

Introduction

Our People's History group, under the umbrella of Divest and Demilitarize UW, joined with the current abolitionist movement against the white supremacist and militarized police forces that murdered Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd. We say their names with the acknowledgement that many more people remain unnamed, and insist that honoring their deaths should not replace the celebration of Black and Indigenous life.

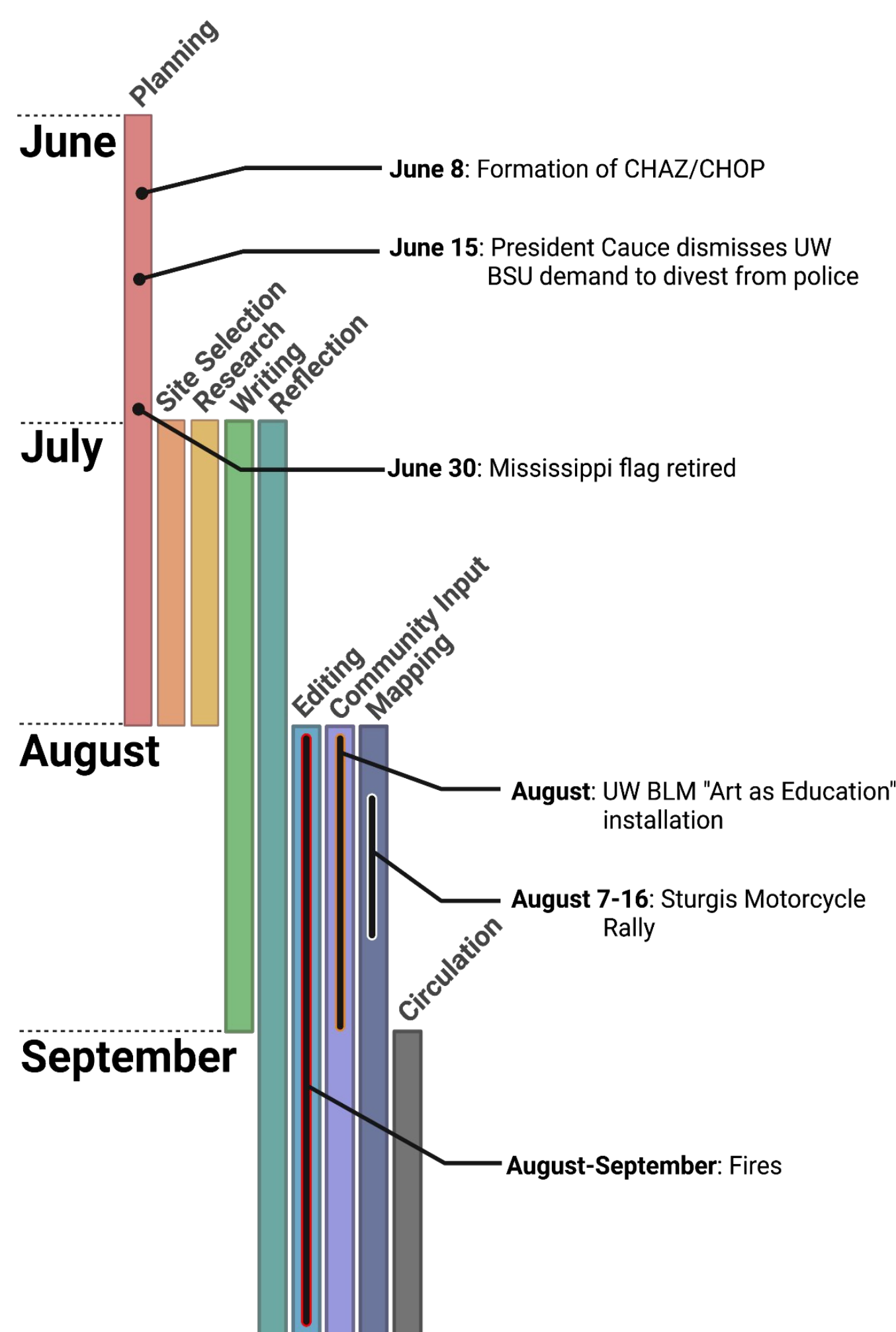
We recognize that there has already been a lot of valuable work in writing people's histories at UW and around Seattle; we want to honor and amplify this work. We strive to make historical context more accessible to students, UW, and the broader Seattle community.

When students from BSU contacted us about the absence of a map that displays UW Seattle's violent legacies, we started building this resource to provide students with a historical and spatial guide that confronts the colonial and racist legacies of the UW. In addition to acknowledging the violent histories that produced our campus, this map foregrounds the resistance and resilience of Black, Indigenous, Queer and Latinx students whose organizing efforts made possible campus resources such as the Samuel E. Kelly Cultural Center and the wəṭəbʔaltxw Intellectual House.

