

Who is the *Public* in Public Humanities?

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Humanities Research for the Public Good

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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





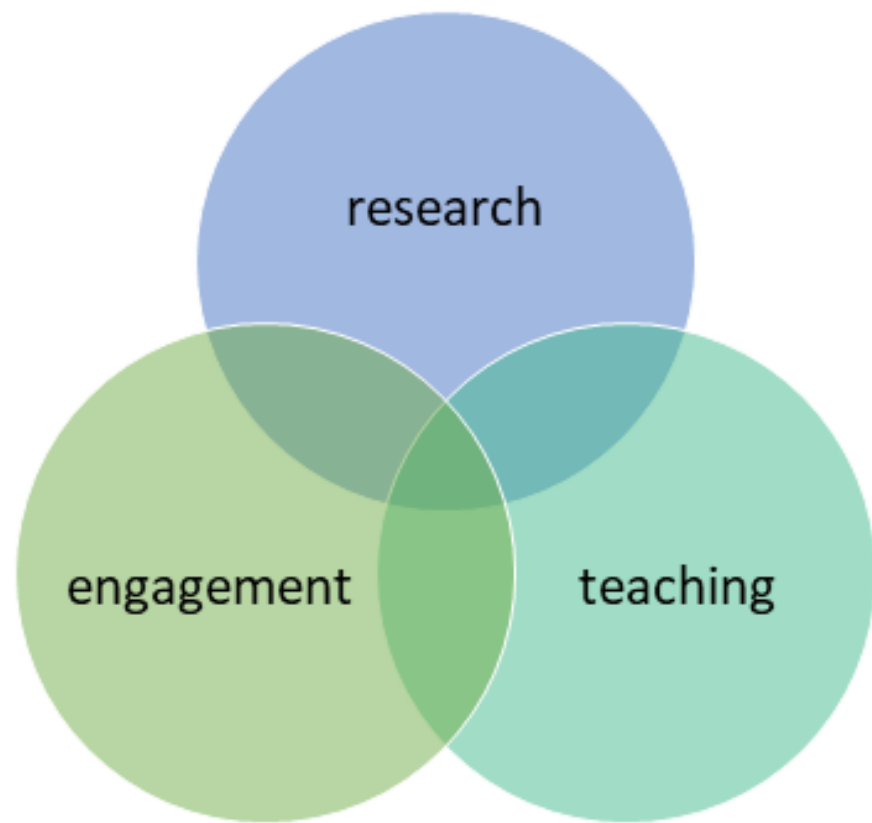
What are public humanities?

A diagram consisting of three blue rounded rectangular boxes arranged horizontally. The central box is upright and contains the word "research". The box on the left is tilted clockwise and contains the word "teaching". The box on the right is tilted counter-clockwise and contains the words "public engagement". The boxes are set against a light gray background with vertical white lines on either side.

teaching

research

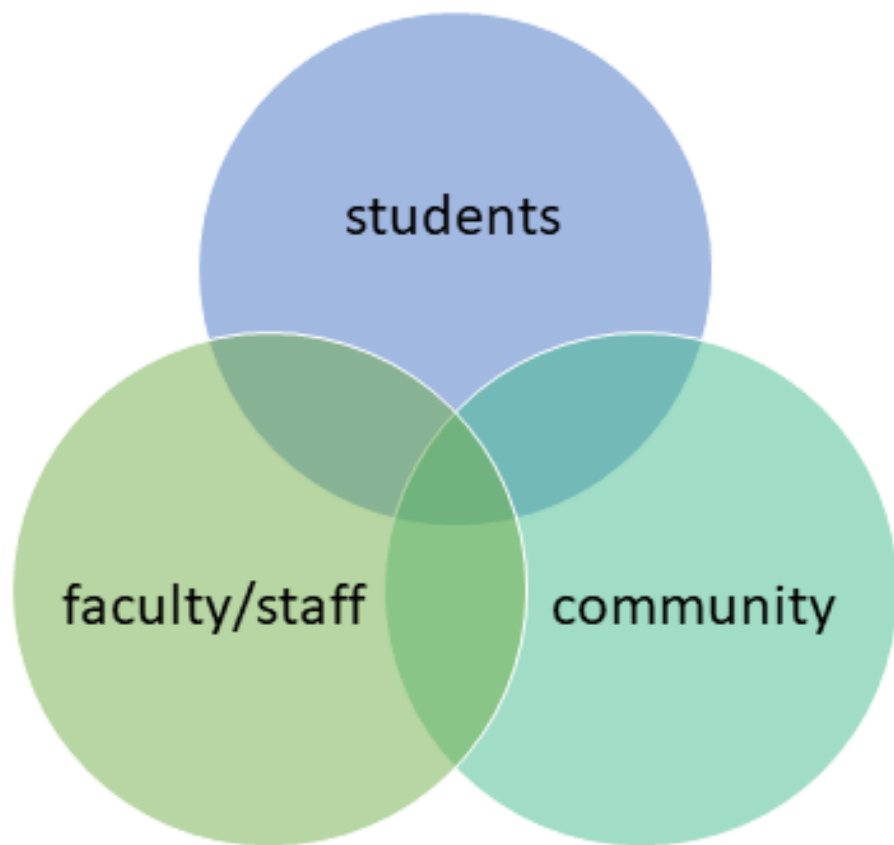
public
engagement



research

engagement

teaching



students

faculty/staff

community



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

