

Appendix C: Comments From Survey Respondents

Question 32 of the survey invited respondents to provide comments relating to the goals of the survey and their experiences. Specifically, the question stated:

The goal of this survey is to identify general patterns in employment for graduates of M.A. programs in public history. Is there any information you wish to provide that may help us with that goal? Please feel free to share challenges you encountered in finding satisfactory employment, your overall levels of job and career satisfaction, and any other issues you wish to mention. We are especially interested in the experiences of people trained in public history who have pursued careers in other fields. Comments regarding the usefulness and applicability of your public history training are especially welcome.

The comments received are presented here in full in the order received. Minor edits have been made in the interest of clarity, and some information has been redacted (mainly references to educational intuitions and places of employment) in order to preserve respondents' anonymity. Otherwise, the comments are presented exactly as submitted.

1. Having an M.A. in History and Applied History has suited me well so far. I was told by my current supervisor that it was a benefit for me that I had the M.A. in History rather than Museum Studies. I think this has made me more marketable for various public history positions. However, I am concerned about the lack of a museum studies degree when it comes to finding a job in a museum. I have tried to compensate for that by gaining practical experiences in museums.
2. No matter the curriculum, practical experience must remain essential, even in an age of tight scrutiny of unpaid internships. If paid internships are not possible, work study programs and partnerships between colleges and historic organizations hopefully can fill the gap.
3. The questions may skew results. In my case, I completed my M.A. and then went directly into a History PhD program, so the +2 years between my M.A. and a full-time job were spent as a continuing grad student. Similarly, I was fortunate to earn a TT job in Early American and Public History straight out of my PhD program, so technically, the number of jobs I held before I had one adequate to my training is 0, not 1. I feel that this survey is so skewed towards the terminal M.A. that the resulting data may treat those who continue on for a PhD as if they were underemployed during a period when they technically were not (putting aside complaints about grad student pay and health care).
4. I decided to get a PhD after my MA, and even as a person who is ABD, I struggle to find jobs that relate to public history. However, I feel that the training I have can be utilized elsewhere, and I do use it in my research and thinking.
5. My job hunt would be easier if I could move, but I can't right now. I've found that I have an interest in working in archives, something my degree isn't helpful for. I'm considering going for a library science degree.
6. Challenges in getting a public history job was that potential employers always wanted more experience than I had - how to get employed if I don't have the experience. Although I am not currently working in a public history job, I do use my degree on a regular basis by working at a non-profit. The

training I received in my program has helped me tremendously in understanding how my current employer works and the skills I learned help me to complete current tasks at work. I also am an unofficial historian for the non-profit I work for so on a regular basis I am using the public history and historical knowledge I obtained in graduate and undergraduate school.

7. Although I have a full time job outside of public history working in a university library, I am continuing to pursue my degree and I am working freelance on oral history projects.

8. I apologize if I don't fit the criteria. I received an MA in History with a field in Public History, then went to grad school elsewhere for a Ph.D. and pursued an academic job teaching public history. For the survey I did not count this as a public history job, but it is certainly related to public history.

9. I have been very lucky and my success has had far more to do with building a network outside of public history (in politics) than any skills I learned in graduate school. I spent 7 years in State Government between my first public history job and my second and this time allowed me to build a network of allies that directly led to my success.

10. I direct public programs at a history organization. My degree trained me well, though I wish I had learned more about curating and designing exhibits, as that is also an important part of the field.

11. My dual degree was in library science and I trained to be an archivist. Most people do not consider a reference librarian position to be in public history, but because I work in a state historical society with the state archives, a museum, oral history collections, a press, etc., I consider it to be very much a PH job. While my work is rewarding and my peer co-workers are great, there is a huge problem in many PH institutions with age-based mistreatment of younger staff, as well as bias against women and minorities. The current politics of money and funding in PH work is also terrible. So little long term security, and so little pay and benefits, especially relative to the cost of our educations. I also feel that PH graduates are at a disadvantage if they live in a region where the degree is uncommon. I had to explain my degree and program to many people after I started my first professional job.

12. The first job I had after grad school was only part time, but it was made full time after about 1 year.

13. When I first got into the public history field after obtaining my MA in American Studies, I could only secure part-time employment with a historic site. I went from 3 days a week for the first two years to 4 days a week for the next two years to 5 days a week as the historic site grew. I've been at 5 days a week for about two years, and I'm still working for the same historic site that I started at after grad school. I've been here 6 years.

14. Took position in communications in university IT department after having trouble finding public history job. I was able to argue that my skills in writing for the public and digital skills I picked up in graduate school were useful for translating technical information to a general audience. I worked there for 3 years before moving back into the field. It took approximately 1 year to find that new job. Was able to transition into communications and programming for a cultural org by combining work and educational experience.

15. My training, specifically under Dr. Kathy Franz, has proved to be very useful in application.

16. I began public history training as an undergraduate, but did not go straight to graduate school. I worked in business and finance for a few years before going back to grad school in public history. The experiences I had in business and finance balanced the public history training with even more transferable skills, so that today I am faculty and in higher ed administration. I always encourage my students to get a broad range of experiences and a dual degree if possible, in business, marketing, computer science -- all of which will augment their potentials in public history.

17. For the first 5-6 years after graduating, I was extremely underpaid and, as a result of manipulating nonprofit budgets to fund my pay or cobbling together multiple part time jobs, I had little to no benefits, even when working full time hours. This experience made me strongly question the wisdom of pursuing my (very expensive) degree and it is only now, six years later, that I feel slightly more comfortable with my professional standing, earnings, and benefits.

18. After completing my degree in archives and public history, with a concentration in public history, I pivoted toward archives. I held a job in archives at the time I graduated and have pursued a career in archives with an emphasis on public archival projects like mass digitization. I found the PH track to be very useful in preparing me for the more public facing aspects of a related career in archives. I also found that my training in public history helped me quickly find a job in archives, or at the very least did not stand in my way as I moved to a slightly different field.

19. The most useful part was the contacts I made along the way--courses were of mixed quality

20. The usefulness of my public history training with regard to employment is still uncertain because I have not ever held any full-time job since the year I completed my public history training in May 2001. I have applied for countless jobs in various sectors – museums, archives, publishing, historical editing, federal and state government, academia, documentary film, oral history, news media (magazines, broadcast, cable, newspapers), foundations, and law firms, and have received only a handful of interviews (most of them for academic jobs). I have spoken with public history advisors, practicing public historians, various career counselors, and many others. I have attended dozens of jobs panels and workshops, career fairs, and jobs seminars. I have repeatedly revised and reworked my resume and cover letters. I actively use the internet -- jobs websites and LinkedIn. Hundreds of qualified applicants apply for every job.

