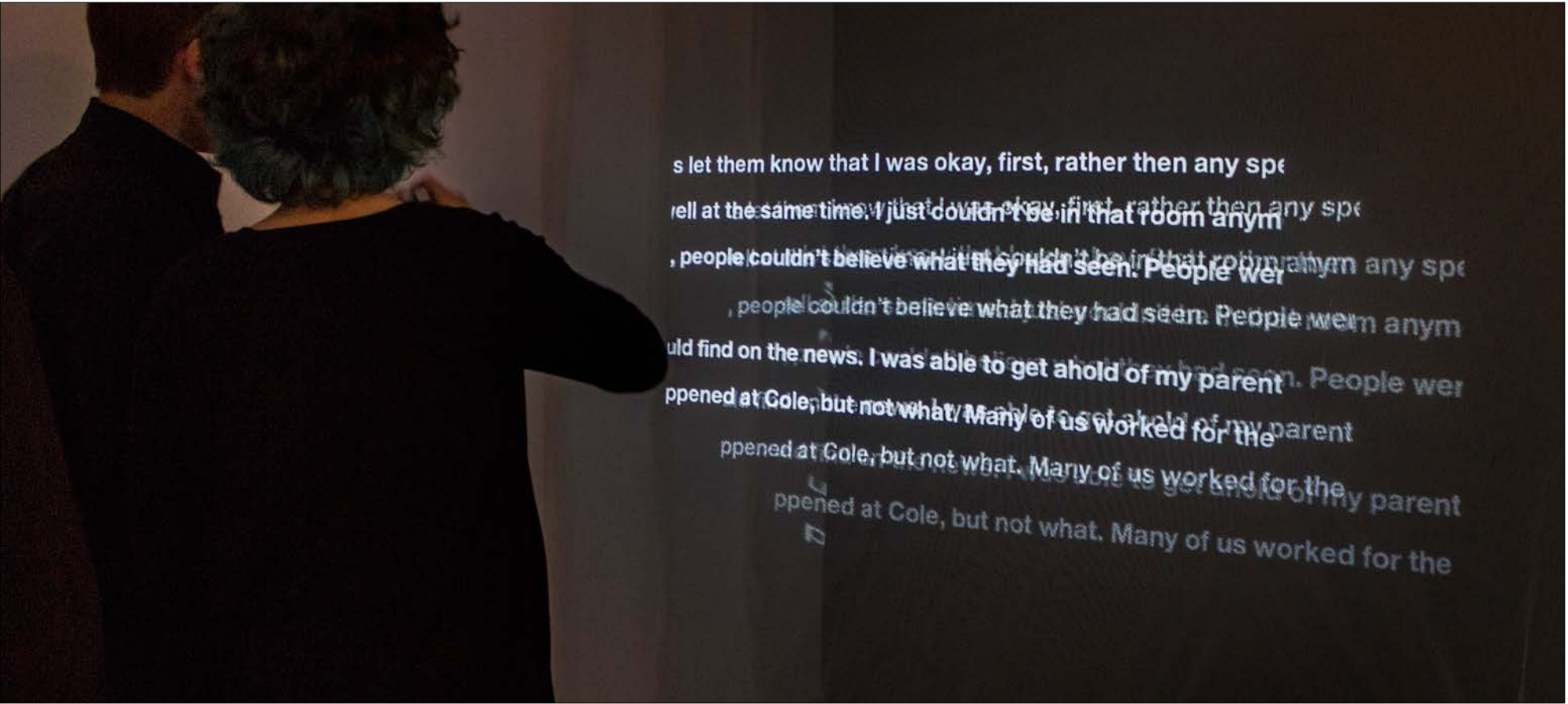
