



Our class has been exploring the state of public history. History-related careers—in libraries, archives, museums, living history museums, genealogy, oral history, podcasts—engage the broader public and embrace communities, and challenge us to consider how history is perceived. We find public history interesting because it engages all topics, not just official history; it's accessible; it studies people who are otherwise marginalized; it is open to interpretation; and many people learn best outside the classroom. There are graduate programs of study, but one can become a public historian by accident. The field is also in flux. It's being changed by new technologies, including AI, multispectral imaging, digital communications and digitization. Public history is also in turmoil because it's caught in political divisions and is regularly targeted by powerful people who are disturbed by public history activists who have been challenging the field's traditions.

