

WE STUDY THE UNIVERSITY TO CHANGE IT



A PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

WORK-IN-PROGRESS
RESEARCH SCOPE

IMAGE: "The New Seal" as seen on the Nov. 12,
1970 cover of The Fighting Red Duck. *SCUA*.

June 2026

LOOKING FORWARD TO VERSION 3.0: THE BOOK

Version 2.0 of the People's Guide (the current tour guide) is just the beginning of our campus explorations. Since the summer of 2025, a research group formed under the guidance of Indigenous, Race and Ethnic Studies faculty, and convened by the UO Radical Organizing and Activism Resource (ROAR) Center, has been ambitiously developing the project into a full-fledged anthology of people's history at UO - an approximately 250+ page book comprised of the tour guide and chapters on critical manifestations of power and struggle at the UO. We have included a detailed outline of the book's table of contents below (it continues to evolve but we believe this near the final outline).

Outline:

Prologue: The Ground Beneath Us [10 Pages]

- Situating the entire contents of the book within the context of Kalapuya Illhi before the UO, and an account of the foundational violence of colonization, exclusion, and extraction that gave rise to the University's interplay with oppressive social structures. This prologue also foregrounds the University's orientation to space and relationship to land.

SECTION 1: Tour Guides [90 Pages]

- The contents of Version 2.0 of Guide, as well as a few additions and edits. More primary source archival material will be reproduced alongside site entries.
 - o Introduction
 - o Pioneer and Pioneer Mother Statues
 - o Alareer (Johnson) Hall
 - o 13th Avenue
 - o (Yazan's) Memorial Quad
 - o *New!* The Boilers (Campus Heating System)
 - o Urban Farm
 - o Yasui Hall
 - o Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
 - o *New!* Labor Education Research Center (LERC)

- Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center
- Center for Advancement of Sustainable Living
- Grove Community Garden
- *New! A People's Guide to the EMU* - A deep dive into the history of the heart of student life (and often student struggle) at the UO, the Erb Memorial Union.
 - Introduction: Formation of the Student Union, Contestation of Ownership and Control
 - Histories of Student Initiated Spaces, Programs and Resources:
 - Women's Center
 - ROAR (Survival) Center
 - Multicultural Center
 - SSWANA Center
 - LGBTQA3
 - ASUO
 - Student Sustainability Center
 - Childcare (Moss Street Children's Center)
 - Daily Emerald
 - Broader Manifestations of Power
 - Christians, Communists and the Code of Conduct: The EMU Free Speech Platform
 - Farmworker Solidarity and the EMU Lettuce Boycott
 - Conclusion: Take Back the EMU (Or Liberate It?) - Where to go from here on reclaiming institutional democracy and student autonomy.

SECTION 2: Inside the Ivory Tower [70 Pages]

- The section is a collection of chapters focusing on the structures which maintain the privileged seclusion of the University of Oregon from the broader community of local and global networks which produce it, which also serve to quell the struggle for a world free from oppression.
 - Section Intro: Constructing an Ivory Tower and Campus Borders
 - Chapter 1: Who Bought and Sold the University of Oregon, and what is the Board of Trustees? (Max Jensen)
 - This chapter synthesizes the 40+ year process of elite capture and neoliberalization of the University's financial and governing structures, most well

characterized by the founding of the Billionaire-controlled Board of Trustees in 2011.

- Chapter 2: Campus Policing; From EPD to UOPD to ICE
 - This chapter will the regional development of policing in the city and campus, from EPD's founding in 1864 to the establishment of UOPD in 2011, and the threat of federal policing authorities like ICE (2017, 2025-Present), FBI (Green Scare), and the National Guard (1941-42).
 - Struggles to end campus policing - BSU (1968-72), Students for a Sensible Drug Policy (2011-12), Disarm UO / Cops off Campus (2019-2024).
 - Mini Site Entries: Lane County Jail, UOPD Police Station, Eugene Federal Building.
- Chapter 3: The Code of Conduct
 - This chapter explores the code of conduct has been used throughout decades to restrict freedom of expression and repress student activists. Includes stories of the Weyerhaeuser 7 (1970), the Lettuce Trials (1974) and much, much, much more (I even have 4 of these damn things).
 - Toolkit: You Got A Code of Conduct Violation - Now What?

SECTION 3: Popular Struggles and Liberating Space [50 pages]

- This section is a collection of chapters focusing on the popular movements which seek to break down and subvert the collection of technologies which make up the Univeristy. In line with the broader theme of the People's Guide, these chapters pay particular attention to the spatial and geographical aspects of these struggles and how spatial relations are often utilized to reveal flashes of liberated futures.

- Section Intro: A Primer on Liberated Space
- Chapter 4: A Guide to the Campus Labor Movement
 - Full histories of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF), Service Employees Internal Union Local 503 (SEIU), United Academics (UA), UO Student Workers Union (UOSW) and campus labor solidarity projects.
 - Liberated Space Focus: 2025 UO Student Workers Strike
- Chapter 5: A Guide to Divestment
 - Full histories of the campaigns for UO (or state) endowment divestment from South African Apartheid (1977-

1992), the Fossil Fuel Industry (2014-2017; 2020-2021), and the State of Israel (2018-2025).

