

Brown University
Public Humanities

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Brown's public humanities program was established in 2005, an expansion of a longtime museum studies program. It offers an MA in public humanities, either as a professional degree or as a part of a PhD in American studies. The program is broader than most public history programs, with students focusing on public art, museum curation and education, community cultural work and heritage preservation as well as public history. About 10 MA students a year enter the two year program, most of them full time, and to date approximately 40 students have graduated.

Type of Program: Related Graduate Program

Degree(s) offered: M.A. in Public Humanities

Concentration(s):

- Museum Studies
- Local/Community History
- Oral History
- Museum Education
- Community Cultural Development
- Digital Public Humanities
- Public Art

Course Offerings:

- Introduction to Public Humanities; required; offered annually
- Methods in Public Humanities; required; offered annually
- Introduction to American Civilization; required; offered annually
- Things!; not required; offered occasionally
- Material culture; not required; offered annually
- Historic preservation; not required; offered annually
- Community documentation and story-telling; not required; offered annually
- Local History; not required; offered annually
- Historic House Museums; not required; offered every other year
- Cultural Policy; not required; offered every other year
- Management of non-profit institutions; not required; offered every other year
- Site-Specific Writing In Brown's Historical Spaces; not required; offered every other year
- Public art; not required; offered annually
- Projects in public art; not required; offered occasionally
- The Responsive Museum, offered every other year
- Designing Heritages, offered occasionally
- Oral History, offered annually
- In addition, students take courses in performance studies, anthropology, archaeology, American studies, history, public policy, and other departments at Brown, RISD, and Harvard.
- A complete list can be viewed at <http://www.brown.edu/Research/JNBC/maprogram/courses.php>

Thesis required? No

Special project required? No

Description: N/A

Credit Hour Requirement: 14 courses, two of which are practicums

Internship Required? Yes

Who arranges internships? The program works with students to develop internships.

Credit hours earned for internships: Two courses

Who evaluates internship? What are the criteria for evaluation? Students, practicum advisors, and program faculty evaluate the practicums.

Places where students have interned in the past three years:

- Merce Cunningham Dance Company
- U.S.S. Constitution Museum
- Sally Mann Photography
- Bess: MFA, Boston
- Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture
- Museum of the Moving Image
- Roger Williams National Memorial
- Auburn Ave. Research Library
- Newberry Library)
- Boston Society of Architects
- Lower East Side Tenement Museum
- Brave New Films
- Creative Arts Council Brown University
- Greene Farm archaeological project
- Hull House Museum
- Library of Congress, Music Division
- National Museum of American Jewish History
- Museum of the African Diaspora
- Putnam (CT) Economic and Community Development Agency
- Rhode Island School of Design Museum
- Smithsonian's Latino Museum Studies Program
- Anacostia Community Museum
- WaterFire
- 1772 Foundation
- Amistad Center for Art and Culture
- Baranov Museum and Alutiiq Museum
- California Council for the Humanities
- Center for Advanced Visual Studies
- Decatur House/National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Experience Music Project
- Forest Hills Cemetery Educational Trust
- Harvard Art Museums
- Mass. Memories Road Show
- Museum of Fine Arts
- Museo del Barrio
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- National Museum of American History
- Naval War College Museum
- Providence's Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism
- RISD Museum
- The Steel Yard
- Wanås Foundation, Sweden
- Wing Luke Museum

Admission Requirements:

Minimum GPA: N/A
Statement of Purpose
Letter(s) of Recommendation
Transcripts
Writing Sample

Financial Aid Available:

Loans
Scholarships
Stipends
Fellowships
Tuition Waiver

Maximum annual stipend for: MA: 19500 PhD: 19500

Average number of students who receive: Stipend: A single student receives a stipend as part of the fellowship in the public history of slavery
Scholarships: All students who request funding receive partial tuition support

How many students are admitted annually? BA: N/A MA: 10 PhD: 5

Placement assistance offered? We work with students extensively to find appropriate jobs, providing workshops on a range of practical job-hunting skills, and e-portfolios to showcase their work.

Employers who have hired your graduates in the past three years:

- Yale University Art Gallery
- Mass. Dept. of Tourism
- City of Providence Arts, Culture and Tourism
- U. S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC
- Barnes and Noble, New York, NY
- Newport Restoration Foundation, Newport, RI
- ACME Fine Art, Boston, MA
- Temple University Library, Philadelphia, PA
- Time Frame Films, Rhode Island
- Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas, San Antonio, TX
- The Steelyard, Providence, RI
- Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Washington, DC
- Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, Boston, MA
- Pew Charitable Trusts Cultural Data Project, Philadelphia, PA
- Tribute WTC Visitor Center, NY
- Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA
- Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia, PA
- University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
- Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, Providence, RI
- North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma, MI
- Yale Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
- Via Partnership, LLP, St. Louis, MO
- American Social History Project, Graduate Center CUNY, New York, NY
- 18 Reasons Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- National Guard Museum, Washington, DC
- George Washington Foundation, Fredericksburg, VA
- FirstWorks Providence, Providence, RI
- The Museum of Modern Art, NY
- Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, MA
- City of Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism