

# **Bushnell Park Conservancy and The Primus Project**

Nicole Ankrah & Vy Sa Nguyen



# The Primus Project

The Primus Project is dedicated to fostering an equitable and inclusive Trinity College community. Achieving this requires a thorough examination and dismantling of racist and oppressive systems deeply ingrained within the school's history. Many American colleges and universities, including Trinity College, were founded during a time of racial prejudice and segregation that intentionally excluded people of color from education. This culture continues on to this day. The Primus Project acknowledges and confronts Trinity College's involvement in this troubling past, and through archival research and community-based initiatives, delves into Trinity's connections to systems of slavery and White supremacy. The project seeks to shed light on a hidden past and its impact on the institution and the wider community. In doing so, the project takes crucial steps toward building a more just and inclusive present that will inform conversations and actions within the college community surrounding race and equality, especially during the institution's bicentennial year, and after the recent affirmative action ruling.





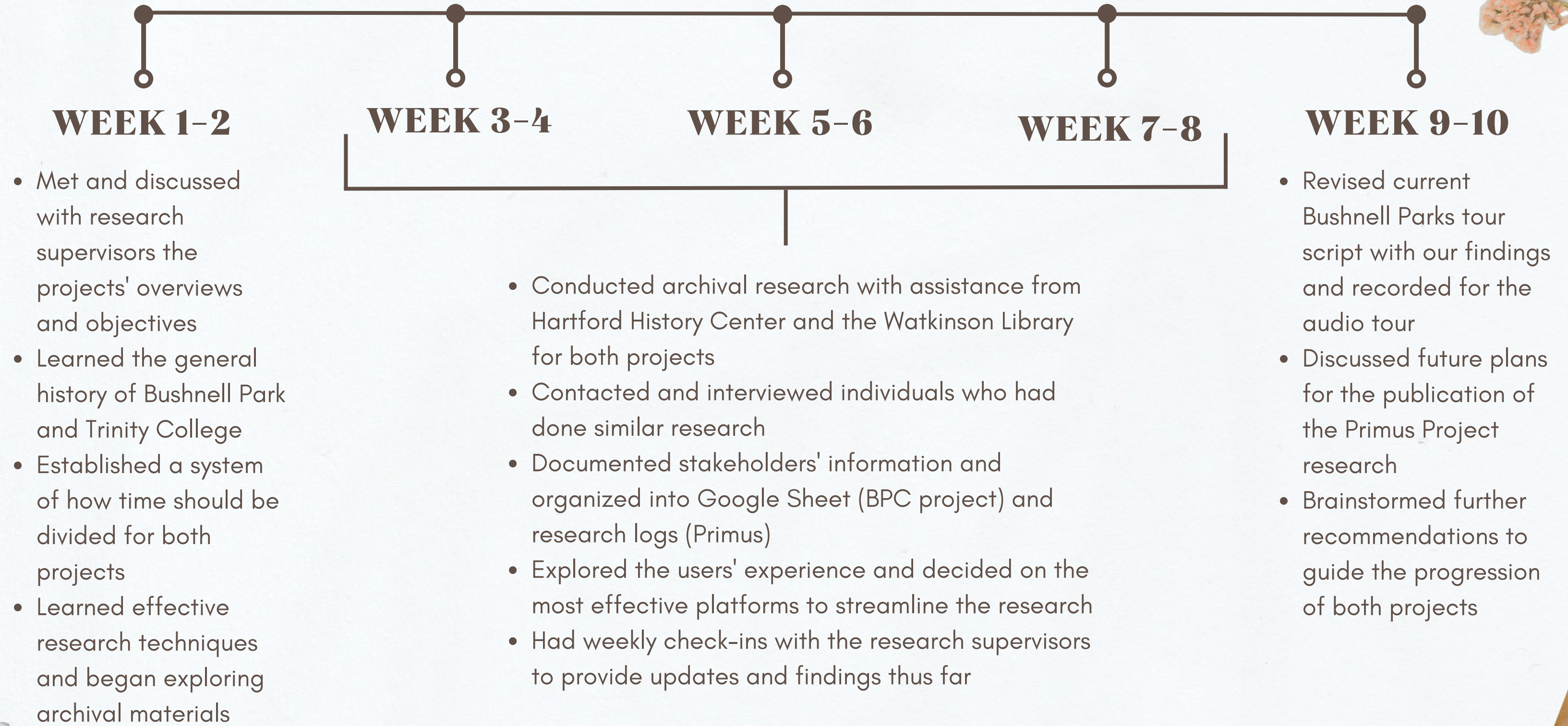
# Bushnell Park Conservancy

In this project, we aim to shed light on the stories that were long overshadowed and uncover a more inclusive narrative of the Bushnell Park's past. Today, Bushnell Park is the site to many major events in Greater Hartford Area, yet, the lesser known story behind its creation remains unknown to many. Our project centers around the investigation of the Black and Irish immigrants communities that were displaced due to the construction of Bushnell Park. Our mission is to preserve their voices, ensuring their presence is acknowledged and remembered, thus challenging the one-sided portrayal of the park's history that has primarily focused on those who benefited from its establishment.



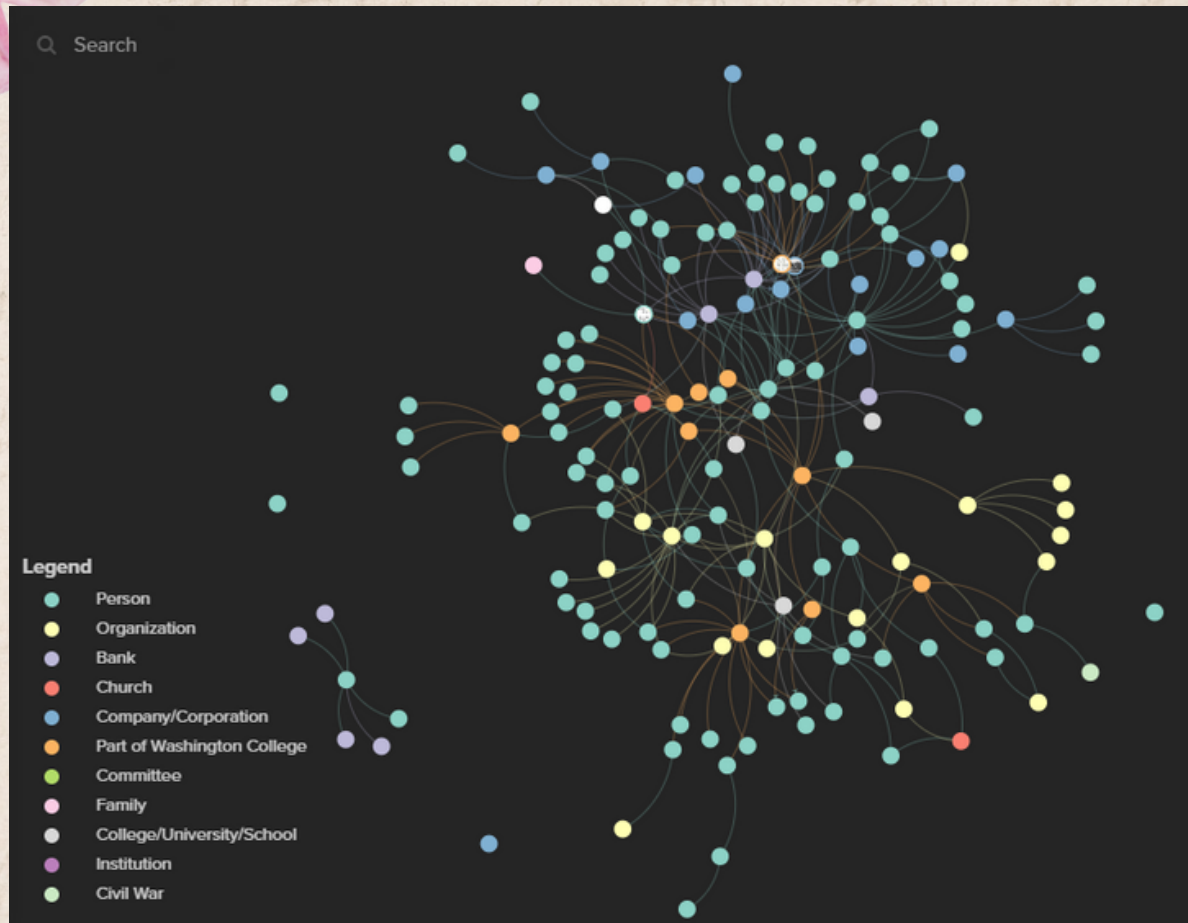


# Research Process



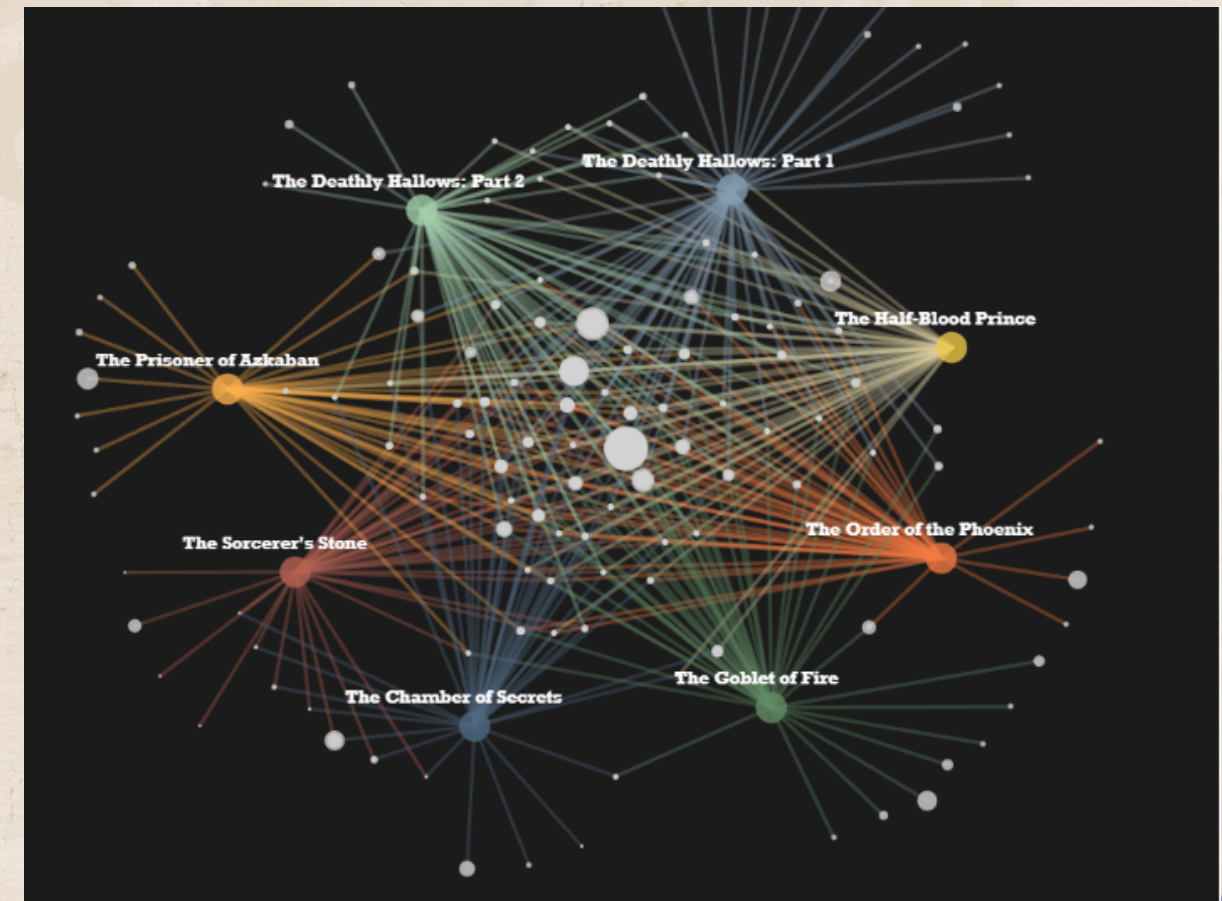


# Research Product (The Primus Project)



Information regarding individuals, banks, committees, organizations, and more involved with the Primus Project was visualized using the Kumu application. Kumu is a tool for organizing complex data, establishing connections, and mapping relationships. Each node represents either a person and/or group, connected to another person and/or associated with Trinity College and its historical involvement with the Atlantic slave economy and other oppressive systems.

Currently, exciting plans are underway this summer to transform the map into a more streamlined bimodal presentation using the Tableau application. This will provide an even clearer and more accessible view of the interconnected relationships within the Primus Project's scope.

