Introduction to Public Humanities (HUM 16:534:587)
Spring 2025, Thursdays, 5:40 to 8:40PM

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This course is open to all SAS graduate students in the humanities and to any other graduate students in SGS interested in learning about the public and digital humanities.

vanessa german, *Of Thee We Sing*
Lincoln Memorial Plaza
An innovative statue of Marian Anderson and her powerful 1939 concert at the Lincoln Memorial, held up by a sea of hands and historic images of the attendees

This course introduces students to interdisciplinary work and thought in the public humanities and public arts, and the theories, practices, and engagements with public audiences and community stakeholders that distinguish these fields. This course combines seminar-style discussions of critical texts on the public humanities and arts, with hands-on activities and work in these fields. In the spring 2025, students will 1) participate in the NJ Im/migrant Laborers' Monument Project, a Mellon Foundation Monuments Project that Prof. Urban is directing, and 2) conduct interviews with public humanities' practitioners and write blog posts for potential inclusion in the National Council on Public History's online publication *History@Work*. Students will learn from and speak with practitioners and scholars working in the public humanities and arts, conduct site visits to museums and public art and humanities locations, explore what it means to labor for and with museums, historic sites, and cultural institutions, and discuss how the public humanities and arts are positioned within higher education practice and pedagogy. Students should be prepared to ask and answer questions, "read" the built environment, analyze curated spaces, objects, artifacts, and digital interfaces, and most importantly, challenge themselves to practice the collaborative, interdisciplinary work that defines the public humanities and arts.