

Guidelines for M.A. in Public History – Exhibition Project Route

Project Committee:

The committee should be chosen in consultation with the committee chair/project advisor. Students should not invite committee members before inviting the chair.

Prospectus:

As with other history projects and theses, students must complete a prospectus that conforms to the MA guidelines adopted by the department. The prospectus is subject to defense before the committee and should reflect preparation made for undertaking the project. The prospectus should include:

- Clear statement of the scope of the project— including its subject, format, and intended audience—and what the deliverables to the committee will be. These may be distinguished from what will be delivered to a partnering institution. In general, students may submit exhibition projects that represent work on a single aspect of an exhibition, such as research/curatorial or education. In most cases, the work in only one area shall be judged for the MA.
- The name and contact information for a supervisor at an institution for whom project-related work will be performed (i.e., a museum or gallery).
- A timeline for completion of the project; evidence that this has been aligned with the needs of the institution for which the work is being performed (if applicable).
- A project budget for those aspects of the project not funded by a partnering institution and a fundraising plan (complete with deadlines) if additional funds are required.

Final Project Defense:

- At minimum, the public history emphasis expects that students curating an exhibition project will provide evidence of historical research and the writing of exhibition text in the form of essays and/or exhibit labels and a list of artifacts and images expected to be used in the exhibition in order to fulfill MA requirements at the time of the final project defense.
- The public history emphasis does not consider the opening of an exhibition to be necessary for the completion of academic requirements for the Master's degree in history. The actual registration, design, fabrication, installation, and marketing of an exhibition is the responsibility of the partner institution and may involve the student to varying degrees over a timeline independent of the completion of MA requirements. Arrangements for the completion of work beyond the MA requirements shall be made between the student and the partner institution.

Project Report:

Prior to the final project defense, the student shall complete a 10-12 page essay describing the goals for the project, the methods used to achieve these goals, the ways in which the project is situated in the field of public history, and its significance for the field. Students should also supply any additional materials, such as exhibition text and an artifact/image list, prior to the defense.

Project Defense:

The student shall defend the project before the committee in order to complete departmental requirements.