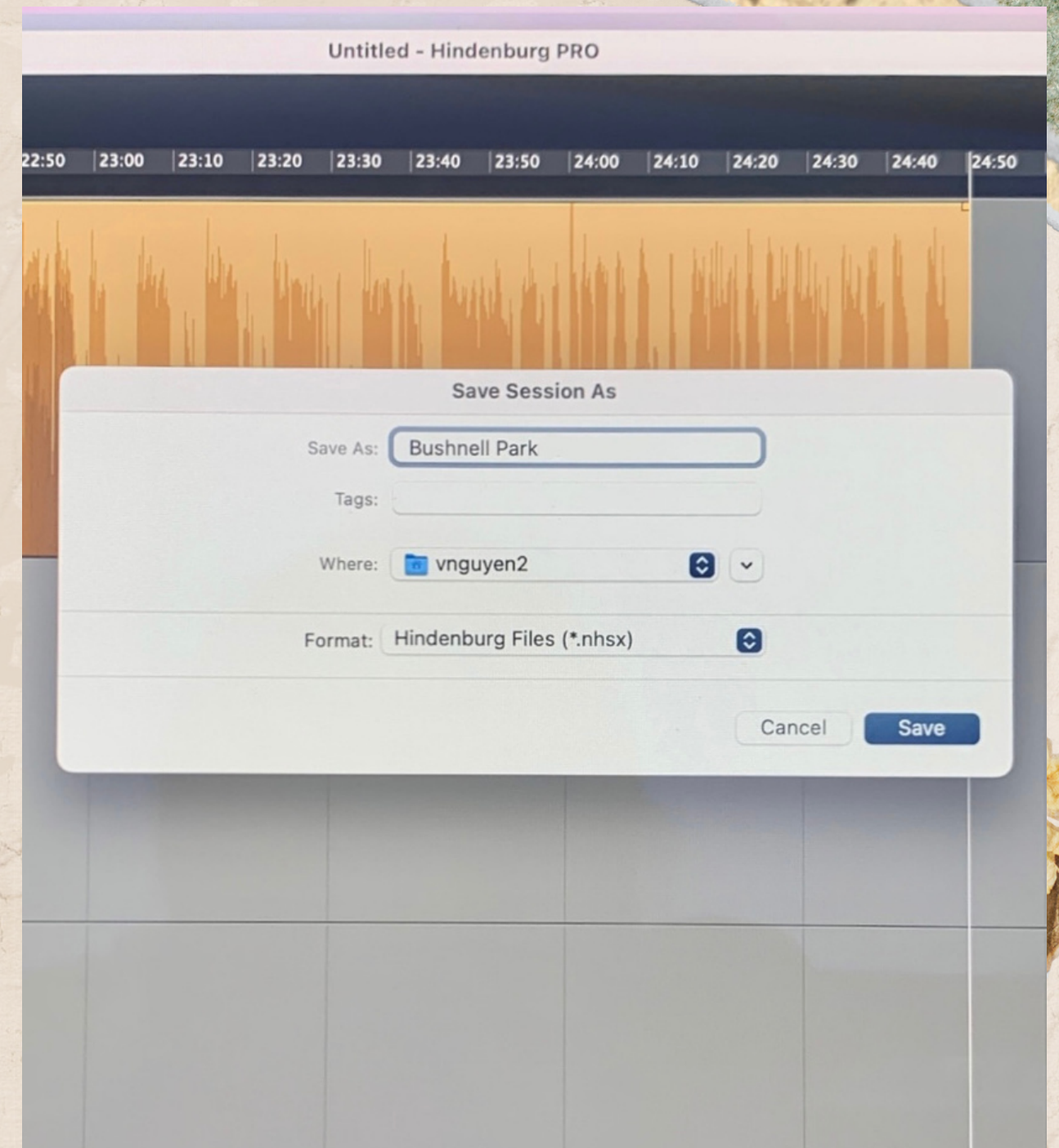




# Research Product (Bushnell Park Conservancy)

Along with our additions to the current Bushnell Park's tour script, we are also in the process of creating a walking audio tour, allowing park tour to be more accessible to the general audience.

Created using Gesso, the audio tour features present and historical images/illustrations of the park, ambiance sounds and descriptions provided by us and our community partner.







# Nicole's Reflections

It was a pleasure to be part of the Public Humanities Collaborative. I am proud of mine and Vy Sa's contributions to the Primus Project and to the Bushnell Park Conservancy. Both projects embark on an important mission: providing representation for historically marginalized groups in order to advance a broader message of equality and social/racial justice. My passion for activism and reform work has been ingrained in me for as long as I can remember. In high school, I made a definitive decision to dedicate my college experience to educating myself on what it truly means to advocate and work for equality. Being a part of this program has been transformative, enriching my understanding of inclusivity and diversity and their roles in shaping a more compassionate and informed society. Before this project, if you were to ask me what I want my major to be, I would have said English and Human Rights, but now, having immersed myself in these projects, I recognize the pivotal role that history plays in conjunction with reform work and am exploring a possible major in History or American Studies. By studying either major, I believe I can gain a more comprehensive perspective on the roots of systemic issues, allowing me to approach reform work with a greater sense of context and awareness. The Public Humanities Collaborative has truly deepened my commitment to making a difference in the world. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been part of these transformative projects.



# Vy Sa's Reflections

Participating in the PHC as a Computer Science and Economics major was an unexpected but transformative experience. Initially, I would never have imagined myself spending my summer delving into archives and conducting historical research. However, this opportunity opened my eyes to new possibilities and allowed me to explore areas outside my academic comfort zone. PHC presented me with challenges that I had never encountered before. Yet, these challenges became a catalyst for personal growth. As I stepped out of my comfort zone, I discovered that I was more adaptable and capable than I had previously believed. When I initially applied to PHC, my motivation was to make a positive impact on the community by preserving and promoting historical documents. Little did I know that the experience would be reciprocal, and I would gain so much personally from the process. So, [though I'm not changing my majors], I now embrace the idea that interdisciplinary experiences can lead to personal and intellectual growth that may not be possible within the confines of a single academic discipline.







# Special thanks to

Erica Crowley and Mary Mahoney, for giving us this wonderful summer research opportunity and always supporting us  
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Cheryl Cape, for helping us with the data transfers of The Primus Project to Tableau



**Thank  
you!**

