**(Dis)Placed Urban Histories, Spring 2018**

**Assignment: Research-Based Mini Exhibit**

**DUE IN CLASS: April 16**

**This is a two-part assignment and I have included a suggested, self-managed timeline for you to complete the assignment fully and on-time.**

**Part I: A Research-Based Historical Report**

**Basic Requirements:**

* 8-10, double-spaced, in a 12-point font like Times New Roman or Garamond.
* Proper bibliographical citations. I recommend the Chicago Manual of Style, which may be consulted here: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>
* Your bibliography should **include at least five historical sources** that you have consulted for your research. ***One*** of these may be one of our assigned readings. All others should be sources that you discovered in your own, independent research.

**Content:**

In this research paper, you will write a clear, well-crafted, deeply analyzed, historical narrative that tells your reader about the long history of the place you have researched. Historical narratives are best told chronologically, so you should start from the earliest records you have of the site and end with the most recent. Such narratives are also strongest when they emphasize change over time, so comparing one moment in time to another will help drive your story forward.

Evidence that will help you with your narrative:

1) Demographic and other census information about the area where your site is located at different times in its history.

2) Any memoir, oral history, or other biographical source that includes a discussion of the place and its significance.

3) Articles from newspapers or other periodicals that help explain the significance of the place.

4) Manuscript and/or visual sources from the NYPL (or other) archives that offer original clues about the significance of the place. For example, perhaps you can find an archival flyer that was used to advertise your place for an event?

5) Secondary texts that put your place in context. For example, if the place you are researching is a Catholic school, are there any texts you can find that will tell you about Catholic schooling in New York City or specifically the Bronx? Or, if you are studying a site important to the history of hip hop, can you find any texts that analyze hip hop, its emergence, its connection to place, or its connection to politics?

**Part II: Clio Entry**

Using the research paper you completed in Part I, you will edit your narrative down to 4-6 paragraphs that provide a brief summary of the site (1 paragraph) followed by a detailed description/backstory of this site (3-5 paragraphs). This will constitute most of an “Entry” in Clio.

The detailed description gives users more information and context, as well as interesting background information. Entries should also have links to relevant articles, books, media, and credible websites for those who want more information.

If your site has hours of operation and a phone number, please enter that information in the appropriate boxes. There is also a spot towards the bottom of the entry screen to provide a link to official websites (if applicable), helpful web links, videos and audio clips, primary sources, and links to relevant books and articles.

There are also categories, types, and tags to help filter their results. **We will discuss these in more detail in class on March 19, but, for now, here is relevant information.**

Type (Select one of the three)

* Historic Sites, Monuments, and Landmarks
* Museums and Archives
* Time Capsule-Historic Events, Images, and Recollections

Sometimes a site might fit more than one type, such as a museum located in a historic building. In this case, please choose the category that you believe is the best fit.

*Category:* This scroll down menu will change based on the type of entry (museum, historic site, time capsule). A “Category” is simply another feature to help users identify features such as the classification of a historic site (such as a National Historic Landmark) or the relative size of a museum. The scroll down menu for Time Capsule entries also helps users filter their results and adjust their expectations, letting the user know if an entry is about a historic event or if it provides images and recollections of related to a particular location.

*Tags:* Select as many tags as are applicable from the menu on the left and those tags will appear in the box on the right. To deselect a tag, simply click on it again and it will return to the menu on the left. Tags help users filter between subjects such as “African American History, “Political and Diplomatic History,” “Women’s History” or Military History.” , If a user is interested in learning more, they can select from a variety of multimedia content and even ask Clio to guide them to the site with turn-by-turn directions.

**Suggested Timeline:**

You have seven weeks between now and the day this assignment is due to complete it. (One week will be spring break, so decide now if you want to use that week to work or play!)

**By February 26**, you should have looked up your place through a basic Google search and learned what you could about it using this easily accessible tool. What’s missing from what you’ve uncovered? What questions are you left asking yourself?

**By March 19**, you should know what demographic changes happened around your assigned place. You may look at census information or other reliable sources to determine this information. I suggest identifying the census tract in which your place is located and then comparing that tract over time. What does this tell you?

**By March 26**, you should have spent at least a few hours at the library searching through primary documents and secondary texts that help you better understand your assigned place over time and in context. You are also planning to spend several more hours at the library before you are finished. You should be formulating a narrative in your head (if not on paper!) To help you write this narrative with proper citations, you are taking notes as you consult each source and you are keeping track of the page location of your notes, the citational information of the source, and the location of the source if you ever want to access it again (i.e. call number, collection, folder, web site address, etc.) If there are images you want to use – or if you want to create an image of a manuscript source – you are arranging to reproduce or scan them. Don’t forget that images need citations too!

**By April 5**, you should be finalizing your bibliography and writing a draft of your historical report. Feel free to share drafts with me in case you think you might be on the wrong or right track, or just need a little bit of motivation. Happy to make suggestions!

**By April 10**, you should be finalizing your historical report and working on the Clio entry.

**By April 16**, you should have everything finalized, submitted, and ready to present to the class in a quick, 5-minute presentation. The presentation is not graded; it’s just an opportunity to share back what you’ve learned.