Who is the *Public* in Public Humanities?

Annie Valk

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?
research

teaching

public engagement
Continuum of public engagement

1. Public scholarship
   Academic research is shared with public through lectures, documentary films, podcasts, etc., considered to benefit public interest.

2. Outreach programs
   Exhibits, tours, performances in community spaces create opportunities for active engagement.

3. Collaborative partnerships
   Researchers (students, scholars) conduct research and/or design programs to benefit community organizations.

4. Community-based participatory research
   Researchers (students, scholars) work with community organizations to develop research agendas and advance community goals.
“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
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