



Design 4650 / 5650 | Spring 2024 | Asst. Prof. William Nickley

Spring Fest: Designing for Folks to Gather [collaborative studio]

A counterpart to the Autumn semester studio that culminates in Winter Market, Spring Fest is a collaborative studio course that will result in a student-led event featuring students' design work at the end of Spring semester.

Students will explore how design can create brave spaces—places where people feel invited, seen, and safe to share their stories. Hands-on projects will challenge students from industrial design, interior design, and visual communications design to blur the lines between their disciplines as they collaborate to foster gathering via 1) interactive pop-up installations, 2) a small production-run publication, and 3) a “Spring Fest” event, name TBD, featuring student work and a unique gathering experience.

Together, we'll explore the worlds of gathering—from silent discos and city portals to theme parties and community festivals, pop-up shops and penpals to protests and maybe even some fan fiction—as we seek ways to center inclusivity across space and time. Students will have ample opportunity to develop and hone their “hard skills” as they give form to experiential touchpoints through pin-ups and prototyping. Students will be encouraged to bring their true selves—their histories, connections, intentions and identities—into the studio to inform our work. Guest speakers from local nonprofits and community organizations will offer insights about how design brings us together.

Image credit: Robinson, C. (2020). *You matter* [Painting]. Delaware Art Museum. <https://delart.org/event/christian-robinson/>