

Tunnel of Oppression  
February 24-25, 2010

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General:

**I went through the Tunnel last year. Will it be the same information? Why should I go again?**

This year's Tunnel of Oppression will be different from the previous experience. Some topics will be again addressed but will be done so with a different perspective or providing different information. The collective experience of all the rooms of the Tunnel will be unique this year. We hope your multiple visits to the Tunnel will serve to enrich your understanding and reflection on issues of oppression.

**What topics will be covered in the Tunnel?**

This year's Tunnel will focus on such areas as poverty, the environment, identity, political freedom, religion, body image and hate crimes.

**Who creates the Tunnel?**

The Tunnel is developed by a subcommittee of the larger UNITY Week Planning Committee; a group of faculty, staff and students who are volunteering their time to research and synthesize this information to give visitors a sensory perspective of what oppression looks like, feels like and sounds like.

**I want to help out as a Tunnel volunteer. What would I be doing exactly?**

We would love to have you join us! You can serve as a tour guide, leading groups through the rooms of the Tunnel with a prepared script. You may also have the opportunity to act in one of the rooms as part of a skit tied to that room's theme. Email [tylerk@philau.edu](mailto:tylerk@philau.edu) if you are interested in being an actor or [stolfim@philau.edu](mailto:stolfim@philau.edu) if you would like to serve as a tour guide.

**Where did the idea of a Tunnel of Oppression come from?**

<http://www.philau.edu/studentdev/tunnel.htm>

### For Groups:

**My class meets on MWF for 50 minutes. How will we fit in the full Tunnel experience, time-wise?**

As advertised, we advise Tunnel participants to account for an hour for the full Tunnel immersion. This includes the walk-through and the Reflection Room. If you were to cut out the Reflection Room at the end, that would allow you and your group to complete the Tunnel itself within the typical 50 minute timeframe. However, we believe it is essential to process this immersion experience, and so we offer alternatives to the original Reflection Room if time is an issue:

- Have your students walk through the Tunnel and Reflection Room on their own time, either on Wednesday or Thursday; tour guides can provide a signature to verify the student's participation
- Walk through as a class and process the experience as a group during your next class meeting (likely Friday, Feb. 26)
- Host one of our Tunnel committee leaders as a guest in your next class meeting to lead a reflective discussion

**What if my students wish to go through the Tunnel a second time to look closer at its contents?**

There will be a designated Open Hours time to allow students who have previously experienced the guided tour to take their time through the Tunnel a second time for a closer look. The Open Hours will be Thursday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. It is important that only students who have been through a guided tour be permitted to experience select rooms on their own to allow for the proper context to be provided by the Tunnel and its operators.

**It says there is a limit of 10 people per tour group. I have 30 students in my class. Can they all just go through at the same time?**

The reason we have provided a limit to the size of a tour group is to allow the groups to move through the Tunnel smoothly and for participants to have the maximum sensory experience of the Tunnel. The rooms will become difficult to navigate due to space if we exceed the limit. In the event that your group is larger 10 people, we can arrange to stagger your tour departure times by 5-10 minutes to allow your group to walk through close together and meet up in the Reflection Room at the end. Please let us know in advance if you will need staggered tours beyond the regularly-scheduled tours departing on the hour and the half-hour.

**What's this I hear about ice cream?**

As an incentive for participants to sign up as a group and in the hopes of facilitating further discussion post-Tunnel, the Office of Student Development Programs is offering a coupon for free ice cream from Ted's for groups that sign up for the Tunnel.

**For Individuals:**

**Can I walk through by myself/at my own pace? Can the Tunnel be done in less than an hour?**

You may of course experience the Tunnel without being part of a set group of people. Signups and departures of tours for individuals will be on the half-hour throughout the Tunnel's hours of operation.

The guided tour is carefully designed and choreographed to be experienced within its set timeframe. There will be a designated Open Hours time to allow visitors who have previously experienced the guided tour to take their time through the Tunnel a second time for a closer look. The Open Hours will be Thursday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. It is important that only those who have been through a guided tour be permitted to experience select rooms on their own to allow for the proper context to be provided by the Tunnel and its operators.