“The public humanities program has given me a diverse set of experiences in curation, digital humanities, grantmaking, and program development. From working with my classmates on consulting projects, to helping the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice expand their Civil Rights Movement Initiative program, I have learned how to work both diligently and thoughtfully, while keeping in mind the importance of centering undervalued histories and narratives.”

Chandra Dickey Marshall
Public History of Slavery Fellow, MA ‘20

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COVER IMAGE
Installation photograph of a Tiny Exhibit curated by Conor MacDonald MA ‘20 titled Knit Together (Bound) showing his grandfather’s sweater, made in the mills of Fall River, Massachusetts with a selection of Lewis Hine’s photographs documenting working and living conditions of children in the United States between 1908 and 1924.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC HUMANITIES,

I want to begin by thanking my friend and colleague, Professor Susan Smulyan, for her inspiring leadership over the past six years. Susan has raised the profile of the Center, shaped a strong and distinctive MA program and brought together many representatives of cultural organizations in Providence and Rhode Island with members of Brown’s faculty. She secured many important fellowships for our students on campus. Susan has also helped to redefine the field - as I am writing this, the book she conceived of and edited, Doing Public Humanities, is just being shipped from the publisher. It contains essays by Susan, the Center’s two Assistant Directors Marisa Brown and Ron Potvin, and many others.

What lies ahead? We will build on Susan’s work and continue our long-standing collaboration with the American Studies program, while also developing new collaborations elsewhere on campus, in particular with other programs and centers in the humanities. We are looking to continue and grow robust connections with community organizations in Providence and across the state and with other Public Humanities departments and centers across the country. My own interests in architecture and urban issues, in public art and history will lead to an increased engagement with those departments at Brown and with the Rhode Island School of Design and its museum as well. We hope to explore questions of urban memory, public art, spatial justice, and housing issues.

The home of the JNBC is by far the most fascinating and evocative building on Brown’s campus. Very few, if any, universities can point to one single building that embodies their complicated histories as profoundly as this one. We hope to make the building both an object of in-depth study and research and a vibrant, inviting and inclusive meeting space for both the academic and the urban community through a rich program of lectures, conferences and exhibitions, accompanied by engaged discussions and convivial gatherings (... as soon as it is considered safe again). In her new book, Susan pointed out the need to understand one’s audience, and we recognize that there is more than one ‘public’ out there which we hope to reach and engage.

I feel particularly lucky to be able to work with such a perfect team, the Center’s Manager, Sabina Griffin, the Assistant Director for Programs, Marisa Brown (in charge of lunchtime talks, conferences and her own classes) and Ron Potvin, Assistant Director for Professional Programs.

With this report, we salute the outgoing class of 2020 and welcome the new cohort to graduate in 2022. We live in times of great and fascinating historical change and we are committed to honoring, documenting and participating in the extraordinary cultural shifts we are witnessing. And, of course, we will always remember the challenges we all faced and the many lives lost in 2020, due to the pandemic. The new ways of communicating and teaching have however, on occasion, also been enriching when they facilitated long-distance conversations.

The Public Humanities are more important than ever and we invite you to join us in our events and activities and contact us with ideas and suggestions.

Warm regards,

Dietrich Neumann
Director of the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage
Professor, History of Art and Architecture
dietrich_neumann@brown.edu
Degrees Granted

**MASTER OF ARTS**

Sophie Don
Philadelphia, PA
BA in History, Skidmore College
Practicum in Public Humanities completed at Fringe Arts (Philadelphia, PA), SITE Santa Fe (Santa Fe, NM), and the City of Providence’s Department of Art, Culture and Tourism.

Yilin Huang
Guangzhou, China
BA in Modern Culture and Media, Jinan University
Practicum in Public Humanities completed at Money and Honey Films (New York, NY), the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum (San Francisco, CA), and the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Yao-Hsuan Lin
Taipei City, Taiwan
BA in Architecture (London, UK), Art, Culture and Tourism.

