

# Who is the *Public* in Public Humanities?

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Humanities Research for the Public Good

June 26, 2019

# Research and Teaching with a Public Audience in Mind

1. What are public humanities?
2. How does a public audience (partners) reshape research and teaching?
  - a. Understanding student needs and impact





**What are public humanities?**

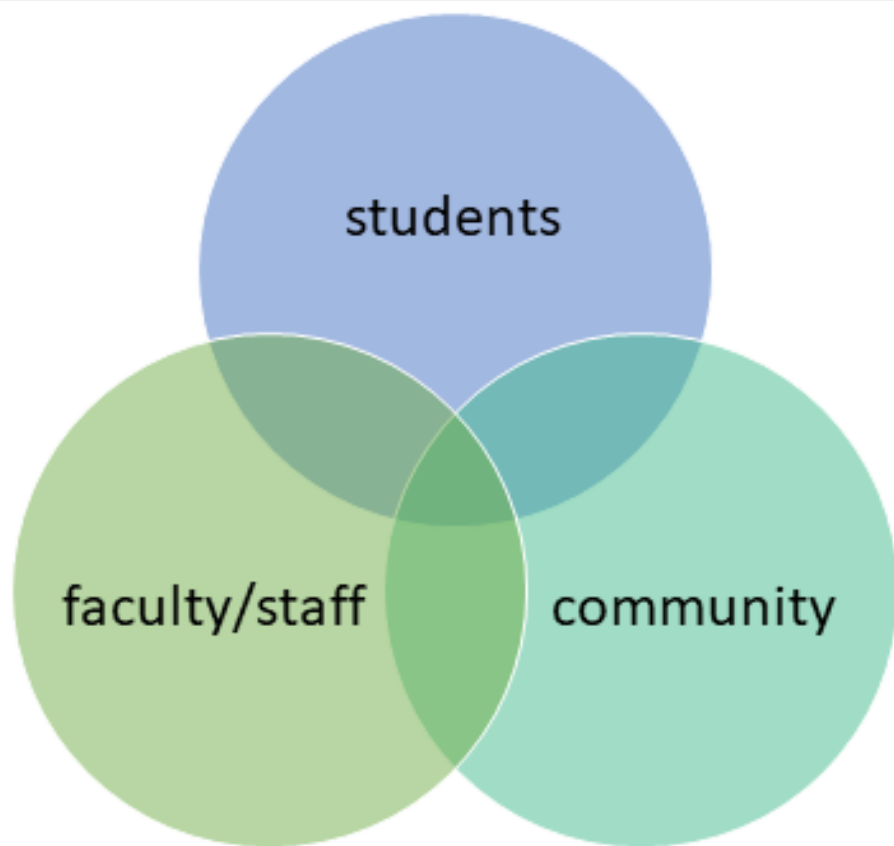


teaching

research

public  
engagement







Continuum of public engagement

“To do public  
humanities, the ‘public’  
needs to come first.  
Always.”





“The public” = “an unidentified ‘other’”

# Principles and practices

- Values both process and outcomes (and understands process as an outcome)
- Builds community and partnerships through collaborative processes
- Recognizes and values different forms of expertise and resources -- not a 'top down' sharing of info and expertise but mutual engagement
- Appreciates that humanities provide insights, connections, and ways to understand our world (past, present and future)
- Aims for mutual/multiple benefits
- Outcomes are relevant, accessible, and inviting
- "Public good" realized in many forms -- immediate and gradual



**How does a public audience (partners) reshape research and teaching?**



**Role of students, faculty, and administrators**

# Student impact

## 1. Research/content

- a. Primary and secondary materials
- b. Community context
- c. Public humanities methods

## 2. Skills

- a. Interpersonal
- b. Methodological
- c. Creative and reflective

## 3. Personal

- a. Short and longer term

community oral history conversation  
storytelling teamwork frustrating  
pollution remediation storm water  
learning emails communication Mashapang  
transcribe JOBLot interviews Chatowsky  
Connections talking knowing/not knowing  
getting off your BUTT/action art/history (interface)  
memory dialogue neighbor voice Network  
Urban renewal Youth Labor history Place  
Engaged art Reflection Potential FUN  
Urban communities of color complicated



# Teacher:

- Content expert
- Project manager
- Facilitator
- Participant
- Connector



# College

- New measures of scholarship and evaluation of teaching
- This work takes time
- Different ways to conceive role in communities
- Key to sustainability