21. While I was pursuing a Masters in Public History, I managed a museum and worked as a librarian in a split capacity for the same full time job. I also hold a MLS. Public history and librarianship is a great combination. But I left the position to pursue a PhD in history (which will have a large public history focus). Your survey did not include questions about study beyond the masters.

22. I struggled to find a "real" job in a public history focused job--one that was permanent/full time, despite a lot of very positive feedback at networking events and what I thought were good interviews. I ended up using my dual degree in Archives and Public History to go into Archives, where I felt significantly more professional support and opportunity. I've been an archivist for 6 years and it is more fulfilling than any public history related work I did. That said, the public history education and training I received provided me with a lot of skills that have significantly helped with outreach, education, working with researchers, editing/writing, and exhibition work. I draw on my public history degree/the diverse opportunities it afforded me, but I do not have any real interest in working in the field. It seemed like a dead end to me and I've seen many of the public history focused graduates of my program struggle more compared to the archives related graduates.

23. Hi! I received my public history degree from NYU in 2013, while working full-time at NYU medical center in digital communications. I applied for a few public history jobs, but didn't truly pursue it for a few reasons: 1) I had worked full-time while receiving my degree, and so I felt didn't get to pursue the amount of internships/make the connections needed to get a job after graduation 2) I was paid pretty well, and felt my financial prospects would lessen (in fact, I did go three rounds at an organization who was interested in me but made nervous by my salary history) 3) I developed a growing interest in the field of user experience in my work I eventually took another class in UX, and ended up working at an ad agency in digital/experiential marketing and content strategy. I'm currently still freelancing here while building a start-up. I feel that the skills I learned during my public history training translate incredibly well to this - I can research and synthesize large amounts of information, I can organize that information like nobody's business, I can take complex information and turn it into compelling events for the public.

Lastly, the startup I'm developing actually centers around the concept of digital placemaking - something I wouldn't have even heard of without a public history degree!

24. I consulted for three years after leaving my first public history job of 6 years. During that time, I was not "full-time" employed and didn't have benefits, but I did feel connected to the field. I have now been in my current full-time curator position for 2 years and feel that both experiences led me to get this job.

25. Technical training and teaching skills will always be transferable and important.

26. I am working for a museum - but I was not prepared to be thrown into managing finances, and many other business issues - I was so good at the public history portion of my first role that I was promoted within the same org to a role with more responsibility (Assistant Director) - much of this is Admin, Human Resources, Budgeting, etc. and has completely removed the components of my prior job that dealt more directly with Public History. I had originally wanted to work with collections and objects - or even interpretation, but because of the jobs available and my skill set, I have been pigeon-holed into administration. Having this level of responsibility is overwhelming and I'm already trying to figure out how to get out of this job - if I'm unable to find a position that matches my training and interests, I am seriously considering leaving the field entirely.

27. The museum I interned with in graduate school considered me for a 20k/yr job as a secretary with no promise to move to the museum operations half of the institution. I would not have been able to live and pay back my student loans on that salary. I was able to get a job at a museum near my hometown after three years of volunteering there (while holding down two other jobs). I was considered for it because of my background in public history and my skills as demonstrated through volunteering. However, since I have a government job, it was really only luck that allowed me to actually get my current job.

28. Not enough employment opportunities in my area. I live in the Chicagoland area but even within the Chicago metro area jobs in public history are limited and when openings do come about, things are very competitive. Public history MA grads should be prepared to move anywhere in the country if determined to find work in the field. Public history MA programs would do well by focusing more on hands on, real world training. My first job in public history was with a city planning office working with historic districts. Unfortunately, my MA program did not provide much in the way of proper training such as knowledge of historic building materials, preservation techniques, architectural design. There was definitely a learning curve for me. In my opinion, my MA program focused too much on public history theory which I have seldom used. More real world, in the field applications would be of greater value.

29. While I found full time employment fairly quickly (during the fourth month after I graduated my program), it should be noted that the pay was still extremely low (just shy of qualifying for food stamps). I say that my training was only somewhat useful or applicable, because so many job postings require extensive experience with developing educational programming or exhibitions. More hands-on training as part of our graduate school curriculum could have helped bolster my resume in these areas. I think PH programs should try to work even more closely with local organizations to give students opportunities for long-term project engagement and training. Furthermore, many positions in my field for which I feel qualified (registration positions, library positions, etc.) require such specific training, they won't even view your resume.

30. Please note that I worked in museums/library archives for many years before I finished my degree. I also went on and earned my PhD in History directly after my MA, so I did not have my first full time job for a number of years after my MA. Now, as someone who hires Museum employees, as well as keeping an eye out for more suitable employment myself, I'm finding that our field is increasingly impacted. It's hard to acquire employment in specific fields of history as a scholar. The field is also more open and welcome for new graduates but is impacted more now because of many, many Museum Studies programs.

31. I did not pursue a career in public history after graduating. I am currently a graduate student at a different university in a field unrelated to public history. However, my academic experiences from my public history MA program are useful for my current graduate program. I do work part-time for a museum but my position is research-centered and I would not consider it public history in the traditional sense. I do believe that I gained adequate instruction and training in my public history program for an entry-level career in public history, but I wanted a career in academia and for that I needed a PhD. As graduate students in our public history program, we were not encouraged to pursue a PhD. This was disappointing considering that a few of us knew that we needed more education for our desired careers. We were told that public history and academia do not mix and that public history was only applicable to American/Western history. I strongly disagree and I think that this mindset needs to change in the field of public history. In my experience as someone pursuing an academic career in non-Western history, my public history background gives my research an unique perspective.

32. I found my internship with a museum the most helpful part of my training. My program spent a great deal on time on theory, most of which I have never had to apply in my public history jobs.

33. I hold currently hold two, part-time positions and both pay minimum wage (and both combined do not even offer enough money to live off of). My total hours for both positions rests under 25 hours per week without benefits of stipends. I have tried and tried to find a full-time position, but continually am out of luck. However, I do consider myself lucky that my spouse makes enough money to support us both so I can continue to have a job in my field. If it wasn't for their career, I would not be able to sustain my job in the field and would have to look elsewhere for employment.

34. ██████ did not provide any assistance in obtaining internships during the course of my education. They had no relationships with local museums- in ██████! Leaving school, I secured one job, despite having a degree from ██████. In almost every position I've held since graduating with an MA in Public History, I've been told it was either irrelevant or I've had a higher level of education than my manager. I'm now working to obtain a professional certificate in my chosen field, because there was nothing for me in Public History.

