

# Public Trust

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Public Trust is a non-profit organization between the University of Pennsylvania and West Philadelphia, offering free programs on health, education, and ecology. It brings together artists, thinkers, and community members through events like public conversations and screenings to foster dialogue and collaboration.

## Presidents: Daniel Faust

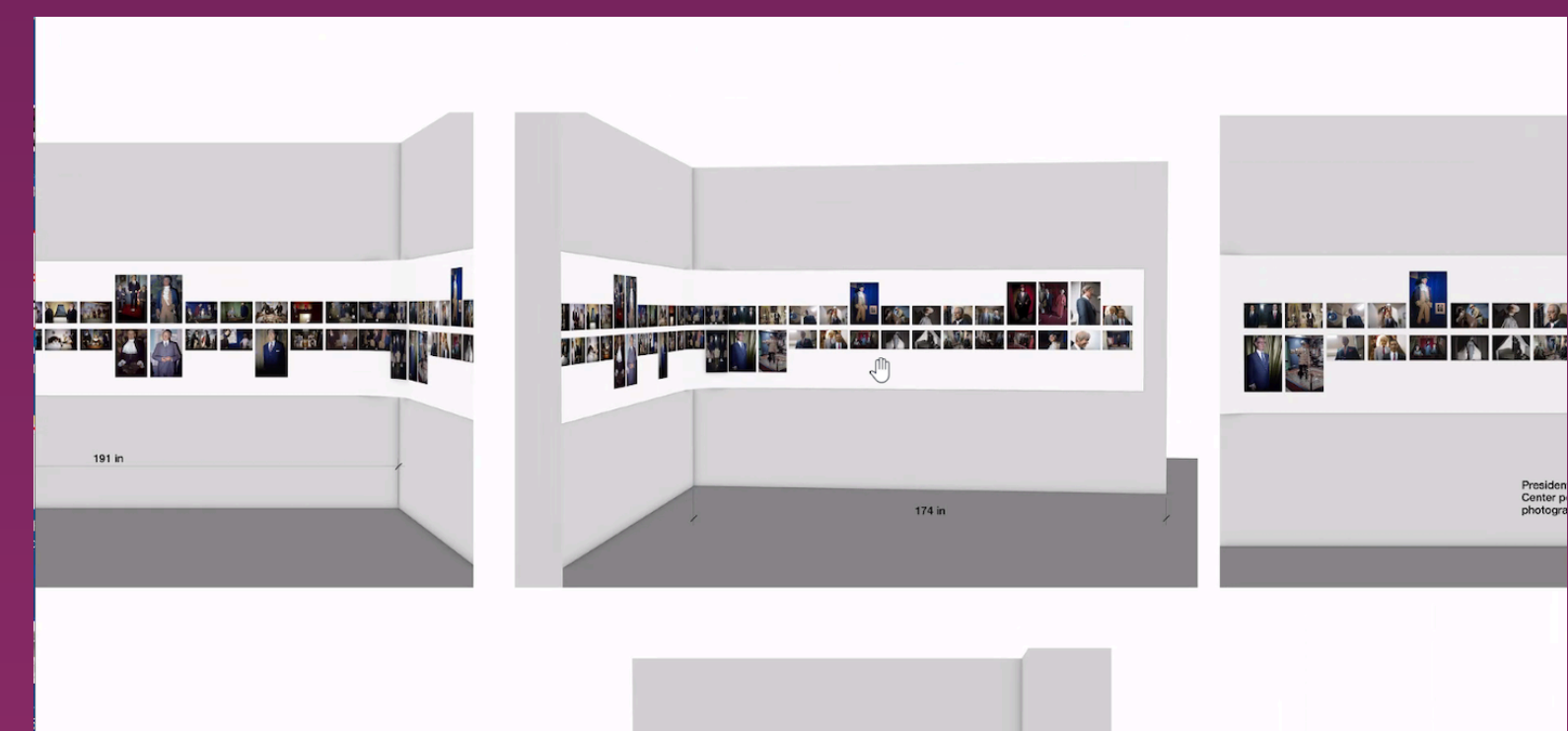
During my time at Public Trust this semester, I helped coordinate the large-scale installation of Daniel Faust's *Presidents*, opening in late April. The series features sixty photographs of wax figures of United States presidents from museums across the United States and Europe, spanning forty years, and explores the role of popular images in shaping political power.

### My Contributions

- Coordinated with artist Daniel Faust to plan installation logistics such as dates, scouting, and communication with installers, gathering materials, etc
- Measured gallery walls and documented conditions
- In communication with collaborators regarding the installation and the exhibition opening



My wall conditions of the front gallery for *Presidents* installation



3D Model of the revised version of *Presidents* for Public Trust installation



A picture of *Window Peace: An Anarchive* a feminist storefront performance project featuring a three-day durational program

## Curating Engagement Book Release

Another large project I helped with during my time at Public Trust was the launch of the book *Curating Engagement*, based on a 2025 retreat in Philadelphia. The book brings together ideas from fifty curators, artists, and educators on reshaping public engagement during times of funding cuts and changing audiences.

### My Contributions

- Helped implement edits on several almost completed draft versions from editors
- Proofread drafts of the book to find grammatical, punctuation, formatting, and clarity issues.
- Looked through mocked printed versions of the book to ensure finalization for book release in Chicago



Cover of *Curating Engagement*

## Additional Contributions & Takeaways

Growing up in Philadelphia, my semester with Public Trust highlighted the importance of cultural institutions during rough times. I gained insights into community organization and learned about essential technologies for facilitating conversations, such as audio, lighting, and video. Participating in grant writing and reviewing past program transcripts highlighted the effort required to build community and document public programming, emphasizing the hard work involved in these institutions.

Finally, the theme of reciprocity played a huge role in the work I did, and in understanding how it functions in non-profits. I came to better understand the importance of allowing the public to engage and make Public Trust their own, the work it takes to build those connections, and the relationships that need to be maintained to sustain reciprocity.