**CENTER FOR PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Degrees Granted

- **Elizabeth Malone**
  Dorchester, MA
  BA in Urban Studies (Minor in Communications), Worcester State College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship, Brown University.

- **Chandra Marshall**
  Atlanta, GA
  BA in History (Minor in International Relations), Scripps College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Georgia Humanities Council (Atlanta, GA), and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University.

- **Maddison Mott**
  Portland, OR
  BA in History, Portland State University
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at Roger Williams Park Conservancy (Providence, RI), and the American Alliance of Museums (Washington, DC).

- **Alex Parker-Guerrero**
  Oakland, CA
  BA in American Studies (Minor in Urban Studies), Occidental College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), and New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center (New Bedford, MA).

- **Meera White**
  Atlanta, GA
  BA in History (Minor in Latin American Studies), Kenyon College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at Gallaher and Associates (Silver Spring, MD), and Harvard University’s Chinese Art Media Lab (Cambridge, MA).

- **Elizabeth Malone**
  Dorchester, MA
  BA in Urban Studies (Minor in Communications), Worcester State College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship, Brown University.

- **Chandra Marshall**
  Atlanta, GA
  BA in History (Minor in International Relations), Scripps College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Georgia Humanities Council (Atlanta, GA), and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University.

- **Rebecca Rex**
  Villanova, PA
  BA in English Literature (Minor in Art History), University of Colorado Boulder; MA in Art History, Courtauld Institute of Art
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Smithsonian/Anacostia Museum (Washington, DC), and with Professor Robert Lee, Department of American Studies, Brown University.

- **Yiru Zhang**
  Shanghai, China
  BA in History, Fudan University
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Justice in Education Initiative, Columbia University (New York, NY), and the RISD Museum.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATES IN PUBLIC HUMANITIES**

AwarDED TO PHD STUDENTS AT BROWN

- **Sara Mohr**
  Malibu, CA
  PhD Student, Department of Egyptology and Assyriology
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at Gallagher and Associates (Silver Spring, MD), and Harvard University’s Chinese Art Media Lab (Cambridge, MA).

**EN ROUTE TO THE PHD IN AMERICAN STUDIES**

- **Allyson LaForge**
  Burlington, VT
  PhD Student, American Studies Department
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship, Brown University.

- **Edwin Rodriguez**
  Silver Spring, MD
  PhD Student, American Studies Department
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Center for Digital Scholarship, Brown University.

**MASTER OF ARTS**

- **Alex Parker-Guerrero**
  Oakland, CA
  BA in American Studies (Minor in Urban Studies), Occidental College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), and New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center (New Bedford, MA).

- **Meera White**
  Atlanta, GA
  BA in History (Minor in Latin American Studies), Kenyon College
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at Gallaher and Associates (Silver Spring, MD), and Harvard University’s Chinese Art Media Lab (Cambridge, MA).

- **Yiru Zhang**
  Shanghai, China
  BA in History, Fudan University
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Justice in Education Initiative, Columbia University (New York, NY), and the RISD Museum.

**PRACTICUM IN PUBLIC HUMANITIES**

- **Ariana Wescott**
  New York, NY
  BA in Studio Art, University of Michigan
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at Abbe Museum (Bar Harbor, Maine).

- **Dashiel Wasserman**
  New Orleans, LA
  PhD Student, English Department
  Practicum in Public Humanities completed at the Brown University Library.
Courses Offered in the 2019–20 Academic Year

“Through courses and interactions with colleagues at the JNBC, I learned to sharpen my focus on the function of the Public Humanities, in its many forms, and the role of cultural work in civil society. I learned to ask critical questions, such as: Whose story is being told through this work? Whose story needs to be told? What is the underlying truth to these stories?”