35. Trapped in the cycle of not getting a job due to lack of experience, but I can't get experience without a job. Retail job schedules have not allowed a consistent schedule to volunteer. There are too many museum studies programs, graduating too many students, and not enough positions.

36. I have not yet found a full time job

37. My program prepared me well for my current position.

38. Graduate programs are accepting too many students and flooding the job market with highly qualified jobseekers. This is an untenable situation.

39. I have been promoted or transitioned into three positions within the organization that is connected to the public history field. I went from a coordinator, associate director to now a department director. I will say that because I interned with this organization during the graduate work I was able to secure employment. I found the ability and process of finding employment in a related public history field very difficult! I was told it was important to get a graduate degree for this field but when applying to jobs did not have enough experience. It was tough.

40. The ability to compile and analyze information critically is an important skill to learn while in graduate school. The ability to document clear, substantiated arguments is important to any job, including those in public history. I found my degree provided me with a good base for thinking "like a historian," which was then augmented by quality mentorship and guidance while learning job specific tasks on the job.

41. The first 2-3 years post-graduation I worked in all public history related jobs, but they were all temporary and/or part-time. That's the most difficult part of the job market for me. Being unable to find full-time positions that lasted more than 3-6 months and were not contract positions or grant-funded and therefore did not offer benefits. The constant job search and job turnover is what has driven a lot of people I know to non-public history jobs.

42. I am not working in nonprofit administration and supporting many public history organizations. I worked within public history for the first 20 years of my career, over ten of those as freelance. I found it excruciatingly difficult to find work in the field, especially because I live in a rural area. My spouse, who is a graduate of the same program, is still working in public history.

43. I work in the technology sector on projects related to cultural institutions. My public history background has been extremely useful for understanding client needs and providing project management for some clients interested in digital projects.

44. After finishing my MA, I had two part-time positions in the public history field that combined provided 36 hours per week of work. Neither job offered any benefits. What made this type of employment possible was the financial support of my spouse as the major breadwinner and provider of insurance for both of us.

45. I could not find a job in public history a few years, so I worked at the [REDACTED] University Bookstore. When I was finally hired at the [REDACTED] it was only a part time position, which I have held ever since. In 2013 I went back to school to receive an MLIS. I am now looking for a job at a library.

46. When I graduated the economy was not great so I taught high school for a year. After that, I was fortunate to find a job at a museum and have been working in the public history field ever since. I have used the skills that I acquired from my degree in conjunction with other skills to create a niche for myself. My MA has definitely been an asset.

47. I would say that public history training at my educational institution needed to have more focus on non-profit management and museum education. Those two areas are hugely important to the field right now, and I'm feeling a bit like I'm playing catch-up.

48. I received my first job because of a positive recommendation from a classmate. I believe this was integral to obtaining this position.

49. More training needed in the digital humanities/cross classes between sociology, stats, and media. Lots of job opps. ask for familiarity with stats and surveys, some sort of media literacy.

50. A lot of competition on job market, especially for entry-level positions, due to proliferation of public history (or similar) programs. My program provided very little practical experience and no internship/job placement assistance. Most valuable and marketable experience from grad school was assistantship and internships I secured on my own. Have contemplated leaving field but received little interest from applications I've submitted.

51. Since graduation I worked in non-profit organizations as a project manager and worked my way into a position as a publications director. I believe that having a masters degree initially gave me an edge in gaining employment, but not necessarily the PH masters.

52. I ended up in records management, now information governance / information security. I had hoped to get into Archives, but the archival profession is essentially a closed shop limited to MLS recipients. As I later found out, archivists' pay is essentially poverty level, so staying out of that career path was a great decision.

53. My PH degree provided me a foundation for a certain period of my life. I would have enjoyed continuing to work in the field but opportunities and growth potential is fleeting.

54. My degree has allowed me to bring different perspectives in my corporate job and I teach history at a local community college, so I'm very happy.

55. I felt like there weren't enough opportunities to really gain practical experience during my MA program. I went to school in a large city in part because I expected the program to take advantage of its location and I felt like it really fell short of my expectations. I did some volunteering/internships on my own but was hoping that I could have made better connections during grad school.

56. I graduated 4 years ago and only now am beginning to feel as though I am earning my fair share. At my first full-time museum job, my boss (a bit older than me) held the viewpoint that I was supposed to "pay my dues" and did not advocate for me or my coworkers to get raises. I think this is very wrong. Museums should focus more on adequately paying their staff.

57. I work part-time in a museum and teach college online while raising my 5 children. Public history training was a great asset in creating new, innovative online college courses.

58. It really is a balance of luck and hard work. I spent two and a half years working hard but unsure if I would find a position I was passionate about in the field, and then it ended up working out and I have my dream job now. I feel very prepared by American University for my current position.

59. I worked full-time while getting my Masters. That can be difficult and in some ways might have limited my future job opportunities since I was pigeonholed in one company and didn't necessarily have a variety of internships.

60. Have the staff of university programs more willing to assist graduates with finding employment.

61. I ended up transitioning into a career in public education (high school level). My public history degree is somewhat useful, but I am constrained by the requirements of curriculum, testing, etc. My public history degree is most useful in helping me plan creative and unique lessons in the history classroom.

62. As an Executive Director I wish I would have had more time in the administration part of public history. I worked on "grants" in the MA program, but not too much with fund raising, budgets, marketing and public relations.

63. I held great positions in the field, then took time off to have kids. I still prefer part-time, but finding enough work and/or grant funding is a challenge, and I would like to do more.

64. The main challenge has been finding employment which will allow me to pay off my college loans. In working within the field, I have found satisfaction; however, it has been difficult to manage in this economy. My fiancé and I both work in the public history fields and while we love the work we do, we also have looked elsewhere in order to support our family.

65. I am currently the communications manager at a small public agency. I was unable to find public history work in the San Francisco Bay Area that came close to paying enough to live there. In 2008, I moved back to my hometown in Northern California and started a job at my current workplace. I have used many of the skills I learned in my masters program to work my way up to my current job, particularly writing for different audiences, critical thinking skills, and presenting information to the public. I occasionally look for jobs in the public history field, but have come to realize I can make more money and receive better benefits working at my current job.

66. The first job I got out of grad school was in a bank. I don't feel public history helped much in that field, but I did not stop my search. I have worked for three institutions in public history: two in salaried positions, one in a contractor capacity. I would likely still be in the field had I not chosen to prioritize having a family over my career. The priority is partly due to the salaries in the field compared to the daycare costs in my area.

67. Currently I work in the area of visitor and educational service which is of course a Public History area, but it is actually not the job position to work as a public historian. To get into the field of guided tours might be a bit easier as to do qualified conceptual work. In Berlin, there are far too many other applicants.

68. I am now the executive director of a nonprofit. It would have been very useful to have some training in nonprofit management incorporated into the public history program. Financial management, HR issues, and board governance training would have been particularly useful.

69. The main issue I face is finding a job that will pay a living wage. Majority of entry level jobs would barely allow me to pay rent, let alone permit me to make my student loan payments or purchase much needed items such as groceries or gas.

70. Public History is an amazing field but the issues lie in salary and the time spent at the office. I know several people who love this field but had to leave due to these 2 issues. Most of those who left still maintain contact with the public history field through volunteering, visiting sites, reading, or keeping in touch with old colleagues.

71. Relationships, networking, and interning are key for finding employment after graduation. Take people out to coffee for informational interviews. Send follow up emails. Send thank-you notes. Stay in touch with the professionals you meet while in school.

72. I think Public History programs in general would benefit from thinking of themselves more as professional rather than academic programs. There are extremely few position listings I've come across that haven't desired a proficiency in budget management, advertising, fundraising, and other related skills that are generally not touched upon in programs.

73. Have done unpaid/volunteer work, but have never been offered a Preservation-related job despite applying to any that come up in my area, which are few and far between.

74. When I was still in grad school searching for a job I found the most disappointing thing to be not hearing from institutions. Although I did not apply to many places it was frustrating not hearing whether or not I got rejected so that I could move on to other opportunities.

75. I am currently a grant writer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and before that worked at the National Trust in donor communications as well as in membership. I'm not entirely sure if my job is technically part of the public history field (my organization is), but I think that the public history field should expand to include positions like mine. My program did not talk about fundraising a lot and I think that a public history background was actually helpful in my position. Development has a lot to offer public history graduates and I feel it is glazed over for the more directly relatable jobs like interpretation and education.

76. Doing public history related work but as an independent contractor in a library. This was the only way to get a job. Being a contractor means no guarantee of constant work, no benefits like health care or vacation or sick leave, no life insurance, no retirement funds. It is hard to see where this pathway will lead me to next.

77. I currently work as an educator and my training has helped me in that field. After graduation I was unemployed in the field for more than a year. I struggled to find work due to the government shut and lack of funds. I was offered unpaid positions by many employers but I was not in a financial position to accept those offers. I often wish someone would have helped my class with a crash course in finding employment and standing out in the sea of applicants. I still have a strong desire to return to the field but at the moment I am concentrating on using my educational background to advance my career in education.

78. While I do not consider my job to be a "public history" job in that my primary role is not to facilitate the public's engagement with history, I do work as an educator in a Museum, so it is a closely related position. However, there were other degrees I could have obtained that were closer to what I am now currently doing.

79. I completed an MA in Public History and went directly into a PhD in history which was important to improving my skills and getting the position I have today.

80. While the skills I've earned through my prior experience and graduate work are necessary to completing my job successfully, my position description and my salary do not reflect those skills and experience. I am underpaid by about 10-15,000 a year compared against equivalent experience and education in the nonprofit sector for my region with a term limited position that provides limited stability.

81. I believe that I am still in the field primarily because I landed a job in the government that is tangentially related. Had I not secured a Federal position, I am not sure how long I would have lasted in the field due to financial considerations.

82. Even though I am no longer in the field of public history, I feel that my training, degree, and subsequent positions working digital positions at museums provided me with a lot experience and training that helps me in my position doing digital communications at a private company. I would have liked to have stayed within public history, but living in the DC area is very expensive, and the entry- and mid-level positions just weren't paying enough.

83. My biggest problem was I was living in DC. I worked at the a government agency in visitor services for 5 years and have no problem telling you it was the worst experience I have ever had. Working for the government was very difficult because every job is so highly specialized that there is little opportunity to learn from another department (the way you have to in a nonprofit). My bosses had all managed department stores and drug stores and had zero history background. I fought very hard for training opportunities and details with other departments, which did pay off to some extent. I was not "competitive" status, so I couldn't get out of the agency and into a better one. Eventually, I gave up my dream of living in DC and moved back to the state I am from. Now I am the head of a very small museum so I guess it all worked out. My advice is to be willing to leave DC/NYC/whatever city you are trying to get a job in.

84. Your survey seems to forget that some people worked in public history long before getting their degree. I give no credit to my graduate program in helping me acquire my current position--10 years of progressive responsibility in part time jobs while in high school and college got me my current position, before my diploma was issued. as with most museum positions I am not making millions of dollars and I work long hours, but I am extremely happy with my current situation.

85. Started working for National Park Service prior to entering MA for public history; continued in park ranger positions working with public daily (interpretation at historic sites with collateral duties focusing on museum collection). Now, a chief of resources and facilities.

86. The training historians receive is rarely asked for in specific terms by employers. However, these skills make for good employees

87. I struggled to find employment in historic preservation (my public history specialization), due to lack of available jobs in the area and my inability to relocate. I also lacked the capital to go into business for myself. After about a year, I took a job as a newspaper reporter. This may seem far afield, but it involved the same skill set, just a different application. My training was also useful as I primarily covered local governments, so I especially drew on what I learned in the classes dealing with preservation and law. An internship with in the planning department of a larger nearby city, with their Historic Resources Commission staff, undoubtedly helped as well. However, while I do not *work* in the public history field, I do sit on my county's Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission. I was appointed when the board was created in 2008.

88. My undergraduate degree was also in public history and I came to grad school with 7 years of work experience; the work experience made it easier for me to find a job. My colleagues without paid experience were on the market for much longer.

89. Be sure to obtain as many internships and/or part-time positions in the field of public history (or a closely related field) while in school, it helps tremendously when entering the job hunt after school.

90. The most applicable things that I learned for my current and previous public history positions came more from my internships than the MA public history courses. So much of securing my first position was about being in the right place at the right time and knowing the appropriate people who could vouch for my work - these relationships were built through my internships and part-time work as a student. I have sat on a few interview committees over the years and always feel grateful for the position I have when I see so many greatly qualified people and very few positions.

91. Well, I get a year of AmeriCorps VISTA with Preservation Alliance as a result of having a public history degree. I am currently employed as a [REDACTED] with WVU Extension so I think the degree from WVU helped a lot. Public history training allowed me to talk about public education, work with research, work with a wide variety of audiences, work with budgets and long-term community projects. All of those skills helped me get my current professional position.