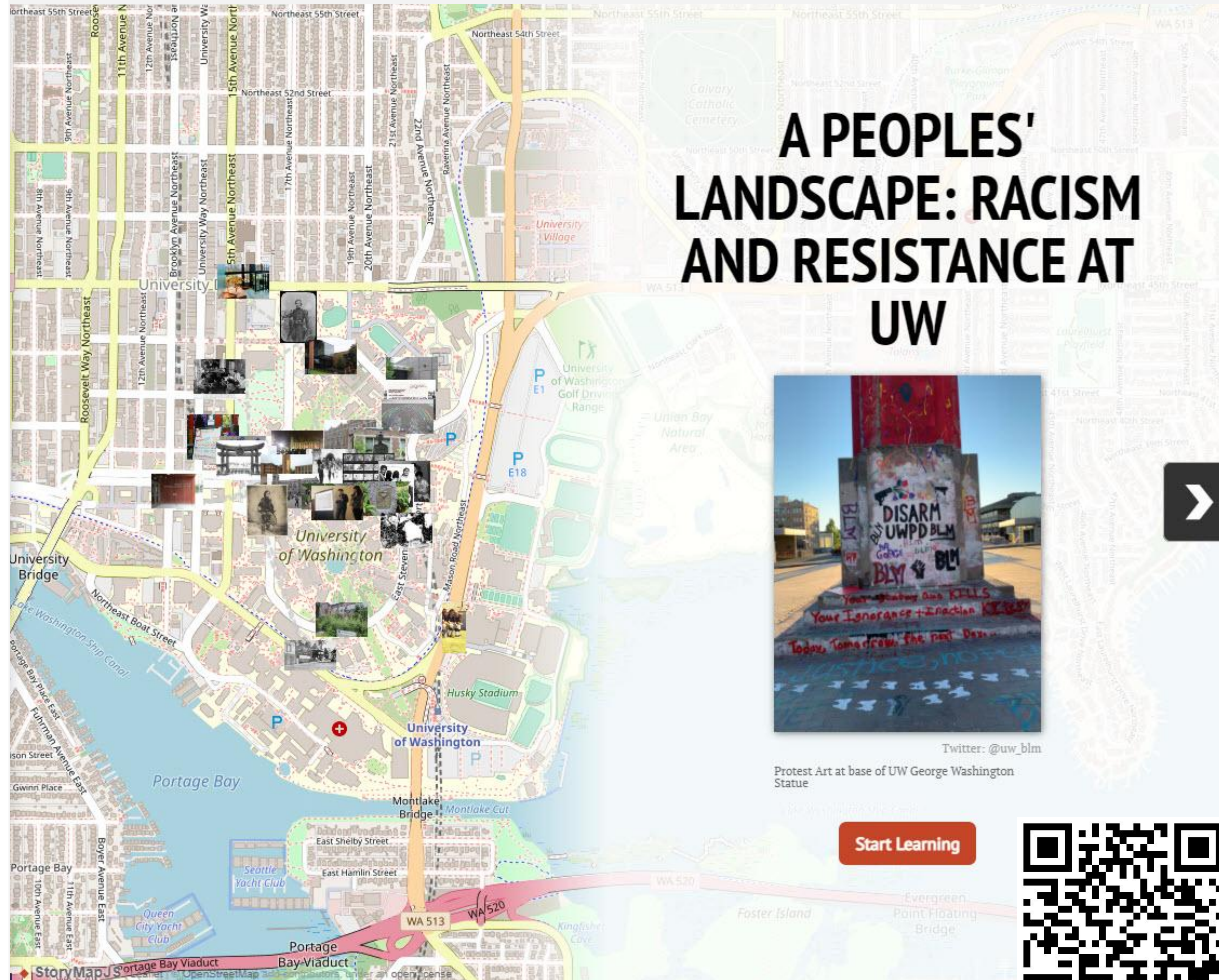
Research Questions

- What are the legacies of colonization and racism on campus?
- How are these legacies revealed in the landscape?
- How do we tell these stories in a way that empowers students?

Timeline



Collaboration and solidarity among students at UW has directly challenged systems of control and oppression within the institution.



Themes

StoryMapJS

We used this open source storymap platform by Knight Lab at Northwestern University intentionally. We wanted folks to easily be able to make their own story map if inspired to do so without a cost barrier and ESRI StoryMap, while popular would support ESRI. ESRI is involved in the ongoing US imperialism project by supporting Defense and Intelligence agencies, which would contract the mission of this project.

Collaboration

This project was only possible and strengthened through a collaborative effort of graduate students at UW across departments and schools. This project shows the strengths of collaboration to bring in various voices and expertise.

Public History

The process of researching, creating, and sharing this map has taught us that learning about our collective histories can empower us to feel more connected to our surroundings and reimagine the world we inhabit.

Future Imaginaries & Belonging

This map contributes to a long history of resistance and activism at UW, and seeks to further contextualize the university's history of racism, settler-colonialism and police violence. Continued resistance at UW shows that collaboration and solidarity among students directly challenges systems of control and oppression within the university. We hope these histories serve as a call for students and community members to create their own sites of resistance, while honoring ongoing efforts by prioritizing the provision of tangible material and volunteer support for current abolitionist efforts in Seattle. Below are resources for anyone interested in dismantling systemic forms of oppression and violence within our community.

- BLM-Seattle King County
- D Center
- Divest and Demilitarize UW
- First Nations @ UW
- International Student Advocacy Group
- King County Equity Now
- Leadership Without Borders
- Other Registered Student Organizations (RSOs)
- Q Center
- UAW 4121
- UW BLM
- UW BSU
- UW USAS

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