- Liberated Space Focus: 2024 Gaza Solidarity Encampment
- Toolkit: What you need to know about the UO Foundation and UO's \$1.8+ Billion Endowment in 2026.

SECTION 4: A Timeline of 150+ Years of People's History at the Univeristy of Oregon [20 Pages]

- This timeline seeks to display each significant date from all aspects of the above histories into one beautiful chronological timeline of People's History at the UO. We seek display the tradition of radical and popular efforts that have occurred year after year, decade after decade. This will also include an interpretive essay analyzing themes and patterns that remerge throughout time, such as political dissonance. Speculative future history timeline points theorized in the epilogue will also be included.

Epilogue: UO 2076 [10 pages]

- A speculative fiction style piece about the future history of the University and how it will be known on the eve of its 200th anniversary in 2076. This will take the form of a letter to the incoming freshman class chronicling the sweeping cultural, economic and ecological changes the Univeristy experienced between 2026 and 2076, and how people responded and reorganized in response to them.
 - *We are exploring writing this chapter as part of the collaborative effort of [Project 2052](#).*

Afterword: A People's Guide to the People's Guide: How We Did it, Who Got us Here, and How You Can Join Us [15 pages]

- Acknowledgements, the story of how we completed this rich collective archive, and a call to adapt our methodologies to your context.

Appendix: A People's Orientation - How to Use this Book as Pilgrimage [5 pages]

- A guide on how to give tours using the book, and how to retrace the steps and lessons of our campus ancestors.

BACKGROUND

A People's Guide to the University of Oregon is a tour guide that illuminates how power operates spatially at the U of O. Developed by undergraduate student organizers supported by the Department of Indigenous, Race and Ethnic Studies (IRES) and the UO Radical Organizing and Activism Resource (ROAR) Center, the Guide draws inspiration from *A People's Guide* international geography project (apeoplesguide.org). The first edition the Guide was created in the summer of 2024, and the second, expanded version was released to campus in the fall of 2025.

Our campus' landscapes - all we see when we move across campus - are places embedded with and shaped by power, repositories of individual and collective memory. The Guide looks to 10 of these locations where people have confronted, challenged, won and lost their battles with oppression - often transforming the landscape in their wake. To name only some, the Guide leads people to places where statues have been toppled, encampments and shantytowns have been built, where land has been tended and food has been grown, and where students have created safety and security from oppressive administrations.



Image: The first morning the UO Gaza Solidarity Encampment was set up on April 29, 2024.
Valentine Bentz

These are places made by and for students, and a significant part of this project is taking people to them via our People's Tours of the University. We offer tours to classes, departments, organizations and conferences where we read from the Guide and learn more from the landscapes themselves. By joining these pilgrimages through time and space, students

and others can learn more about how power works at the Univeristy and their place within the struggle.

Other publications and programs exist within the context of campus that take on related aims. Special Collections and Univeristy Archives' *Untold Stories: The Hidden History of the UO* tells the historical stories of underserved and underrepresented communities on the UO campus via a digital scholarship initiative. The University's Student Welcome Center offers in person and online tours to show prospective students "what it is like to be a duck."

What sets the People's Guide apart is that it's about power. It centers an analysis of how power operates on and through the landscape via both institutions pushing downward within their sphere of control, and people responding to create communities, fighting for control of their lives, and working to change the institution itself.

You can read version 2.0 of the Guide at archive.org/details/pguo-version-2-2025, and book a people's tour at tinyurl.com/uopeoplestour.



Image: The Eugene Black Panther Party emerges on campus in a rally outside of the EMU in 1969. *Oregana*

RECENT IMPACT + ACHIEVEMENTS

So far, the Guide has had an outsized impact on the campus, reaching thousands of students, faculty, workers and community members.

Engagement:

- We have printed and distributed 350+ Guides; received thousands more digital views
- 25 students participated in a reading group of the Guide during 25'-26' Winter Break
- We led 12 guided tours totaling 250+ total attendees since Fall of 2024. 5+ More Scheduled before the end of 25'-26' school year
- We've given educational and movement presentations to 250+
 - o Sanctuary Campus General Assembly Spring 2025
 - o ASUO x ROAR Know Your Rights Presentation Spring 2025
 - o UOSW Picket line Teach-in Spring 2025
 - o Undergrad Research Symposium Spring 2025
 - o WGS 101 Presentation Fall 2025
 - o Phil 307 Presentation Winter 2026
 - o Decolonization and Global Justice Conference Winter 2026
 - o GTFF 50th Anniversary Celebration
 - o HOPES Conference 2026
 - o UO Campus Mayday Teach-in 2026

Awards:

- 2024 Environmental Justice Project, UO Just Futures Institute
- 2025 Distinguished Research Award, UO Department of Indigenous, Race + Ethnic Studies
- 2025 Experiential Learning Grant, UO College of Arts and Sciences



Image: A People's Tour of the UO, featuring a stop at Yasui Hall on October 19, 2025.

Ella Hayden.