92. It took me 3.5 years to find any type of professional job. The biggest hardship I encountered was having too much schooling and not enough real-world experience. I had a couple of internships related to public history, but they were not "significant" enough for my resume. The best asset to me was my MA advisor. He was instrumental in my education, job search, and preparation for the work force. I could not have done it without him. I am completely happy in my field and with my education. However, it was not easy and took a very, very long time to even gain an interview. I believe I would not recommend an MA in Public History, or any field, to anyone simply due to the state of the economy and the difficulties faced with trying to establish a career.

93. I am taking this survey despite the fact that my Masters is in Historic Preservation, and is an MS. "Public History" can be broadly defined, and since many folks I know professionally who work in the HP field come from Public History backgrounds, I think it is only fitting to include myself among the ranks of public historians. My BA is in history, and my official title is Historian. Maybe I was lucky in getting a position that suits my training and is, essentially, what I was looking to do. My first job out of college, though, was only a stepping stone, one I knew I had to take in order to advance in my field. I lost money doing it, but gained the requisite experience necessary to obtain a certain professional level. My advice? Be willing to go anywhere to gain employment; be willing to live frugally for a couple of years; be willing to live tenuously in a career path that is typically only appreciated by those with whom you have personal contact.

94. After finishing university I started to make my PhD in contemporary History/public history. Now my temporary employment ends while I've not finished my PhD yet. So I'm trying to finish it living from unemployment benefit and looking for a new job in whatever field because of the economic

responsibility I take for my family. I would like to stay in the public history field, but first of all I need a permanent contract, which seems to be very rare in the field.

95. My graduate program did little to nothing to prepare me for the area of public history that I wanted to enter (and have subsequently become employed). They focus on outdated rhetoric and literature and give little to no credence to public programming or museum education.

96. The full-time job I took after graduation was only a stop-gap measure to pay the bills while I finished my book on the history of the [REDACTED]. When that was completed, I accepted a position of archivist and senior curator at the [REDACTED], where I stayed for 6 years. I then moved to San Antonio where I am archivist and historian for a private family, whose collection rivals what I did in South Texas by far in terms of personal histories related to the Civil War, Mexican/US business relationships, the growth of the timber industry in the late 19th century, WWI, worldwide geophysical exploration in the 1920s-1960s, and San Antonio and Texas history. I am VERY satisfied and am so glad I made a career change at mid-life to public history.

97. My training has been very useful in my current job but my pay is very low.

98. After graduation from MA Public History I did a PhD in Museum History Studies. I have finished the PhD recently, still looking for a job a Curator or in Science Management.

99. I was appointed town historian before I completed an MA in American History. Needing a full time job, too, I found employment with a nearby county as an archivist and historian in the records management office. This enabled me to use my MA degree for nineteen years until I retired. I continue in my original town historian's position (thirty years). The MA in history degree has been essential in my careers.

100. Difficulties accepting defined conditions of labor in a labor environment defined by capitalist standards of production and consumption. To make it clear: no desire to work under precarious conditions i.e.: temporary contracts.

101. Useful to have exposure to preservation, archives, and museums. Need more technical building knowledge, nonprofit management, and project management skills. All key. Unclear what the definition of "public history" is for this survey – seems to be often thought of as academic, but it is in fact so many other things.

102. I received my MA in public history, with a concentration in historic preservation. While my current job as an architectural historian is my ultimate career field choice, I have found that my concentration in HP prepared me minimally in the field of architectural history, which subject I believe constitutes a major and important role in historic preservation.

103. My public history training included lots of hands on opportunities (volunteering, internships). These were the most valuable parts and allowed me to develop the skills necessary to find employment.

104. I worked as a report writer and project manager for major higher education accreditation projects. It was very helpful to have the writing skills and project management experience.

105. Don't overlook a low-paying position in public history for your first job if it provides you with varied experiences. My first position allowed me to gain experience in arranging and describing collections, working with donors, cataloging collections, designing and mounting exhibits, serving as an historical editor, and conducting collection surveys. The experience I gained over those three years coupled with the projects I completed for outside entities during my graduate program led to the position I've held in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress for the last twenty-five years.

106. I've had two full-time public history positions since graduating. My boyfriend who I live with and graduated the same year as me has also had two full-time public history positions. We consider ourselves some of the lucky ones since most people in our year had to spend at least 6 months unemployed. Both of us love our jobs and daily activities. However we are extremely stressed financially. We live paycheck to paycheck and feel we are severely underpaid for the amount of education and experience we have. (Both of us gave up a career in an unrelated field where we made 3x as much!!)

107. I was in the dual MLIS/MAH (Applied History) program, and decided to split the degrees so that I could be hired as a librarian before finishing my MAH (I had finished the MLIS requirements first). My MAH degree had an archives emphasis, which was very useful because my career has been in small, liberal arts college libraries that have archival materials. I was able to take on the responsibility for overseeing the archives.

108. As the only public history programs available were in a different province I had to travel for my program. I travelled out of the country for a paid internship; only to break even from that experience. I moved back to my home province to be met with little to no opportunity so I decided to follow my partner to another new province instead. There I took a job in a coffee shop, despite several cultural/historical spots in that capital city – no one was hiring. I worked at that coffee shop to support myself while also taking on volunteer positions at the three key cultural sites in that city. A year later I got an entry level/part-time tour guide position at one, and two temporary contracts. After four years of balancing contract after contract and part time/seasonal tourism work I finally landed the position I am in now. I took over for someone who retired in the Parliamentary Education Office of the Legislative Assembly of BC. I would say my experience in my Public History MA most certainly assisted in my current position.

109. Obtaining the initial job in a stressed economic environment (recession of 2008) was incredibly difficult. However, with just a few years of experience, several new opportunities opened up and I have found that advancing in public history fields is generally favorable, especially for those willing to change geographic locations.

110. Training significantly helped me improve the sophistication, breadth, and depth of my work in the public history field. My biggest frustrations were not being able to use that training more in my daily work to staffing and budget limits, and not being allowed to travel to conferences or further training in public history without having to take my own personal leave time to do so. Having a strong academic background in History, rather than merely in Public History, really helped me specialize the work that I did at my job, and helped me cross the divide more easily between academic work and "in the field" public history work.

111. After funding cuts I shifted positions within the university. Knowledge of research, writing, speaking, public interaction, and academics related via Public History degree and employment. I still do public history (largely for free as a public service and I still enjoy it) outside my current university job. Being well trained in computers during Public History, I still work for the university, but now as a professional Web Developer (building/maintaining websites).

112. I think that my public history training was successful in allowing me to build the skills base necessary to perform in my current position (Registrar at a small historical society). However, the difficulty coming out of graduate school was that there are a very limited number of entry level positions in most museums. Especially when combined with the level of position that most people desire after completing a graduate degree. Further, there is very real pressure on most people to find a full time job with benefits immediately following graduation because of the cost of obtaining a graduate degree. I think a large number of people leave the field because of financial considerations then a lack of desire to continue pursuing public history work.

