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News - Georgia State University - GSU Library Receives $210,000 NEH Grant

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Georgia State University

Georgia State University Library (GSUL) recently received a $210,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for Planning Atlanta: A New City in the Making, 1930s-1990s, submitted by librarian Joe Hurley and history professor Kate Wilson. The grant is the largest awarded by the NEH in the state of Georgia in 2013, one of only 16 percent of Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program submissions that received funding.

With more than 8,000 visitors, Planning Atlanta has already seen high use since launching in the summer of 2012. The funding will allow GSUL to augment an existing, freely accessible, and innovative digital humanities effort; it will digitize and georeference a collection of 1,550 rare and historically significant city of Atlanta

and Atlanta Regional Commission planning maps, to improve access to material for urban studies.

Other material, including digitized photographs, oral histories and an annual (1955-2003) metropolitan Atlanta demographic and housing dataset will add to these maps within the context of Atlanta's urban renewal, highway creation, and city planning activities.

Users will be able to view each of these maps in Google Earth as a tiled overlay, providing a historical comparison. With this innovative web-based feature, users can change the transparency of the georeferenced map overlay to reveal neighborhood and city-wide change over time by comparing contemporary satellite images with the historical planning maps.