Rebecca Rex
MA ’20, Associate Director, Humanities and Social Sciences, Office of Foundation Relations, Brown University

FALL

1903M Museum Histories
Steven Lubar

2635 Ethical in Public: Humanities as Moments of Encountering
Diane O’Donoghue

2650 Introduction to Public Humanities
Monica Martinez

2653 Public Art: History, Theory and Practice
Janet Zweig

2655 Against Invisibility: Asian America/s, Collective Memory and the Public Humanities
Robert Lee

2660 Projects in the Public Humanities
Majida Kargbo

2680 Semester Practicum in Public Humanities
Ron Potvin

2694 Unsettling Public Humanities
Micah Salkind

SPRING

1650F Mapping Violence
Monica Martinez and Jim McGrath

1903Z Shrine, House or Home: Rethinking the House Museum Paradigm
Ron Potvin

2220D Museums in Their Communities
Steven Lubar

2540 Methods in Public Humanities
Susan Smulyan

2660 Projects in the Public Humanities
Majida Kargbo

2680 Semester Practicum in Public Humanities
Ron Potvin

2688 Digital Archives and Digital Publics
Jim McGrath

2690 Management of Cultural Institutions
Gayle Gifford

2697 Museum Interpretation Practices
Sarah Ganz Blythe

CAREER WORKSHOPS

Doing Social Practice Art
Issues in Public Humanities: Sexual Harassment
Issues in Public Humanities: Languages of Diversity and Equity
Networking and Creating an Online Presence
Resumes and Cover Letter Workshop
Effective Interviewing
A Selection of Course Projects

“Using the RISD Museum’s collection and galleries, we critically interrogate the complicated histories and fraught conventions of museums to imagine and put into action new forms of interpretation. Public Humanities students bring to this pressing work a penetrating sense of inquiry and creative approaches that are urgently needed by the field.”

Sarah Ganz Blythe
Deputy Director of Exhibitions, Education and Programs at the RISD Museum and Course Instructor, Museum Interpretation Practices

9 students in Museums and their Communities worked with 11 MA students at the Rhode Island School of Design in Exhibition Design to create plans for open storage facilities at the John Hay Library, the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, and Mystic Seaport Museum. Proposals satisfied curatorial, conservation and accessibility parameters outlined by each institution.
Students in Shrine, House or Home: Rethinking the House Museum Paradigm collaborated with Providence’s Lippitt House Museum to create a new website, “Suffrage in Rhode Island: A Lippitt Family Perspective,” which includes an interactive timeline about the complicated history of voting rights in Rhode Island and original memes designed by students that comment upon the long struggle for full suffrage in Rhode Island. This project commemorates the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the federal constitution, which stated a person’s right to vote can’t be denied because of sex.

Students in Management of Cultural Institutions worked with local nonprofit Doors Open Rhode Island on capacity building issues, including funding models, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and organizational structure. Founded in 2016 by Caroline Nye Stevens, MA ‘16, Doors Open RI organizes a state-wide architecture festival and public programs throughout the year that invite the public into Rhode Island’s architectural, cultural and historical treasures.
Faculty, Staff and Fellow Publications

DOING PUBLIC HUMANITIES
ROUTLEDGE PRESS, 2020

Edited by Susan Smulyan

Doing Public Humanities is essential reading for students, faculty and practitioners in public history, historic preservation, the history of art, engaged sociology and public archaeology and anthropology. The contributors are committed to presenting a Public Humanities practice that encourages social justice and explores the intersectionalities of race, class, gender, and sexualities. Together, the essays illustrate the theories and methods of the Public Humanities, and the field’s unique synthesis of critical thinking, creative practice, social justice work, and community engagement and allyship.

Essays by JNBC faculty, fellows and staff include the following:

**Marisa Angell Brown**
“Preservation’s Expanded Field: The Hacking Heritage Unconference and the Fogarty Funeral.”

**Robert Lee**
“Against Invisibility: Asian American Family Photography and the Public Humanities.”

**Jim McGrath**
“Teaching Digital Public Humanities with the Public Library: The Lou Costa Collection, the Updike Collection, and the AS220 Collection at the Providence Public Library.”

**Diane O’Donoghue**

**Ron Potvin and Marjory O’Toole**
“Hyperlocal History: Linking People to the Past through Class, Race and Memory.”

**Susan Smulyan**
“What Can Public Art Teach the Public Humanities?”


## Initiatives, Conferences and Exhibitions

### Initiatives

**Rhode Tour**

is a statewide mobile smartphone application containing thematic “tours” of Rhode Island’s history using text, sound and images. Launched in 2014, it is a joint initiative of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and the JNBC.