113. Took several assistant positions before advancing to an appropriate title.

114. I work at a history consulting firm. We do everything from writing corporate histories and researching companies for litigation to curating exhibits for leading museums around the country. This is not a path that I necessarily considered when I first started my degree. I thought I'd search for a museum position and ended up here. I love it and think there are a lot of alternative public history jobs out there that people don't consider. I suggest broadening your students' minds to what they can actually do with their degrees and don't pigeonhole them into museums or historic sites.

115. I accepted a position within 6 months of graduation. I believe in the mission of my institution and I believe my job is very important. However, as I work for a small museum, much of my time is taken up by working at the front desk, cleaning, and other general operating requirements. If we had a larger staff or more funding, I would be better able to use my training and develop my skills further.

116. Focus on practical experience rather than theoretical.

117. I think the course work might benefit from some level of PR training (how to write a press release, how to host a town hall meeting, how to engage community and build consensus, etc.) Some level of PR training may help make public history more public.

118. Even though I am not working professionally in public history, I hold a volunteer position (chair of my local historic preservation commission) and serve on the boards of several historic preservation-related non-profit organizations. My degree enabled me to bring a level of professionalism to these non-paid positions that brings credibility to our efforts.

119. The training in public history was useful for writing and critical thinking skills. Ultimately I could earn more money in another field, especially since family considerations limited me to a smaller-size city.

120. While I don't directly work in public history, the work I do I feel is definitely related and that my public history training has come in handy for my work. I work in a government agency dealing with FOIPA requests.

122. I think there are plenty of jobs in public history, but the pay tends to be low. Public history programs do a good job of preparing people for the field, but in my opinion, graduate students should not be encouraged to accumulate debt to get a public history degree.

123. I had to learn fundraising in the field. The earlier one learns in public history education about raising money and issues of management (such as roles of boards, policies, fiscal health, e.g.)--the better

124. It's discouraging that pay is so low and often with poor or no benefits. I left my last job because there was no retirement plan.

125. My first job after I finished my MA in Public History was as an Archives Assistant at [REDACTED]. After working there for a while I came to the conclusion that I could not move within the organization without having a library science degree. I got frustrated with this fact and decided to go back to school so that I could be challenged more and receive better pay for the work I did.

126. Many of the jobs for people just finishing school are in education, so I think there should be more focus on museum education in Public History programs. Working in a small museum, my skills are regularly put to work and I am seen as one of the most qualified people in the building.

127. More classes on hands-on skills, and requirements for internships or practicums is good. My public history degree helped a lot, but it was my prior experience as an intern that got me my first job out of grad school. I left public history out of necessity, not choice, and I hope to get back to the field again

soon, but if the funding is not there, the education and training become critical for succeeding in gaining what few positions are available.

128. With a PhD and focus on public history, you are in the difficult position of both being over and under qualified for jobs in the field.

129. I felt better prepared for working in the field of public history after I completed my BA in History than I did after I completed my MA in Public History. As an undergraduate I had a lot of hands-on learning opportunities, and I gained a lot of great experiences and professional connections at public-history-related internships and jobs I held while an undergrad. But when I got to grad school the internship supervisors were not as willing to give any important tasks to interns and I couldn't secure any jobs at all related to public history (note that I did not have a degree or background in education/museum education, and that I did not pursue positions in say, gift shops, cafes, etc. that happened to be only marginally related to the public history organization/institution). I applied for probably 80 jobs in areas such as curatorial work, research positions, giving tours, managing volunteers, archival work, etc. I only received 2 responses and was only invited to interview in those two cases, both of which ended up being online via Skype. I looked in Pennsylvania, MD, DC area, VA, MA, NY, WV, OH, IL, and a few other areas (basically northeast, mid-Atlantic, and Midwest regions). I will admit I only spent about 3 months on this though. I had already done a lot of unpaid work/volunteering while an undergrad and I was not willing to continue working for free my entire life. So, a few months after graduating with my MA, I found a job working in Financial Aid at a local university. They hired me, and I've been there for 3 years. My training in public history is only relevant in that spending 6 years in higher education prepared me for that environment, and in general, humanities studies do help hone writing and other soft skills.

130. I obtained a job at a museum using my MAHR/public history degree, but I had to supplement that position with university-level teaching to compensate fiscally.

131. It was hard to find a position in my field because most museums want someone with 3+ years experience which most new graduates do not have. I had a internship every summer ever since I decided I wanted to work in museums and was fortunate to have classes in my public history programs that allowed me to gain experience in exhibit curation, I was able to find a job. Many of the museums excepted my internship and class projects as experience, but most did not. After I kept hearing no from museums I started emailing them asking why they had not chosen me and most of them said it was because I did not have enough experience, a few museums ended up not filling the position, and a few wanted people with 5+ years experience even though they advertised for 2 or 3+.

132. I loved my work in public history, but found that the institution where I worked was not forward thinking. They were only interested in maintaining stability to their collection. My training at the University level left me extremely frustrated with glacial speed at which this organization moved. When I was offered a college teaching position, I sadly left the field of public history.

133. My challenge is to find a permanent position within the National Park Service. Not only are veterans given more weight, but experience trumps education. For an individual like me, who just realized what I wanted to do with my life. It was hard to get an upper ranking job. It still is. To get the position I have now, a GS4 seasonal position. I applied for eight months straight (including the time before I graduated), and was one of 303 applicants. I only got the job because the park that hired me I interned at the previous summer and made no secret I wanted to make a career out of the service. In other aspects I feel over qualified for my position. My job is research and presentation so far. Nothing else. I don't need a public history focus for this. My superintendent never went to college and she worked her way up the ranks. Yet I with a MA can't get a GS9 position because I lack the practical experience. However, a friend of mine (also in Public History) is working on his own MA and he too is having to accept GS4 positions. The difference is that he has worked for various parks and museums for fifteen plus years and has been given higher ranking job opportunities. He just finished a GS7 seasonal position at Acadia. I

wish we had more emphasis on more required practical experience beyond writing papers and the one internship we had to do at my university. Yes my department gave me opportunities to look at archiving, oral history, and other avenues but the department was focused on the traditional history path. I also wish I knew that in government work there is no distinction between paid work and volunteer work.

