

## **Community Engagement Fellows Project Report (2016-2017)**

### **Engaging Community through Large Scale Printmaking**

When I joined the CE fellows program I was interested in expanding my understanding of the community and I looked forward to meeting fellow colleagues and community members. Initially, I did not have a CE Fellows project in mind, though after attending meetings and participating in inspiring conversations, my project concept came to fruition.

The project is still currently evolving however the goal is to present a 'Steamroller Printmaking Project' under the umbrella of a Large Scale Relief Printmaking class to be taught through the Art and Art History Department at WWU. This course will allow students to collaborate with one another to generate large scale relief prints that utilize diversity and social justice themes for the content of the artwork. It is my goal that the project will offer a unique learning experience for the students – they will research and work with specific Bellingham communities/ groups to create compelling visual propositions that communicate their concerns. At the end of the course a steamroller printing event will occur within the community – the carved relief printmaking blocks created during the course will be printed and shared with others. The class (students and myself), local artists, local print studios, and additional community partners will facilitate the final printmaking event, and the community at large will be invited to learn more about the printmaking process, and the concepts behind the artwork. In addition, the community will have an opportunity to create their own print, that will further contribute to the dialog/project.

As I continue to develop my project, I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Fellows program and have been inspired by the brain storming sessions and other CE Fellows' projects. While each CE Fellow's projects' range in their individual goals, or the communities that they would like to collaborate with, the general goal of creating community is the same. As the year comes to an end I have compiled a long list of potential resources (collaborators, local businesses, and grants) that will have an impact on my project. In the following year I hope to offer the class, and will do so knowing that the project has benefitted by the CE Fellows program, specifically the support, encouragement and wide array of perspectives. I also hope to integrate service based learning and community projects into my current studio based courses as a result of the information gained.

Lisa Turner,  
Assistant Professor of Print and Digital Media,  
Department of Art and Art History,  
Western Washington University