**Year of the City: The Providence Project**

comprises exhibitions, performances, walks, lectures and conferences about the life, culture and history of Providence produced by more than 50 different curators all over the city. The initiative took place throughout 2019 and was organized by Providence Public Library, ¡City Arts! for Providence Youth, and the JNBC.

### Conferences

**Radical Cartography Now: Digital, Artistic and Social Justice Approaches to Mapping**

September 27

**Fifth Annual Hacking Heritage Unconference**

March 7

### Exhibitions

**Map It Out Providence**

An exhibition of maps created by Providence residents with Canadian artists Gwen MacGregor and Sandra Rechico, who were in residency at the JNBC for two weeks in September 2019.

September 26 – November 14

**Siempre Esperando: Remittances and their False Promise in El Salvador**

A photography and history exhibition curated by JNBC student, Edwin Rodriguez.

November 14 - February 1

**Defiant Spirits: Fernando Brito’s Sinaloa**

An exhibition of the documentary photographer Fernando Brito’s images of violence and resilience in Sinaloa, Mexico.

February 6 – August 1, 2020

### Tiny Exhibits

**Tiny Exhibits** is a student-led rotating installation series in a display case on the first floor of the Center for Public Humanities; The Tiny Team for 2019-2020 included Maggie Unverzagt Goddard MA ’17, PhD ’21, Sophie Don MA ’20, and Hanna Leatherman MA ’21.

**Naive Melodies**

Curated by Hanna Leatherman MA ’21

December 10 – January 28

**Crossroads, Crosswords**

Curated by Zach Hayes MA ’21

January 30 – February 11

**Paper Theaters**

Curated by Bella Carlos Brown/RISD ’21

October 3–15

**Paper or Bioplastic**

Curated by Valentine Amari ’21

October 17–29

**Small Furniclers**

Curated by Erin Anthony

October 31 – November 12

**Remodeling Reliquaries**

Curated by Jordana Siegel ’20 & Emma Vecchione ’20

November 14–26

**Gimme More !!**

Curated by Andy Goodman MA ’21 & Taylor R. Payer MA ’20

March 12–31
Public Humanities Now: New Voices, New Directions

The Center for Public Humanities’ ongoing lunch talk series invites innovators in public history, culture and the arts who are redefining and extending the field of Public Humanities.

Refusing to See
Rosten Woo, Artist and Co-founder, Center for Urban Pedagogy
September 26, 2019

The Narragansett Food Sovereignty Initiative
Cassius Spears, Knowledge Keeper and Narragansett Tribal Member
October 8, 2019

The Art of Embedded Histories
Edouard Duval-Carrié, Artist and Curator
October 24, 2019

Evidence, Ethics, and Exposure in Post-conflict Indonesia
Lauren Yapp, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Unspoken Heritage
October 31, 2019

Kīpuka Aloha ‘Āina: Spaces of Indigenous Hawaiian Resurgence
Mary Tuti Baker, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Political Science
November 14, 2019

Queering the College Campus Map
Pegah Rahamanian, Director of the Unity Center, Rhode Island College
November 19, 2019

Fostering Community-Driven Archives: Meeting Practitioners at Their Point of Need
Angela DiVeglia, Curatorial Assistant at Providence Public Library; Dr. Taino J. Palermo, RWU Community Development Graduate Program; and Kate Wells, Curator of RI Collections at Providence Public Library
December 5, 2019

Traces: Honoring a Neighborhood’s History and Soundscape
Sebastian Ruth, Founder and Artistic Director and Kelly Reed, Managing Director, Community MusicWorks
February 6, 2020

Institution-Building with Art and Artists at the Core
Nico Wheadon, Executive Director, NXTHVN
February 11, 2020

Estates of Sanctuary: The Struggle Against Information Asymmetry
Libertad O. Guerra, Executive Director, Clemente Soto Vélez Cultural and Educational Center
February 20, 2020