134. I participated in a dual degree program in Public History and Library and Information Science. My background in public history prepared me well as an archivist, and taught me invaluable skills that set me apart from the librarians and archivists I work with today. I will say that I succeeded because I knew immediately what I wanted out of the program, and that in order to get the experiences I wanted I needed to create them myself. There does need to be more support to help students find FUNDED internships and experiences at a graduate level. I came into my graduate studies with 4 years of non-paid and paid internship experience – the suggestion to do an internship for credit was unnecessary as I did that three times already. Professors met my suggestion to change the program requirements to fit my needs with displeasure at times, but I was also an unfunded student because I participated in the dual program. (I didn't qualify then to receive an assistantship.) My point is that if there is anything to be learned it is that the program requirements need to be even more flexible to accommodate students of all kinds in their graduate studies – because cohorts are extremely diverse in their areas of interest. Relatedly, programs need to award and provide more funded opportunities. Professors also need to let up some of their funds – you know the ones they sit on and try to not share – with graduate students – it may not be fair – but I heard "I can't fund this opportunity I'm telling you about because you need to do it for who knows what reason" so many times that it was absolutely ridiculous. And, if not faculty then the departments – and if funds are extremely tight, then it is a larger university issue - in which case the situation expands beyond the public history program and history department, which affects the lives of students in multiple disciplines. And, then in turn begs the question of "are these graduate programs sustainable and appropriate at this university?"

135. I found employment as a tenure-track faculty in History at a community college. My Public History MA has greatly informed my teaching style and I consider it an important part of my course curriculum.

136. My answers will be skewed because after completion of my MA I went directly into a PhD program. Public history will be one of my minor fields in the PhD. Thus I have not really been seeking employment, though I do work in public history in several ways (chair of a museum board, curator of two outside exhibitions this year, etc.).

137. My answers may not be typical because I am a second-career public historian who came to the field with a Ph.D. in another discipline. My academic training and teaching experience contributed more to my ability to find my two-full time appointments than did my public history training. Even as a full-time public history MA student (I left my job to pursue the education and the work), I was concerned that my department did not require sufficient hands-on experience. Of the 17 public history graduate students I took classes with and whose current career I am aware of, only 6 are employed full-time in the field. When, at the time, I asked the faculty about this, I was told that too many students in our program were working full-time to support their educational goals for the department to require experience beyond the internship/closure project. I appreciated that my personal situation made it possible for me to accept wonderful, unpaid internship opportunities even going out of state to pursue them but I was concerned that my colleagues were going to be disadvantaged in the field. I sought out more opportunities than my program typically expected and then more or less demanded that I be able to take them for Pass/Fail credit so they would go on my transcript. Without those experiences, I am confident that I would not be where I am today. My department was supportive of my independent streak but did not really push my colleagues to work or volunteer in the field. Many of them, as a result, are not practicing public historians today. I share the concerns expressed by many that "entry level" positions in public history are too often part-time or unpaid volunteer slots. This is not a sustainable model particularly for students who may be going into debt to earn the MA (again, I had a scholarship that enabled me to graduate student-debt free). But, by the same token, the places where I volunteered and interned would not have been able to offer those opportunities if they had had to pay for my time. So I recognize the catch-22 nature of the

problem. Since I graduated, my program has added a digital component which I applaud. While I think I got an excellent education, my job prospects would have been enhanced had I had more "practitioner" classes added to (not in place of) the more traditional history classes (ex. strategic planning, using hand tools, design, etc.--all of which I was asked in various job interviews). Sorry for the length here but I love this field and I loved the classroom and field training I had in preparation. I just wish more of my grad school colleagues felt the same.

138. The two years of course work (40 hours) were fine, but competing the required MA thesis (137pages) was what got me stuck. Some programs don't even have a thesis requirement!

139. Public History specific jobs are scarce. I secured a great paid internship through my MA program, and I worked throughout my entire time in the MA program. After school, I was hoping to get a full-time position at [REDACTED], but my director's request was denied. There were not any museum positions that fit what I was looking for when I graduated. Prior to grad school, I worked in development. I ended up taking a job at a private elementary/middle school working in development again. Whereas I'm not really putting my degree to work right now, I try to help out at [REDACTED] whenever they call me, I'm chaperoning a history field trip for our 8th graders to Boston, and I do some grant writing, so the writing component comes in handy. I did receive a couple of job offers for positions more closely related to public history in a museum setting, but unfortunately, one was too far away and another would have been too large a pay cut. I'm confident that something will pan out one day--even if I continue to work in a volunteer capacity in public history.

140. The public history graduate program prepared me to consider various ways to express history to a broad audience. This is something I use every day in my position as a special collections and oral history archivist.

141. I work as a history librarian at an institution that has a growing public history program, as well as a digital humanities community. My training in public history was actually more related to digital humanities, but they have the same ethos for public scholarship, interdisciplinary methods, and training of tools for doing digital history.

142. There seems to be a lack of requirements /opportunities for Public History and Public Humanities participants to learn technical skills. I wish I had been required to learn a specific software programs like GIS, Past Perfect, Adobe Photoshop, etc. We can no longer rely on the idea that a public historians work ends at the collection and documentation stage. We need the technical skills to be able to promote and market this work to others in our digital age.

143. I secured my first full-time position within the public history field at the same time I graduated from my master's degree program.

144. I have found my public history training to be useful both in the field of history and in other sectors. It gave me a thorough understanding of how to research, write, and effectively communicate ideas. These are skills essential to any field and has allowed me to differentiate myself from my non-public history trained peers.

145. Immediately after graduating with my MA I was able to secure 3 part time jobs that helped keep me afloat until I found my first full-time job nearly a year later. I had applied for 120 full-time jobs in the meantime, which I think is outrageous. I had three years worth of diverse internships, had a perfect GPA, etc., and still had a heck of a time finding a full time job. I'm not sure what could have been done to help – at the time the economy was starting to tank and there was a glut of public history grads in the area (Indianapolis). That was a terrible year, waiting on a real job to appear. Now, mid-career, I feel a bit stuck. I would really like to get another job that pays more and treats its employees fairly but feel limited in my geographical area due to family obligations. There just aren't a lot of public history jobs in my city. I wish that I had gotten a dual MLS degree so I had some career flexibility. I love public history and don't

want to leave the field, but it would be so helpful to have some extra training in another area to be able to secure a higher paying job somewhere. I sometimes think about getting my MBA.

146. The program that I attended was one that provided a wide range of hands-on opportunities throughout the required coursework. For this reason, I felt that I was qualified when I took my first job just prior to graduation.

147. The rising cost of health insurance over the last 20 years has made the cost of employment prohibitively expensive for many small/midsize firms, which is a typical source of employment for public historians—something to consider when looking at long-term trends.

148. I'm now a paid freelance consultant (part-time) in oral and local history. But it started with paid internships during my MA program. Word of mouth tends to work really well.

