

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

(Updated: 4/19/2022)

Position Title: Racial Restrictive Covenant Project Volunteer

Agency Name: University of Washington History Department

Agency Description:

The University of Washington History Department is a highly accomplished community of teachers and scholars. Their expertise spans the globe – from the Pacific Northwest and the United States to Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa – and extends across human history, from ancient and medieval times through to the early twenty-first century. Many history department faculty and scholars are engaged in teaching and research projects that examine the myriad ways in which religion, ethnicity, race, class, and gender have shaped the patterns of human experience (*source: University of Washington, Department of History website*).

Position Description:

The Racial Restrictive Covenants Project is dedicated to understanding the history of segregation in Washington State. The project originally began in 2005 as part of the Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project but the second iteration of this project started in March 2021 after it was authorized by the state legislature under SHB 1335. In partnership with a research team at Eastern Washington University, we are working to identify and map racial restrictions in property records across the state. These restrictions, known as racial covenants or racially restrictive deeds, were used in most American communities to prevent people who were not white from buying or occupying property. Property owners and developers used racial covenants to create highly segregated cities that reserved areas seen as desirable for white people. To date, the project has identified documents covering about 20,000 properties in King County and is beginning to work on Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston counties, with more to come.

Volunteers will be working on Zooniverse which means this opportunity is completely remote and flexible. Hours will be counted using the number of classifications completed on Zooniverse. 15 classifications will equal one hour of work.

The number of weekly hours expected differs from program to program. Please contact us by email so we can arrange a number of weekly hours based on your program requirements.

Qualifications: No prior experience necessary.

Total number of weekly hours: TBA

Days/Hours: This is a remote and asynchronous volunteer opportunity.

Number of openings: This opportunity is open to anyone interested.

Start Date: TBA

Address: N/A

City, State, Zip: N/A

Contact Person: Dr. James Gregory

E-mail Address: wacovenants@gmail.com

Phone: N/A

Mailing Address (if different from physical location):

Dr. Professor Gregory

History Department

University of Washington 98195

Web Address: www.depts.washington.edu/covenants/

Application Instructions:

1. Send Dr. James Gregory an email at wacovenants@gmail.com with the completed form attached below as well as any paperwork from your program that requires information from the project. We will arrange an initial orientation meeting which will include an introduction to the project and transcription training.
2. Sign up for our newsletter on the volunteer page of the Racial Restrictive Covenants Project website. Our newsletter is our primary way of updating our volunteers with information about the project.