Humanities Research for the Public Good
Connecting Independent Colleges with Their Communities through Undergraduate Research
Opening Workshop · Washington, DC · June 26–28, 2019

This project is generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Workshop goals:

● Learn about other projects and best practices in public humanities.
● Clarify the roles of the project team members.
● Explore how campus collections and public perspectives can be incorporated into undergraduate research projects.
● Refine plans to implement campus projects successfully during the coming year.
● Learn how to build and sustain community partnerships that benefit colleges and universities, their faculty members and students, community-based organizations, and the public.
● Develop methods to assess the impact of public humanities programs and outcomes for students, community partners, and the participating institutions.

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

1:00–2:00 p.m. Registration
Lower Lobby

2:00–3:30 p.m. Opening Session
New Hampshire

Welcome and Introductions

Richard Ekman, President, CIC

Overview of the HRPG Project and Workshop Goals

Philip M. Katz, Director of Projects, CIC

Annie Valk, Senior Advisor, CIC, and Associate Director for Public Humanities, Williams College

Introductions of the Campus Teams and Projects

Please come prepared for one member of each team to introduce the institution, identify the community partner, summarize the proposed project, and say one thing the team wants to get out of this workshop—all in 90 seconds!
3:30–3:45 p.m.  
**Break**

3:45–4:30 p.m.  
**New Hampshire**  
**Plenary Session:** Who is the *Public* in Public Humanities?  
*Presenter: Annie Valk*  
Research and teaching with a public audience in mind.

4:30–6:00 p.m.  
**New Hampshire**  
**Plenary Session:** Examples of Public Humanities Projects  
*Moderator: Annie Valk*  
*Panelists:*  
- **Susan Falciani Maldonado,** Head of Public Outreach and Information Literacy Services, Trexler Library, Muhlenberg College  
- **David Pettegrew,** Professor of History and Archaeology and Co-Chair of the History Department, Messiah College  
- **Meredith Clark-Wiltz,** Associate Professor of History and Director of American Studies, Franklin College  
This session will introduce different approaches to public humanities work, with case studies of successful projects that have been developed by CIC member institutions.

6:00–7:00 p.m.  
**Brasserie**  
*(Lobby Level)*

7:00–9:00 p.m.  
**City Center**  
**Dinner and Keynote**  
*Introduction*  
**Richard Ekman**  
*Humanities and the Public Good*  
**Edward L. Ayers,** Tucker-Boatwright Professor of the Humanities and President Emeritus, University of Richmond

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

8:00–9:00 a.m.  
**City Center**  
**Breakfast**  
*Discussion Roundtables*  
This is an opportunity to meet with colleagues and discuss topics of common interest. Please feel free to participate in more than one discussion. See page 7 for the list of tables.

*Overview of the Day*  
**Philip M. Katz**
9:00–10:15 a.m.  
**Plenary Session:** What Community Partners Bring to the Table  
*New Hampshire*

*Moderator: Annie Valk*

*Panelists:*

- **Donald Braid**, Director of the Center for Citizenship and Community, Butler University  
- **Glenn T. Johnston**, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Humanities and Public History, Stevenson University  
- **Kimberly Sanchez**, Director of Community Partnerships, Connecticut College

This roundtable discussion will address different types of partnerships with community organizations and present strategies to forge a successful, mutually beneficial relationship. Presenters will discuss their experiences collaborating with community organizations on projects that involve undergraduates.

10:15–11:30 a.m.  
**Breakout Session**

*Note:* Please meet with colleagues in similar roles at other institutions.

**Potomac**  
*Faculty Members* (moderator: **Annie Valk**)

Discussion topics:

- Identifying the distinctive pedagogy of public humanities  
- Supporting undergraduate research and undergraduate researchers  
- Revising existing courses to add a public humanities component  
- Understanding the role of faculty members as project managers  
- Collaborating with colleagues in different areas, on campus and in the community

**Dupont**  
*Collections Experts* (moderator: **Susan Falciani Maldonado**)

Discussion topics:

- Clarifying the role of the collections expert on the project team  
- Explaining “collections” to students, faculty, and the community  
- Helping students (and faculty members) access and interpret materials in the collection  
- Supporting public programs: public access vs. conservation; consent, copyright, and other intellectual property challenges  
- Highlighting the power of collections for research, teaching, and engaging questions of public significance
City Center  Administrators (moderator: Jo Ellen Parker, Vice President for Communications, CIC)

Discussion topics:

- Assessing the current perception of humanities research on your campus and in your community
- Clarifying the role of the administrator on the project team
- Using public humanities programming to support institutional missions
- Building and sustaining productive relationships with community partners
- Mobilizing institutional resources to support and promote the project

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  Plenary Session: Reports from the Small Groups

City Center  Moderator: Philip M. Katz

12:15–12:30 p.m.  Break

12:30–1:45 p.m.  Lunch

New Hampshire  Introduction

Richard Ekman

The National Landscape of Public Humanities

Stephen Kidd, Executive Director, National Humanities Alliance

The National Humanities Alliance recently introduced the “Humanities for All” database—a compendium of public humanities projects from across the nation, many of which were developed by liberal arts colleges and universities. Kidd will discuss the state of the “publicly engaged humanities” in American life and the role of smaller liberal arts institutions in sustaining the humanities.

1:45–2:15 p.m.  Break

2:15–3:30 p.m.  Plenary Session: Managing Your Time, Labor, and Expectations

New Hampshire  Presenter: Annie Valk

This interactive session will trace the lifecycle of a public humanities project from start to finish: identifying and focusing the topic, framing the research, supporting undergraduate researchers, shifting from the research phase to the public program phase, working with a community partner, outreach and implementation, project evaluation, documenting and learning from the experience, and more.

3:30–3:45 p.m.  Break

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3:45–5:00 p.m.  

**Team Planning Session**

*Note:* Please meet with the other members of your institutional team. See page 8 for room assignments.

This is an opportunity for each institutional team to apply what they have learned during the workshop so far to review and revise the project plan. Additional questions to consider: What other campus or community resources may be necessary to support each phase of the plan? How will this project support the larger goals and mission of your institution? How can this project help build capacity at your institution that will be sustained past the end of the funding?

5:00–5:45 p.m.  

**Plenary Session:** Reviewing the Work of the Day

*Reports from the Institutional Teams*

*Moderator: Philip M. Katz*

*Other Reflections and Unanswered Questions*

*Moderator: Annie Valk*

5:45–6:30 p.m.  

**Reception**

6:30 p.m.  

**Dinner on Your Own**

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**Friday, June 28, 2019**

8:00–9:00 a.m.  

**Breakfast**

*Discussion Roundtables*

This is an opportunity to meet with colleagues and discuss topics of common interest. There are two groups of discussion tables: by institutional role and by the type of project each team will carry out. Please feel free to participate in more than one discussion. See page 7 for the list of tables.

*Overview of the Day*

**Philip M. Katz**

9:00–10:30 a.m.  

**Plenary Session:** Evaluation and Impact

*Best Practices for Evaluating Public Programs in the Humanities*

**Sheri Levinsky-Raskin,** Assistant Vice President for Education and Evaluation, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, and President, SJLR Solutions
Measuring the Impact on Students, Faculty, the College, and the Community

Annie Valk, Jo Ellen Parker, and Participants

What will success for the public component of your project look like? How will you measure the impact of the entire project on the students, their mentors, and the institution? In this session, an experienced museum evaluator will guide participants through potential models and tools for the assessment of public humanities projects. She will also address the challenge of aligning the college’s goals with the expectations of the community partner to determine a shared definition of success. The session will conclude with a broader discussion of measurable impacts.

10:30–11:00 a.m. Break
11:00 a.m.–noon Concluding Session

New Hampshire

Remaining Questions

Annie Valk

Next Steps, Grant Management, and Logistics

Philip Katz

Noon Workshop Concludes
Topics for Breakfast Roundtables

The breakfast roundtables are informal opportunities to share information and ideas with colleagues who have similar interests or are facing similar challenges on their campuses. Feel free to participate in more than one discussion group during breakfast. There are no discussion leaders, so all participants need to help carry the conversations. Each table has a sheet on it for notes; please consider appointing a scribe to capture the key points of your conversation. Leave the notes on the table so CIC can collect, transcribe, and share them with all participants.

Thursday, June 27

In-depth discussion of key processes and practices:
1. Connecting students and collections
2. Creating a web-based archive/public program: how to identify and target your audience(s)
3. Promoting other public humanities activities
4. Oral history: challenges and best practices
5. Addressing controversial topics
6. Sharing expertise and academic authority with students and community stakeholders
7. Promoting the value of academic humanities research to members of the community
8. Promoting the value of publicly-engaged humanities to other faculty members and administrators
9. Working with K–12 schools and school systems

Friday, June 28

By project role:
1. Administrators
2. Collections Experts
3. Faculty Members

By project format:
4. Audio-visual productions (podcasts, documentaries, radio or TV programming)
5. Websites, online exhibitions, or digital archives
6. Physical exhibitions and installations
7. Walking tours and place-based media
8. Curricular materials
# Meeting Rooms for Team Planning Session
Thursday, June 27, 3:45–5:00 p.m.

**Group A (Dupont)**
- Champlain College
- Connecticut College
- Daemen College
- Messiah College
- Simmons University
- Stevenson University

**Group B (Potomac)**
- Alaska Pacific University
- Augustana University
- Bethany College
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- Lewis & Clark College
- St. Mary’s University (TX)
- University of Denver

**Group C (City Center)**
- Berry College
- Butler University
- Fisk University
- Franklin College
- Hollins University
- Mars Hill University
- Oberlin College
- Reinhardt University
- Rust College
- Saint Mary’s College (IN)
- University of Findlay
- Wofford College
lobby level

lower lobby level