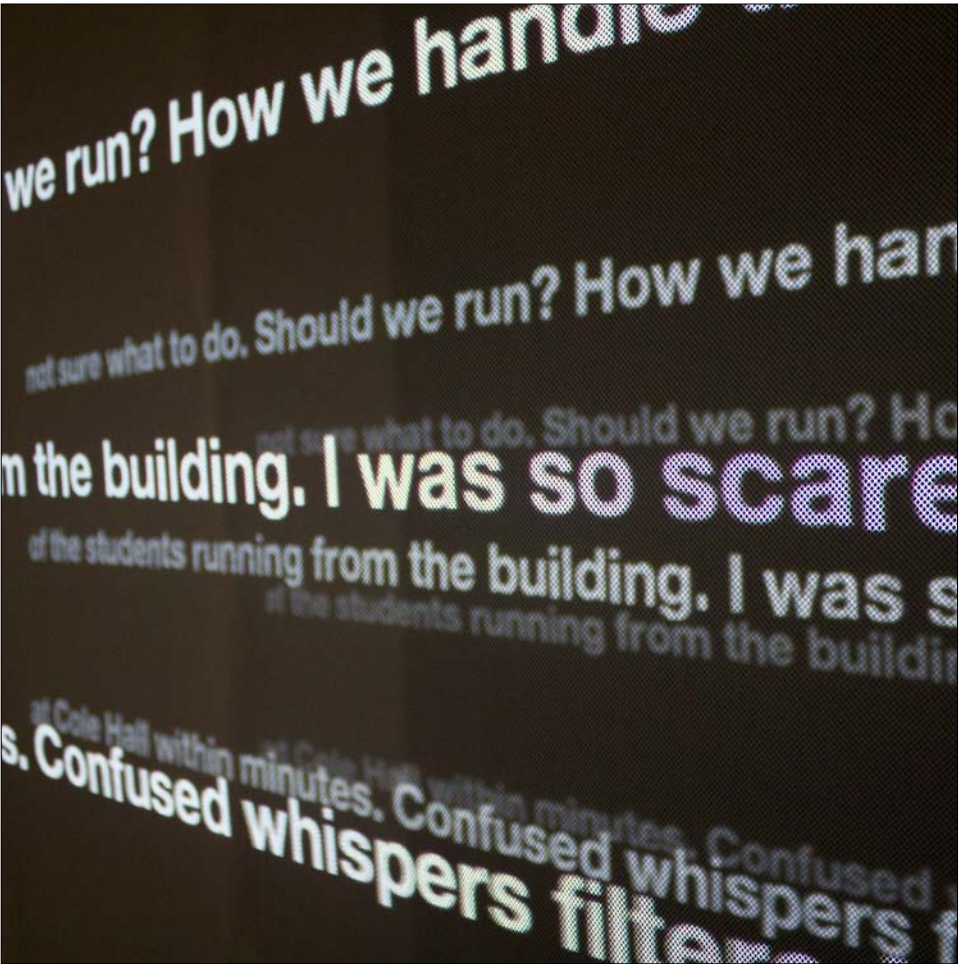
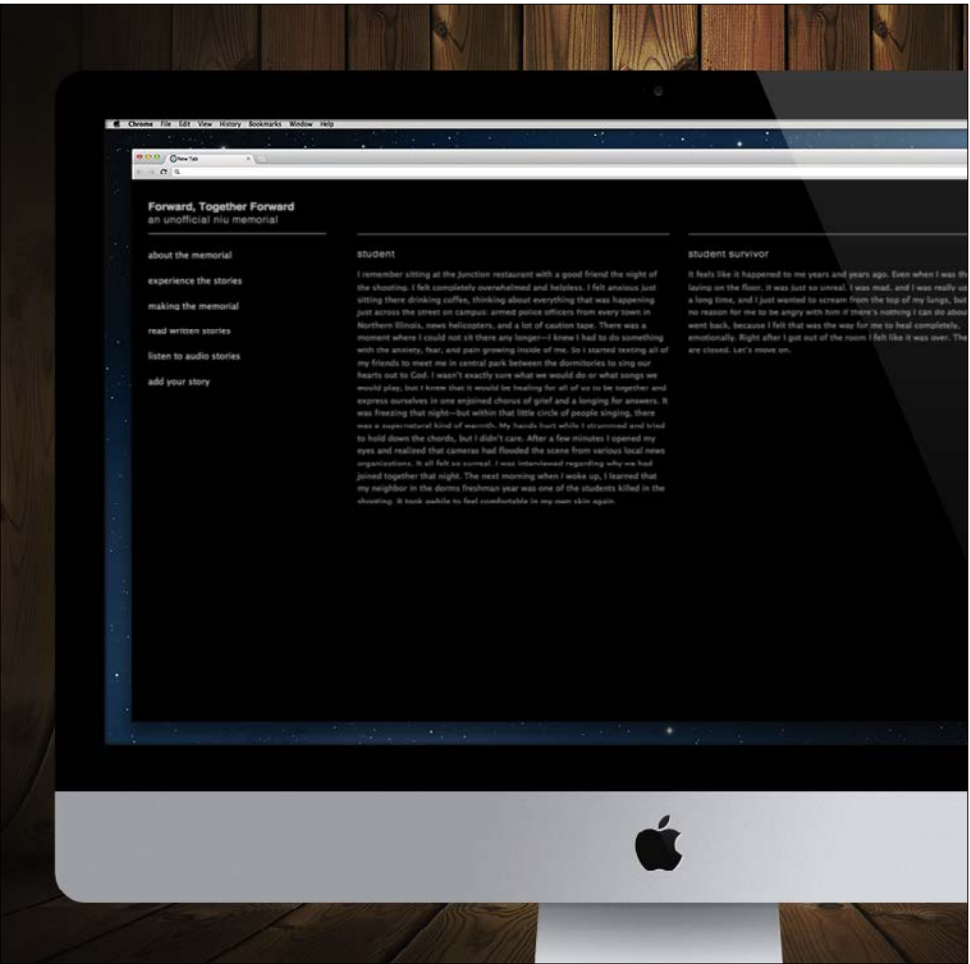
Approx. 8'x 12' Projected Stories on Sheer Sheets, 2013