HIV/AIDS, Queer Activism, and the Public History of Everyday Life
Stephen Vider, Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Public History Initiative, Cornell University
February 25, 2020

Empowerment through Discomfort: Transformative Inclusion in Exhibition Planning
Michelle Grohe, Curator of Education, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
March 3, 2020

Radical Archives: Preserving and Promoting Womxn’s History at the Pembroke Center Archives
Mary Murphy, Nancy L. Buc ’65 Pembroke Center Archivist, Brown University
March 31, 2020

The Providence “Art in City Life” Plan
Gina Rodriguez-Drix, Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Providence’s Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism
April 2, 2020
“For me, Public Humanities is about building and maintaining ties with community organizations and members we work with to better understand our role as scholars who center Ethnic Studies in collaboration with their missions and goals.”

Edwin Rodriguez
American Studies PhD Student, MA’20
The JNBC Community

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

Dietrich Neumann
Director
Professor of the History of Art and Architecture

Susan Smulyan
Director, 2014-20
Professor of American Studies

Marisa Angell Brown
Assistant Director
Adjunct Lecturer

Ron Potvin
Assistant Director
Adjunct Lecturer

Sabina Griffin
Center Manager

Majida Kargbo
Director of Graduate Studies
Postdoctoral Research Associate in Public Humanities

Jim McGrath
Postdoctoral Research Associate in Digital Public Humanities

ADVISORY BOARD

Anthony Bogues
Director, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice
Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory

Kath Connolly
Independent Consultant

Beshara Doumani
Director, Middle East Studies
Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle Eastern Studies

Julie Ellison
Professor of American Culture and English,
University of Michigan

Elizabeth Francis
Executive Director, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

Matthew Guterl
Chair, American Studies
Professor of Africana Studies and American Studies

Alma Carrillo Lopez, MA’07
Director, Buffalo Arts Studio

Deitrich Neumann
Director, Urban Studies
Professor of History of Art and Architecture, Urban Studies and Italian Studies

Stephanie Norby
Director, Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access

Randall Rosenbaum
Director, Rhode Island State Council for the Arts

Neil Safier
Director, John Carter Brown Library
Associate Professor of History

John Smith
Director, RISD Museum

Lorén Spears
Director, Tomaquag Museum

Marc Vogl
Consultant, Vogl Consulting

Nico Wheaton
Executive Director, NXTHVN

FACULTY FELLOWS

Jim Egan
Professor of English

Kevin Escudero
Assistant Professor of American Studies

Elizabeth Hoover
Associate Professor of American Studies

Robert Lee
Professor of American Studies

Patrick Malone
Professor Emeritus of American Studies and Urban Studies

Monica Martinez
Assistant Professor of American Studies

Felipe Martinez-Pinzon
Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies

Deitrich Neumann
Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Amy Remensnyder
Professor of History
Royce Family Professor of Teaching Excellence

Sydney Skybetter
Lecturer, Theater and Performance Studies

Parker VanValkenburgh
Assistant Professor of Anthropology

COMMUNITY FELLOWS

Christina Bevilacqua
Director of Programs and Exhibition, Providence Public Library

Holly Ewald
Founder and Artistic Director, UPP Arts

Elizabeth Francis
Executive Director, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

Marta Martinez
Executive Director, RI Latino Arts

Marjory O’Toole
Executive Director, Little Compton Historical Society

Kate Wells
Curator, Rhode Island Collections, Providence Public Library

PRE-DISSERTATION FELLOW

Maggie Unverzagt Goddard
Department of American Studies
“The faculty, my classmates and fellow alumni, the practicum students I have had the opportunity to work with over the years, and enrolled students I often get to know through their projects in Providence are a constant source of inspiration. This is a network of interesting, curious, challenging and encouraging individuals who are making this field. Together we have celebrated our successes, unpacked our failures, created a body of knowledge, and pushed one another to continuously improve our practice.”

Stephanie Fortunato, MA ’08
Director, The City of Providence’s Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism