



Lancaster Vice

Alison Kibler

WHO

Who was involved?

Over the past two summers, 7 F&M undergraduates, staff at LancasterHistory.org

Who was the target audience / participants of your work?

Lancaster residents who are not yet engaged with local history and F&M students, in order to give them the experience writing and interpreting history. Lancaster Vice works to expand the representation of sexual minorities, African Americans and women of all races in Lancaster history. A central goal of the project is to expand the audiences and constituencies at community organizations (Lancasterhistory.org and LGBTQ+ Coalition) through history presentations and discussions.

WHAT

What were the goals?

Lancaster Vice works to expand the representation of sexual minorities, African Americans and women of all races in Lancaster history. A central goal of the project is to expand the audiences and constituencies at community organizations (Lancasterhistory.org and LGBTQ+ Coalition) through history presentations and discussions.

What were the key activities completed?

We have been working on an interactive map, using ArcGIS. Researchers worked in the LancasterHistory archives to catalog reports of vice incidents (type and location). Researchers searched Newspapers.com for accounts in the local newspapers of the anti-vice commission, reports on prostitution and other “vice,” as well as editorials by and about the Law and Order Society. Researchers also used the census to map the class and racial makeup of particular neighborhoods.

How was the grant money instrumental to your work?

I am fortunate to have received a start up grant and a sabbatical enhancement grant, so that I could take a full-year sabbatical in 2022. This allowed me to fully focus on Lancaster Vice for half of my sabbatical and complete the walking tour, which has been successful.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

What were the main outcomes from the project?

Last summer we completed a Lancaster Vice Walking Tour. This tour has subsequently become part of LancasterHistory programming and will support its new exhibit in the fall of 2023, on crime and justice. It has helped to raise funds for LancasterHistory. Students learned to be tour guides and we gave the tour to the F&M community as part of True Blue weekend in 2023. The tour has consistently been sold out and has a long waiting list!

What were the top ways the community was impacted?

The walking tour and publicity for the tour has helped to re-value marginalized groups—who were defined as immoral, deviant or criminal—in our past, this project can create a more inclusive community in Lancaster today. The Lancaster Vice project has broadened the narrative about Lancaster’s past, to include this period of extensive “criminality” and encouraged people to reimagine what vice meant to the largely working-class groups involved in vice.

Looking toward the future, what is the main goal?

Who can be involved?

We intend to expand the multi-media landscape of Lancaster Vice, to include the interactive map, vlogs, podcasts, and the walking tour, with a website home. Students in the summer of 2023 will also work on historical markers (temporary stickers) to mark the history of Vice downtown. We hope to expand on the success of the walking tour. We will find a way to continue offering the tour to support LancasterHistory.