On February 14, 2008 at Northern Illinois University, a former student opened gunfire on a lecture hall, killing five, injuring over thirty, and rocking an entire community. As a student on campus that day, I have my story, as do others. Yet, our stories are not usually aggregated, shared, or combined; through sharing our memories, we can process them individually. Collaborative storytelling allows us to put these stories together, forming an overall shape, without losing the texture of each individual narrative.

The properties of projected light on sheer screens evoke a spirit of solemnity and catharsis—a safe place to face a difficult subject. This collective begins to take a readable form, creating not only a public record, but a pulpit—shining light on greater issues of gun violence through the lens of human experience.

visit website
<http://forwardtogetherforwardmemorial.com/>

watch video
<https://vimeo.com/85061678>

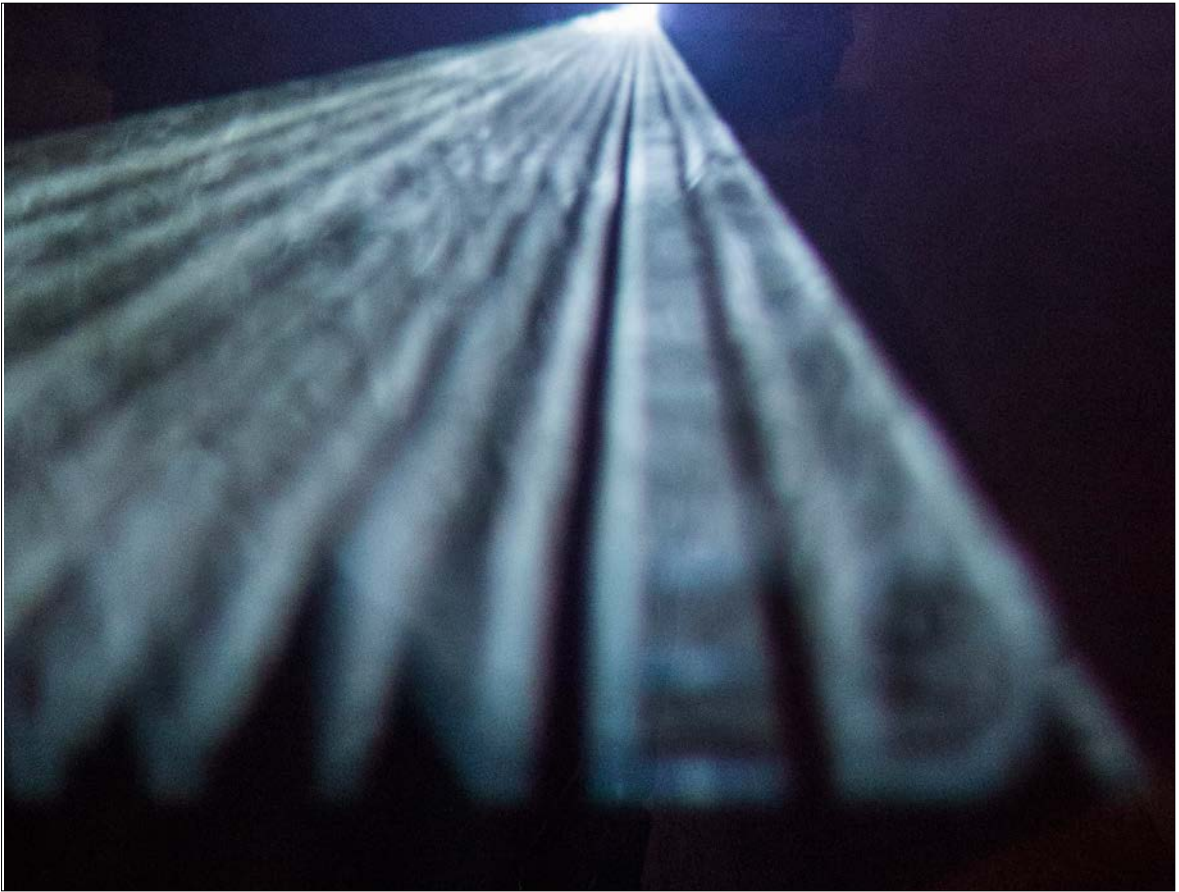
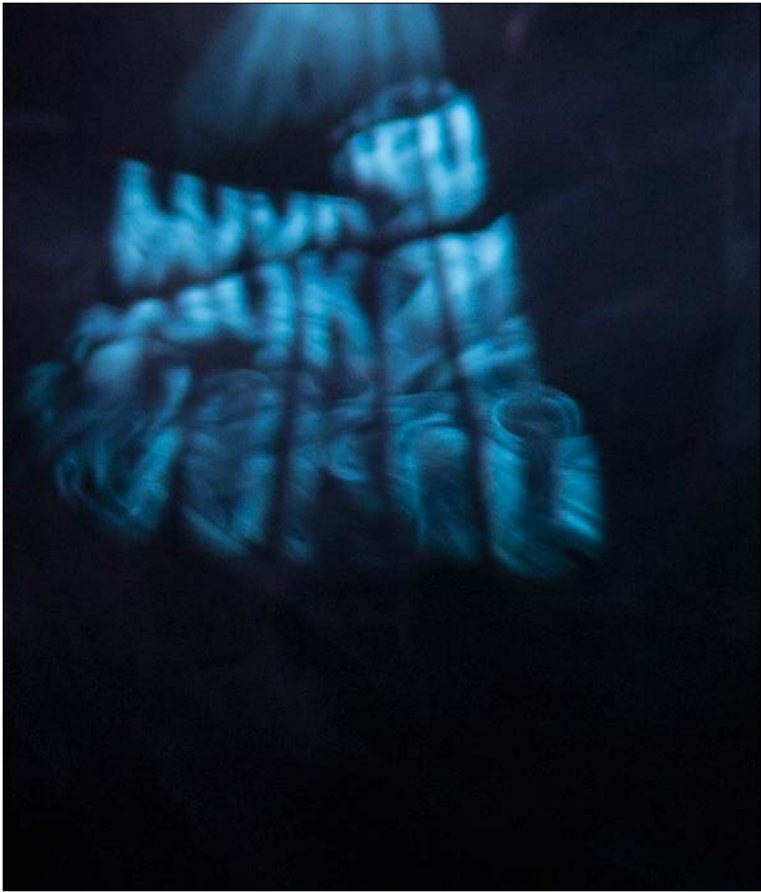
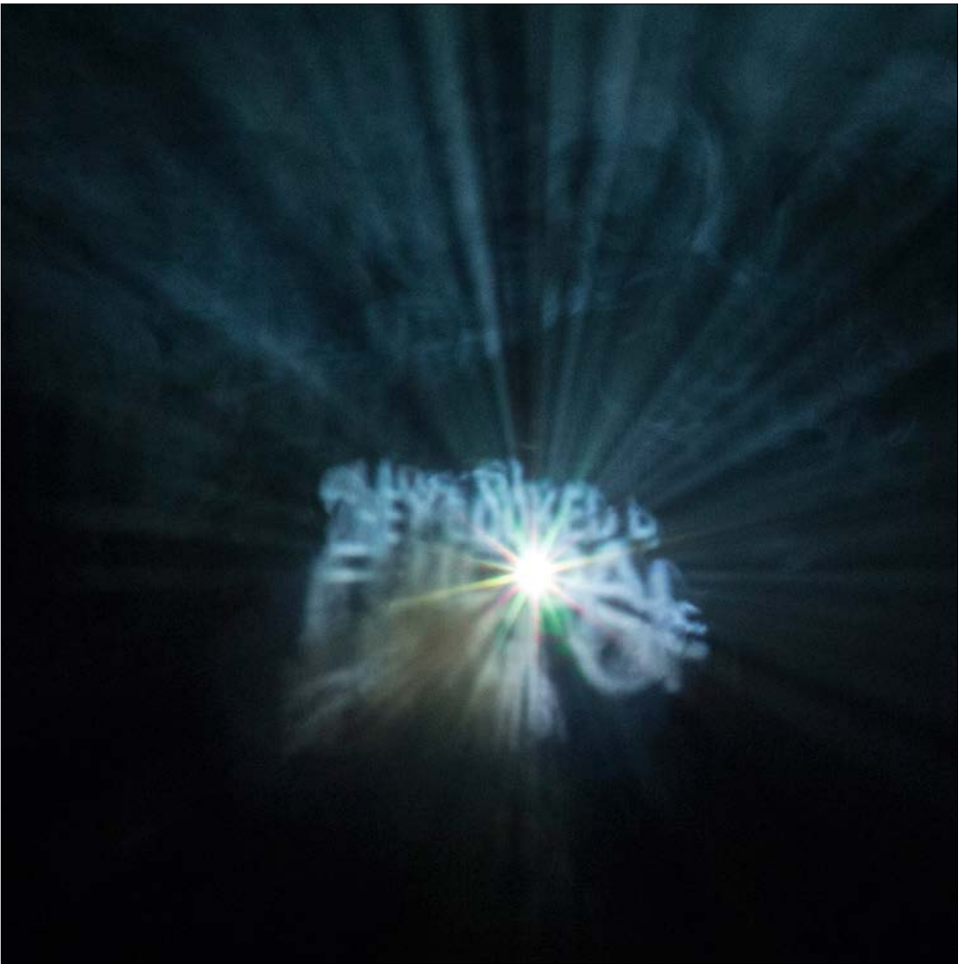
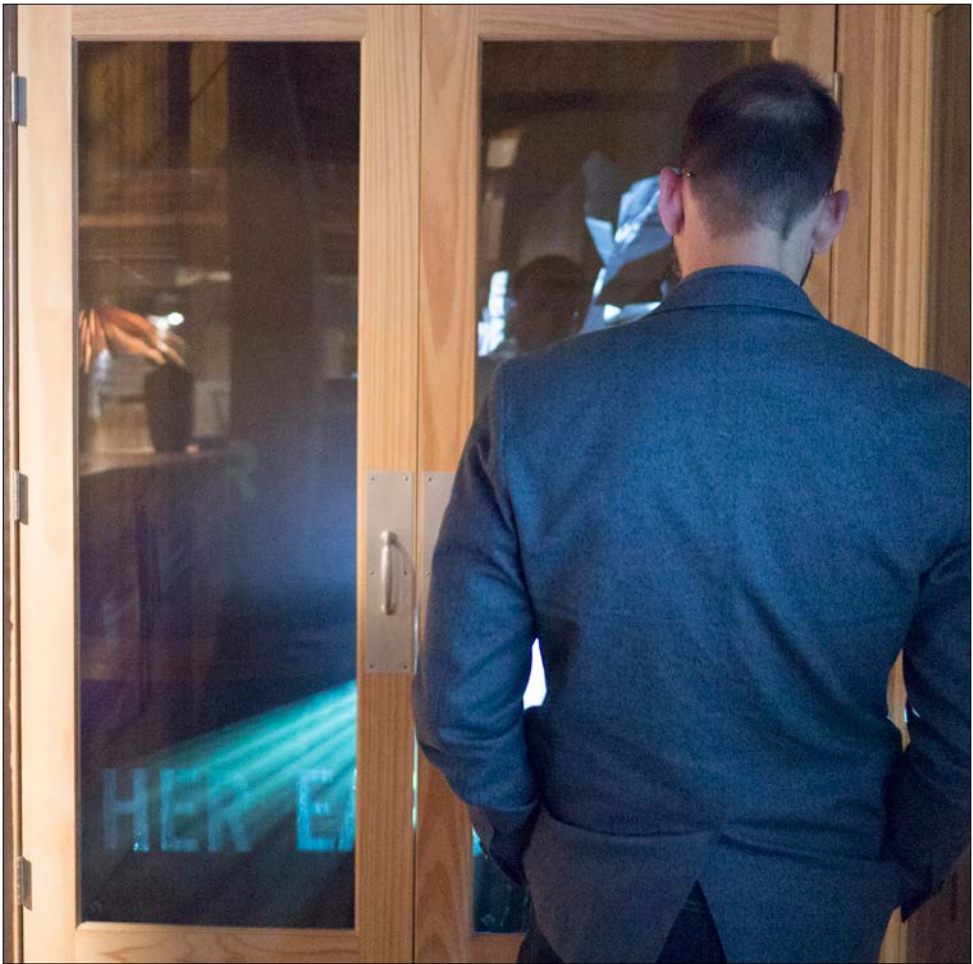


To/Through

Approx. 15'x20' Projected Prose on
Smoke from Fog Machines, 2015

To/Through explores the relationship between
visual and written storytelling, memory,
and history via letterforms, words, and phrases
projected onto smoke. Words and phrases
only become readable as light catches the
smoke—a reference to the ephemeral nature of
recollection and memories.

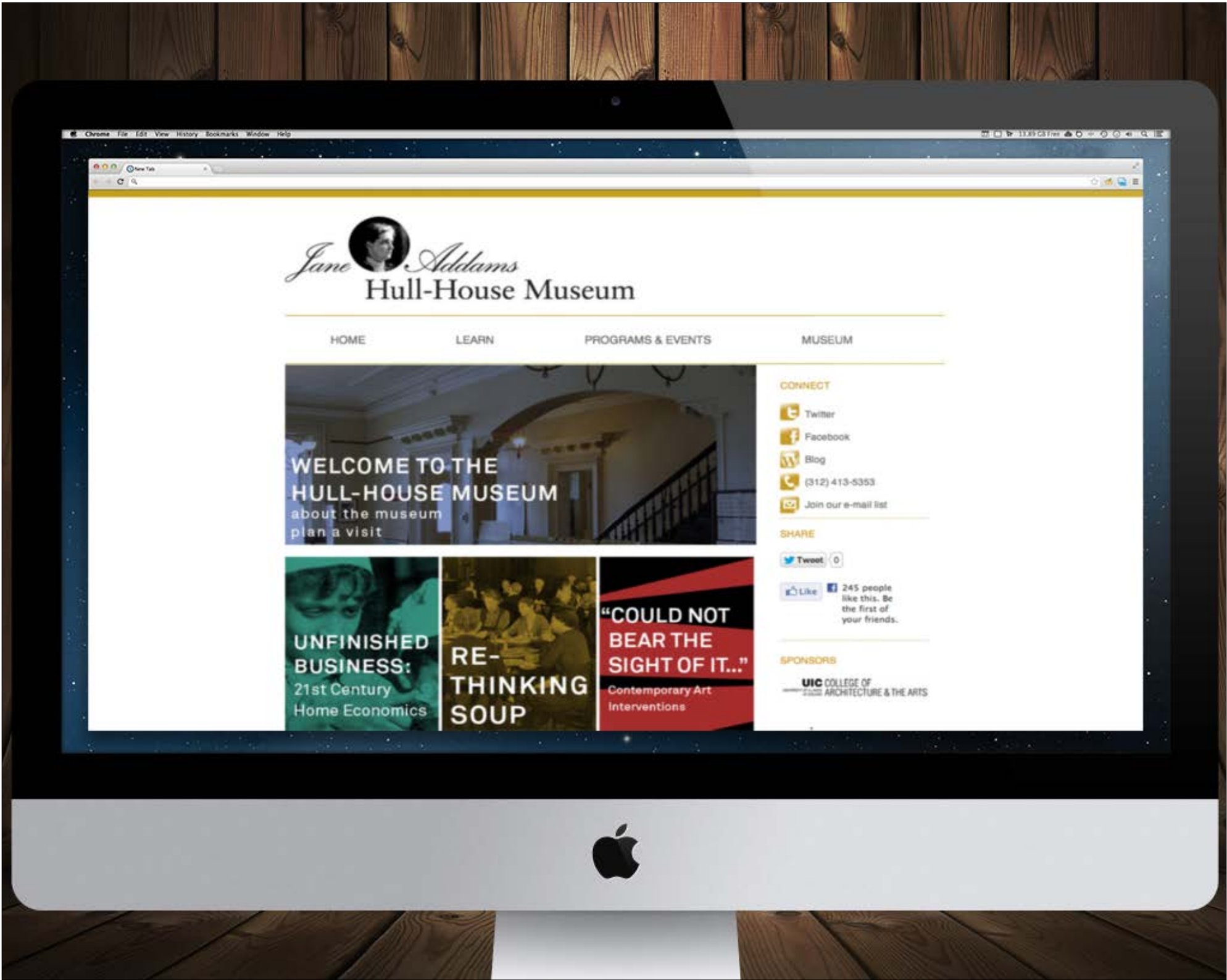
watch video
<https://vimeo.com/145704607>



Hull-House Museum

Institutional Website, 2009–2014

Multi-functional website for non-profit house museum and site of conscience linking historic Hull-House content to the context of current social justice issues.

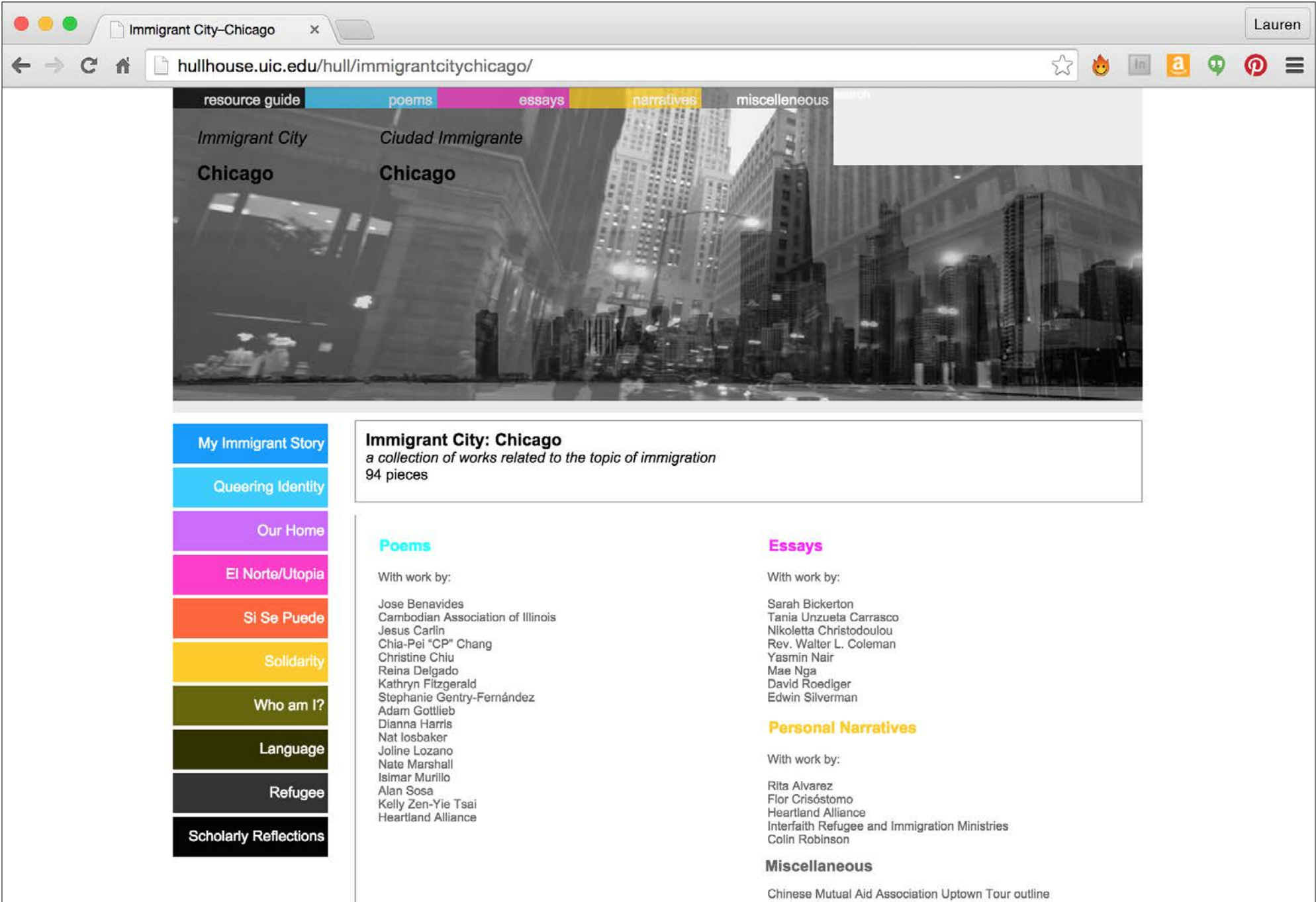


Immigrant City Chicago

Digital Literary Archive, 2010

An online collection of written works related to immigration. Users can navigate content by a number of content tags and cross-references. The archive accompanies a print version of the 2010 Chicago New Resident Resource Guide.

visit site
<http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/immigrantcitychicago/index.html>



Folk Nite: WunderKammer

Event Intro Video, 2014

Folk Nite is a community arts event in the suburbs of Chicago where accessibility to the arts is minimal, and finding creative spaces to participate is quite difficult. The events are designed around a central theme, in this case a WunderKammer. Attendees were encouraged to bring an item to contribute to a growing WunderKammer installation. Since the aesthetics of the installation itself was to be determined at the event based on the objects brought by those in attendance, the aesthetic treatment for the event materials needed to stand on their own. The design needed to inspire creativity, reference historic WunderKammern, as well as continue in the spirit of all FolkNite events by fostering a comfortable atmosphere for attendees unfamiliar with arts events.

Video was announced a Judge’s Choice for the 2014 Chicago Design Archives and was a finalist for the AIGA “Cased” Competition.

watch video

<https://vimeo.com/101568208>

