

Sustainability & Community Engagement

Lis Charman, Associate Professor

Graphic Design Program | Department of Art |

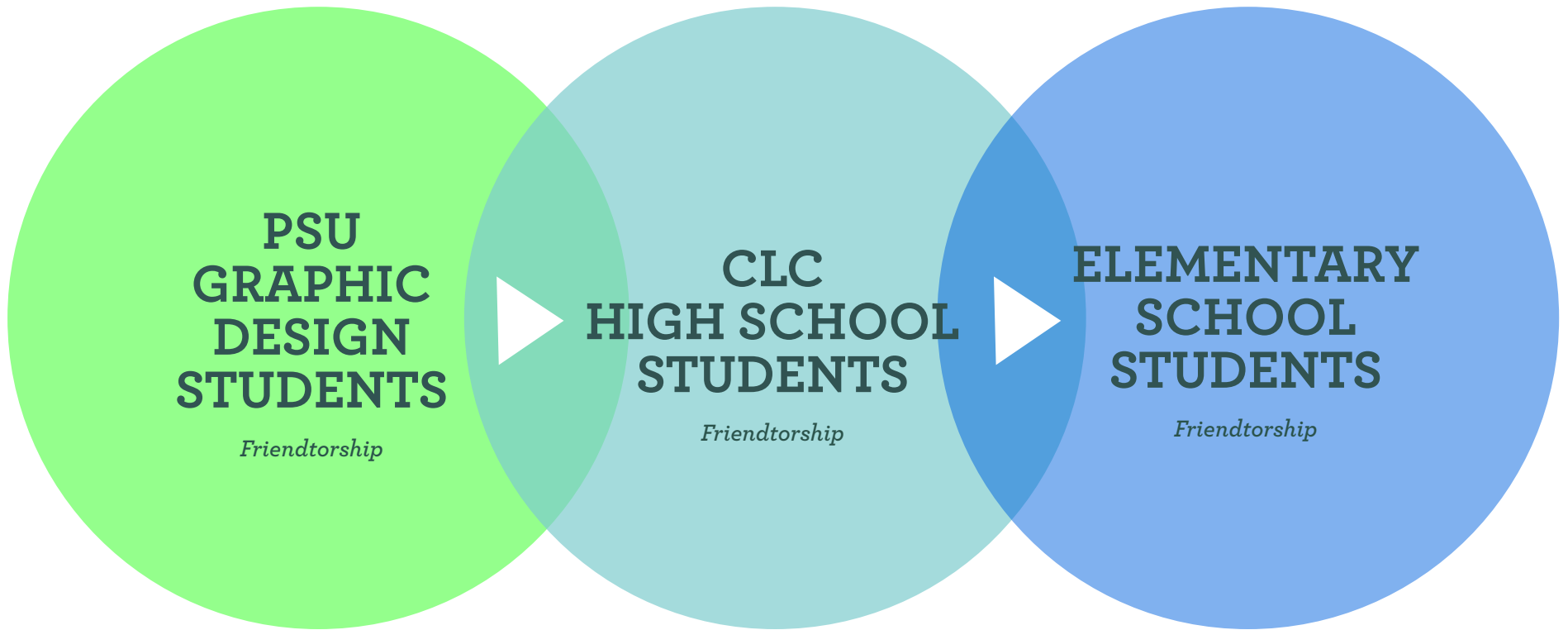
charman@pdx.edu

Friendtorship

A mentorship program with Centennial Learning Center (CLC)

CLC's Art and Social Change class comes to PSU to co-create art and design with volunteer PSU Graphic Design students and faculty.

- serves 'hard to reach' high school students
- these students are underserved / often impoverished
- do not generally consider themselves college bound
- approx 90% of the students' families at or below the poverty level
- approx 70% of them have experienced homelessness



Past themes: **ART**
SOCIAL CHANGE
COMMUNITY

Current theme: sustainability

CLC's *From Scratch* is a school lunch program designed to create lasting change by teaching students to cook healthy meals. For the past three years CLC has been part of a Federal Learn and Serve Grant."

The goals for *From Scratch* "are to create a school lunch program that serves as both an inviting place to eat and a learning center, which offers fresh, locally grown food prepared on site by students, and supports and reflects a college preparatory curriculum.

In addition, CLC serves as a pilot site for the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-School program. CLC students prepare and taste-test local food products to determine how easily they can be incorporated into school lunches statewide.

What brought me to AIM?

The desire to translate Friendship into a course that integrates active learning with community engagement and sustainability

Challenges

- Will creating a CBL that brings together a mentorship program & sustainability create a richer experience for the students?
- Are there models / best practices exist for integrating sustainability (food) as a theme into CBL & Art curriculum?
- What essential questions, projects, experiences, discussions, readings, open-ended tasks and activities will encourage creativity and deepen learning?
- Which learning objectives best address: mentorship; design; sustainability?