

Public History: Essays from the Field (Public History Series)



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The practice of public history takes many forms and accommodates varied perspectives and interests, but the goal remains constant-to broaden the public's appreciation and understanding of the past. The twenty-six essays that comprise this volume provide an introduction to both the varieties of work in which public historians are engaged and the common purposes they share. Part I includes essays on the development of the field historically and the education of public historians. Parts II and III explore the diverse career paths and work contexts that define the field today. A new essay, "On the Web: The September 11 Digital Archive," by James T. Sparrow of the University of Chicago, contributes to this discussion. Drawing upon their own experiences, the authors provide insight into the varied roles and responsibilities of public historians and delineate the special issues and factors that shape their work. Together they contribute to public history's efforts to redefine what it means to be a historian.



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