In (In)Visible Princeton walking tours reveal University’s nuanced history

Princeton has launched four new walking tours to help tell a more complete narrative of the University’s past and present.


The tours are web-based and mobile-friendly, making them easy to follow on foot around campus. They also may be accessed in Firefox or Google Chrome browsers for people not on campus by scanning the scannable code and stickers provide a link so users can access the interpretive text, images, audio and video that help the interpretive text, images, audio and video that help explain the significance of the sites, events and people discussed at each stop.

By elevating Princeton’s less well-known stories, the tours aim to narrate, demonstrate and reflect on the nuanced history of Princeton, and are part of broader efforts overseen by the Campus Iconography Committee (CIC) — co-chaired by Executive Vice President Troy Williams and Carolyn Rouse, professor and chair of the department of anthropology — to update and diversify campus art and iconography.

Tour followers will find colored stickers that mark stops around campus. The stickers provide a scannable code and link so users can access the interpretive text, images, audio and video that help explain the significance of the sites, events and people discussed at each stop.

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Stop 6 on the “Stories of African American Life at Princeton” tour features Clio Hall, home to the Office of Admission. The University encouraged greater numbers of African American students to apply to and enroll at Princeton in the 1960s. For information on the 2019 STEAM Camp, visit pace.princeton.edu.

For the counselors, STEAM Camp offers a chance for them to share their passions for the subjects they’re studying at college and gain new understanding through working with local youth.

“It’s been really interesting to live from the teacher’s perspective,” said Princeton sophomore Sultaan Shabazz. “To see what it’s like to give a lesson, lead a class, work with the kids and get the best out of them is really eye-opening and rewarding.”

Ayesha Qureshi, a senior at Rider University studying elementary education, agrees. “I really like the connection you have with the kids.”

Qureshi took part in Generation One, a Community House project that helps high school students prepare for college. She says her experience not only helped her succeed as a first-generation college student, but also prepared her for the nuances of working with middle schoolers.

“I remember what it was like to be that younger kid, not always wanting to listen or pay attention,” she said. “And I remember how our Princeton University mentors worked with us. They really were good role models.”

For information on the 2019 STEAM Camp, visit pace.princeton.edu.

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“We’re even creating our own movie.”

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The Princeton University Office of Community and Regional Affairs is pleased to send this publication to our neighbors with information about the many ways the University and the local community intersect.

University offers year-round programming for families, children

Be amazed by a faculty science demonstration, enjoy a children’s concert, or create in the galleries of the Princeton University Art Museum.

Through its “YouthCampus” initiative, the Office of Community and Regional Affairs lists kids and family programs online that span science, literacy, athletics, the arts and more — many free and open to the public — and sends email announcements of upcoming activities. Here is a sample of what’s coming up:

Arts: The Princeton University Art Museum hosts Family Day, an all-day program of exploration and creativity held on Oct. 13 and again in the spring. Other programs include Art for Families, featuring a gallery activity and related art project; Artful Adventures, a series of self-guided tours and activities; and Homeschool Week, with tours and projects held the second week of January. Admission is free.


Literacy and academic skills: The Pace Center’s Community House programs boost the academic strengths of students from underrepresented minorities and those who are first in their families to pursue postsecondary education. Community House also offers an SAT preparation program for underrepresented high school students. The Cotsen Children’s Library features a whimsical reading gallery for children, story times, writing contests and feedback sessions, guest speakers, craft activities and more.

STEM: Be on the lookout for Peyton Observatory open houses for viewing the night sky, held usually on the second or third Wednesday of each month. The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory hosts bimonthly public tours and Science on Saturdays lectures during the winter. Other annual highlights include the Holiday Science Lecture (December), New Jersey Science Bowl (February), and the spring Young Women’s Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

For more details visit YouthCampus online at community.princeton.edu/programs-youth. Sign up for YouthCampus updates by sending an email to youthcampus@princeton.edu.

happenings

Sept. 21 Princeton University Concerts presents Bobby McFerrin, 7:30 p.m., Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall. For tickets, visit www.princetonuniversityconcerts.org

Oct. 4 “She Roars: Celebrating Women at Princeton” alumni conference hosts an Alumni Authors Book Reading, 2 p.m., Labyrinth Books, and a screening of “Novitiate,” a documentary written and directed by Maggie Betts ’99, 2 p.m., Garden Theatre. sheroars.princeton.edu (members of the public welcome as space permits)


Nov. 28 Public Lecture featuring author Ta-Nehisi Coates. 5 p.m., Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall. Free tickets required. lectures.princeton.edu

Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Princeton Dance Festival. Various performance times, Berlind Theatre at McCarter Theatre Center. arts.princeton.edu/events

Dec. 3 Christine Todd Whitman, former governor of New Jersey, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency and president of the Whitman Strategy Group. 4:30 p.m., Arthur Lewis Auditorium in Robertson Hall. wws.princeton.edu/news-and-events/wws-calendar

For more happenings visit www.princeton.edu/events

Princeton University faculty and staff took part in the ninth annual Backpack Drive for Princeton Human Services. A total of 164 backpacks, filled with school supplies, were delivered to the Princeton Human Services office, helping local students from low-income families start the school year off right. Seen here from left to right: Eric Gervais, regional manager, W.B. Mason; Erin Metro, associate director for community relations, Princeton University; Melissa Urias, acting director, Princeton Human Services; Carol Salva, account executive, W.B. Mason; and Emmanuel Jimenez, Goldstar supervisor, W.B. Mason. (Photo by Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications)
Olives on Witherspoon Street has been serving Princeton for more than 20 years. We opened recently with owner Adam Angelakis, a familiar, friendly face to many in the Princeton community.

Q: What led you to open Olives in Princeton?
A: We opened our first store, Colonial Farms, as a family business in Washington Crossing in 1985. Ten years later, we were looking to open a store in Princeton and learned of a pizzeria for sale on Witherspoon Street. We took ownership of that location and, in 2006, we had the opportunity to take over the space next door and expanded to our current size.

Q: How has your relationship with Princeton University evolved over those years?
A: When we first opened, we started delivering sandwich orders and drinks to some of the University departments. That relationship evolved over the years to catering meetings … after our expansion, we could offer more of our services to the University, including a lot of dinner events, cocktail receptions and breakfast meetings.

Over the years the catering component got larger, but we still tend to the smaller departments who only want a small tray of sandwiches and a few drinks for lunch. We serve anywhere from six people to 300! And we feel so fortunate to work with so many students who have been at the University year after year … over our 23 years in business, we’ve really come to appreciate how long people work there. It speaks to what tremendous loyalty people have to Princeton.

Q: The shop is always packed with students — what is it like to serve them as an audience?
A: The students are incredible. They bring this amazing energy; without them, this town is not the same. I really look forward to the school season … it’s like we go back to school here too. When the craziness of Reunions hits, we joke with our employees that we need beds in the back because we’re here day and night! We’re so grateful that alums come back to visit us after so many years.

Denise Daniels of the United Way of Greater Mercer County knows exactly what she’s looking for. And in less than a minute, she finds it at Princeton University’s Resource Recovery.

The small metal bookshelf is perfect for the United Way’s Reading Oasis program, which transforms empty classrooms into lively library spaces at local elementary schools. It’s the fifth bookshelf Daniels has picked up from the University warehouse at 755 Alexander Road in West Windsor.

Aside from the convenience and ease, Daniels said the best part of Resource Recovery is it’s free for nonprofits like United Way.

“We have limited funds so having this free resource through Princeton University is so wonderful,” she said. “I was researching new bookshelves and they could cost almost $600. I’d prefer to spend that on books for the kids rather than on furniture.”

Resource Recovery, previously known as University Surplus, aims to divert waste from landfills as part of the University’s overall sustainability goals.

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Olives owner Adam Angelakis has been serving the Princeton community for more than 20 years. (Photo by Nick Donnoli, Office of Communications)

Resource Recovery ‘upcycles’ University office furniture for the public

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Resource Recovery because it’s next to the McCarter Theatre costume and prop shop, where she works as a draper.

“I bought an old library card catalog that is made of sturdy oak for $150. It is totally beautiful and I didn’t need to fix it up,” Wagner said. “Now I use it to store my kids’ school supplies. It’s nice and much less expensive than I could find anywhere else.”

In addition to recycling furniture, Resource Recovery has launched new initiatives to collect textbooks, clothes and shoes, and mattresses from students. The items are then recycled by the online bookseller Better World Books and the clothing reuse company Helpsy.

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■ Emily Arosen, Office of Communications

The Princeton University Solar Field, located south of Lake Carnegie in West Windsor, is now home to a feecy flock through a partnership with a local farmer. Seventy-five Katahdin sheep graze on the grass and weeds, eliminating the need for mowing. Keeping the grass trim helps maintain the efficiency of the solar panels, which supply clean power to the University. (Photo by Lisa Nicolaison, Office of Sustainability)
University gift honors decades-long ties with Princeton Community Housing

Princeton University recently contributed $50,000 to Princeton Community Housing’s (PCH) capital campaign in recognition of PCH’s 50th anniversary and the longstanding collaborative relationship between the two institutions.

“The University is pleased to support Princeton Community Housing’s capital campaign to acknowledge our strong and multi-faceted collaboration,” said Kristin Appelget, Princeton University’s director of Community and Regional Affairs. “This milestone anniversary gave us an excellent opportunity to make an additional investment with PCH towards providing affordable housing in the community.”

In 1967, Princeton University was one of 18 organizations that together established PCH. Over time, University faculty and staff have served on the PCH Board of Trustees; Vice President for Facilities Iyu Whang is a current trustee and Vice President for University Services Chad Klaus serves on the PCH Development Corporation Board.

Over the past 50 years, PCH has worked to provide local residents of all income levels access to affordable homes in Princeton and manages an additional 251 homes in Princeton and Mercer County. This total includes housing developed as part of University- led projects: 56 homes at the Menwick Starworth complex, four homes at the corner of Leigh Avenue and Bayard Lane, and six homes on Leigh Avenue.

The relationship between the University and PCH also is strengthened by countless hours of service that Princeton students have volunteered to the organization over many years to support resident programs and activities. In a unique recent collaboration, University students and PCH joined forces through the work of a student-led TigerChallenge team in developing guides to help make the affordable housing application process in Princeton more user-friendly.

“We are very thankful for the University’s steadfast collaboration and generous support, and particularly for this donation, which highlights the start of the public phase of our capital campaign to provide additional affordable homes in Princeton and enhance the lives of our residents,” said Edward Tusceli, PCH executive director. “As we reflect on 50 years of service, we are more energized than ever about our exciting future within the Princeton community.”

Walking tours

Princeton University offers a variety of walking tours that provide insight into the University’s rich history and present-day diversity. These tours highlight the contributions of women, students, and other groups that have shaped Princeton’s history, including the first woman president, Shirley M. Tilghman.

“Traditions at Princeton” provides incoming students and other visitors with an introduction to student life as Princetonians. It covers some of the traditions most important to current undergraduate and graduate students, and discusses how these traditions have changed over time.

The “Women at Princeton” tour explores the history of women affiliated with the University, from the enslaved women owned by faculty and administrators in the 1700s to the administrators, faculty, staff and students of today.

Tour followers will learn about the many ways women have shaped Princeton’s history, including the lives of University presidents, women who worked on staff as early as the 1870s, the first female faculty, the first female undergraduates, and the first woman president, Shirley M. Tilghman.

The subjects of some of the stops are relevant to multiple tours, highlighting how identities intersect to shape Princeton and its history. For example, the story of black graduate students in the 1890s is important both in the timeline of an African American presence on campus and the context of the University’s increasing commitment to diversity.

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