BLC Field School Application
Deadline: April 15, 2026

The Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School (limited research version)

Application form: http://thefieldschool.weebly.com/application.html

What: The Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures (BLC) Field School trains participants in documenting, indexing, analyzing, and disseminating community cultural resources and histories of ordinary people and common places. The project team works with local community partners in a collaborative setting.
Where: Walnut Hill Community Garden and Unity Orchard, Middle Ground
When: Weekdays, July 6, 2026—July 31, 2026; 9AM-4PM (required attendance)
Required preparatory workshop via Zoom: Monday June 29, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
Final Community Presentation in person: Saturday August 1, 2026

The 2026 project will be a shortened and limited version of our full-length field school.

The Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School is a nationally recognized award-winning project that combines place-based immersive learning with civic engagement. The focus of the 2026 Field School is structured around a collaborative media project in which university students and faculty will work with community youth and leaders to create a media documentary and visual art posters and zines. In order to do so, the field school team will engage with community leaders and local youth in two Milwaukee gardens—Unity Orchard and Walnut Hill Community Garden. Researchers will also prepare themselves by reviewing the history of these communities and oral histories of residents already collected by earlier cohorts of Field School researcher. This summer is not about field data collection—instead we will focus on analysis, dissemination, and storytelling. We will learn ethnographic, material culture, and media methods The Field School welcomes the participation of members of the community, and it is open to anyone who is interested and can make a full-time commitment (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm) for four weeks. Participants are eligible to receive academic credit (3-6 cr.). See attached application form for details.

During the 5-week period, we will examine the following:

- How to conduct and record on site interviews and observations.
- How to observe, map, and document everyday places.
- How to turn data into informational zines and posters.
- How to curate and create community multi-media projects.
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Contact: For more information email senA@uwm.edu

Website and other urls
Field School website: https://thefieldschool.weebly.com/
Field School Application: http://thefieldschool.weebly.com/application.html
Field School Story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDKZoe3nM4k

Application Form

Summer 2026 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School (Limited version)
Urban Studies Program, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

What: The Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures (BLC) Field School trains participants in documenting, indexing, analyzing, and disseminating community cultural resources and histories of ordinary people and common places. The project team works with local community partners in a collaborative setting. The Field School welcomes the participation of members of the community, and it is open to anyone who is interested and **can make a full-time commitment (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm) over four weeks**. Students may receive academic credit in the form of an Internship UG (URB STD 289, URB STD 489, 3-credits), Urban Internship (URB STD 927, 3-credits), or other internship opportunities available to them. If you don't need college credits, then you may join the field school for FREE as a community participant.

Where: Walnut Hill Community Garden and Unity Orchard, Middle Ground
When: Weekdays, July 6, 2026—July 31, 2026; 9AM-4PM (required attendance)
Required preparatory workshop via Zoom: Monday June 29, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
Final Community Presentation in person: Saturday August 1, 2026

Scholarships and Funds
Students participating in field schools or other training opportunities may apply for stipends of up to $800 to attend such programs. Here is the website: https://vafweb.org/Ridout-Fellowship.
Urban Studies students may apply for an USP Project Fellowship grant

What we will do
The focus of the 2026 Field School is structured around a collaborative media project in which university students and faculty will work with community youth and leaders to create a media documentary and visual art posters and zines. In order to do so, the field school team will engage with community leaders and local youth in two Milwaukee gardens—Unity Orchard and Walnut Hill Community Garden. Researchers will also prepare themselves by reviewing the history of these communities and oral histories of residents already collected by earlier cohorts of Field School researcher. This summer is not about field data collection—instead we will focus on analysis, dissemination, and storytelling.

Skills Learnt
1. How to conduct and record on site interviews and observations.
2. How to observe, map, and document everyday places.
3. How to turn data into informational zines and posters.
4. How to curate and create community multi-media projects.

Detailed Schedule
Preparatory virtual workshop: Monday June 29, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
Week 1; July 6-10: Understanding place
Week 2; July 13-17: Reviewing oral History and ethnographic data.
Week 3; July 20-24: Archives and analysis.
Week 4: July 27-July 31: Dissemination.
August 1, 2026: Final event at Amaranth Cafe

Tasks and commitments:
Participants will have to commit to attend the field school in person and participate in data collection, analysis, documentation, and final presentation daily, M-F, 9-4 with no exceptions. If we have to attend a community event on a weekend, we will adjust attendance time accordingly.

For more information, please contact: senA@uwm.edu for more information.

Contact Information

Full Name:

_____

Last *First* *M.I.*

Address:

_____

Street Address *Apartment/Unit*

_____

City *State* *ZIP Code*

Phone #: _____ Email:_____

Applying as (choose one):

- ☐ **Summer Student (Summer only, not an UWM student)**
- ☐ **UWM Student**
- ☐ **Community Member (no credits)**
- ☐ **Other (explain below)**

Background Information

Employer: _____Department: _____

Educational Institution: _____Year/Level:_____

Prior Education, if applicable

University	Degrees	**Dates Enrolled**	Comments

List any prior experience with field schools, fieldwork, or study abroad field trips:

Kinds of Field work	Location	**Dates**	Details

Recommendation Letter

You may ask your advisor, teacher, or employer for a short recommendation note. They may email it directly to Dr. Arijit Sen at senA@uwm.edu by May 1, 2026.

Your recommender should comment on the following points:

1. Explain how the field school may be relevant to the applicant's coursework and education?
2. Evaluate applicant's ability to work in teams.
3. Evaluate applicant's ability to conduct primary research and self-directed work.
4. Evaluate applicant's intellectual ability to work in interdisciplinary and community-based contexts.
5. Evaluate applicant's ability to diligently attend and commit to the long hours of fieldwork.

Recommender's Name: _____Recommender's Title: _____

Recommender's Phone #: _____Recommender's Email: _____

_____ _____

Applicant signature Date