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# Memorandum

To: **Katie Goldstein**, Executive Director

From: **Kasey Zapatka,** Digital Humanities Fellow in the Seminar on Public Engagement at the Center for the Humanities

CC: **Kendra Sullivan**, Associate Director for the Center for the Humanities

## I am a PhD student in sociology and a digital publics fellow at the Center for humanities from Fall 2017- Fall 2019. My fellowship project, entitled “Housing Literacy,” is to create a website that will synthesize and centralize all the resources around rent regulation in New York City in one place. The goal is to frame housing issues in publicly accessible language, identify the most valuable information that needs to be communicated and where to access it, and create resources that can be used by tenants’ rights groups, tenants, and their advocates to increase housing literacy and support their needs.

**Project Description**

The website will contain a wide range of information, resources, and tools for the rent regulated constituency. I plan on including a podcast series covering key issues related to housing court and legal struggles, blog posts from various stakeholders’ perspectives, tenant narratives, links to relevant articles and research, glossary terms, a catalogue of housing apps used by those in the field, and an annotated lease.

A partnership with Partners and Partners would be helpful in addressing some of the larger design issues related to this project. For example, I envision this partnership helping me to think through some technical design-related issues I will encounter building the website development, how to best layout and format my annotated lease, as well as how to visually frame the website so that the amount of information is not overwhelming, but invites readers to explore and navigate to the issues most relevant to them.

Right now, I’m just starting to work several tenants’ rights advocacy groups toward building this resource over two years. Kendra mentioned that you have a history of engaging with tenants’ rights especially through “We Won’t Move” at Interference Archive. I am writing to ask if anyone at Partners and Partners would be willing to meet with me and Kendra to talk through some ideas and imagine together how design choices might maximum legibility and accessibility. We’d love to work with you in some capacity on this project, so I’d also want to gauge your interest, talk through what resources we have (a little funding, but I am working 15 hours a week on the project, so my time, research skills, and connections can be construed as resources, too).

Thank you for your time. Best,   
Kasey Zapatka