149. Just preparing students to be flexible with several different skill sets is important. I work at a county museum with only 1 other full time staff member, so we have to do a little of everything. Think outside the box with regards to topics. I have had to do a lot of budgeting and HR work and I had to learn that as I went.

150. I was able to secure a job far sooner than any others in my grad school cohort because I maintained a close relationship with the institution I interned with. Without that relationship, I am certain I would currently be in a very different position in my career.

151. When I was looking for my first full-time job in museums twenty years ago the salaries were quite low. The salaries are still quite low but student loans have skyrocketed. People pursuing public history and related degrees should know this and perhaps be counseled to get a second graduate degree in Public Administration or Business Administration while they are in graduate school. It will only help them in the future. I almost did this and wish an advisor or professor would have encouraged me to do so. Public History and museum programs should partner with public administration programs so that students can get a dual degree in public history, museum studies, etc. and public administration in 3 years instead of 4 if you go through this special program. That would be incredibly useful.

152. With a Public History degree I feel like I am only partially qualified for positions; not fully qualified for most archivist positions because I do not have an MLS, not qualified for museum jobs because I do not have a specialization (i.e., education, management), the only jobs I seem to be qualified for are architectural historian or oral history positions.

153. Public speaking for historian instead of writing course. As a public historian does not write for academic purposes. Two courses in writing, at any level, will service that need for writing for a public history student.

154. I chose not to focus on a public history/museum studies degree because I was concerned about finding work. I entered into a dual Library Science (archiving) and History Masters program (MLIS/MA). I was closer to finishing MLIS while working at a small museum and interning at a public library. I chose to move toward public libraries and did not finish the History MA because of cost/value.

155. I am two years out of grad school and in the second of a long-term, full-time paid internship position. The work I'm doing is great, but I'd prefer to find a "real job" once my current position ends. I'm also worried how long this next job search will take and whether I can stay in the public history field. During my job searches, it has been hard to find jobs that are full-time, in a location where I'd like to live, and match my professional interests and qualifications. My sense is that there are a lack of entry-level jobs out there (especially ones that can pay the bills); many jobs require a few years of experience already.

156. I was fortunate in that a PT position with no benefits morphed into a FT position with good benefits. I enjoy my job, but as a lone arranger, I sometimes find myself overwhelmed with the number of big projects I am obligated to take on—currently an outsourced digitization project, a new exhibit, and moving the archives. My previous experience in business helps me to coordinate all of these tasks and maintain work-life balance. I wish I had accepted a second internship while in grad school to gain more practical experience.

157. I wish that the public history program in which I enrolled had given attention, particularly in the last year of the program, to issues of obtaining employment. There had been throughout my program consistent emphasis on networking, involvement, volunteering, etc., as potential pathways to full-time employment. But there was little direct attention to issues of resume/CV production or to practical matters such as databases or websites to employ in your search, negotiation in the job interview/offer process, and similar practical matters. I sort of "learned as I went" on these topics, and did fairly well... but greater explicit conversations or training would have been useful.

158. I find the courses I took to be helpful in my work when it comes to broader analysis, but my internships have proven time and again to be invaluable in terms of practical training and networking. I also firmly believe that internships got my foot in the door and helped me land the job I have now. (My third internship was with a sister division within the same organization I work for now).

159. I am currently an adjunct instructor and I use many techniques, particularly regarding addressing diverse audiences and audience participation in my classes.

160. I believe MA program graduates that have a business background are more easily suited to find positions in public history jobs.

161. My experience at [REDACTED] was wonderful, even though I ended up with a different career path (still within education field, though, not teaching or public history related). I feel I use the skills learned during my program every day! At the time I attended [REDACTED], there were very limited or no internship possibilities presented. I also wished there were deeper connections with archives and other federal public history organizations like the NPS. I don't know what currently you offer to students, but some sort of relationship with the Park service or National Archives might be helpful if not already in progress. Also, there was no concept of career assistance when I attended [REDACTED], for those of us who were not pursuing Ph.d's. If this hasn't changed, this would be a priority, as Google was a primary resource in the job hunt, which was less than ideal. In my current work, I feel that my training was excellent for the work I do now, though it has nothing to do with History.

162. I ended up pursuing a Ph.D. in the field of my other M.A. degree immediately following the completion of my Master's-level dual-degree program. My pursuit of employment, etc. were then related to the other field, rather than public history.

163. I found the training and experience in public history to be extremely valuable. My current concern is that the degree is not as valued in the employment market. The term Public History is still foreign to many people. I actually went back to school to obtain another master's degree to help further my career. I am in the library field now. My first full time position was in archives, but without a library science degree, I would not have been able to advance in the field. I found the skills I learned in Public History to be of more value than my library science program, but the library science degree is valued more in the field of archives.

164. Public History programs would do well to accept credit hours for electives that aren't specifically "history" but are relevant skills: accounting, marketing, public policy, philanthropy, board development, fundraising, etc. Many "public history" jobs/careers involve a lot of aspects that aren't history-related, but business-related. Although I had a good number of "public" history classes, I still had a lot of

academic-style classes where I might have been better off taking (and receiving credit toward a degree) in public policy or accounting. Even just having that option for graduate students would be valuable.

165. I work with a lot of people who came through the same program I did. I cannot say enough good things about my graduate history program!! However, the jobs in all areas (publishing, exhibitions, public programs) tend to be low to middling pay; little chance of moving upward unless you leave one place for another; way too many hours; and the benefits have been waning for years. The flexibility of schedules and the collegiality are wonderful; the politics are brutal; and after many years, the negatives have tarnished my love of history; whereas the people we serve keep me going. Quite a conundrum. Especially when looking at not retiring until 70 and wondering how to pay for healthcare in the meantime. If I was to meet an aspiring public historian, I would make sure they understood how much of a service position this is--you have got to want to help people to do it. It calls for many sacrifices in life. Sometimes, the rewards balance all that out--helping people learn their history, how to research, what it all means, and helping history students learn about their chosen field. When I'm trying to pay the bills, though, it is depressing, and looking ahead is disheartening. Thanks for asking!

166. My program made practical use of the historic sites available and that was very valuable in networking and learning practical skills.

167. As a historian, you are trained to analyze patterns in data, whether it be qualitative or quantitative. Also, being accurate in all aspects of your work is critical. I worked in accounting which was helpful being detail-oriented and concentrated on accuracy and data analysis.

168. Since earning my degree, my role has varied from primary bread-winner to secondary bread-winner in my household. My degree prepared me for work primarily in the museum field, but my career has taken more of an academic administration track. My current position uses both the training I received through my graduate program in history and public history, as well as the professional experience I gained in positions after I graduated. That is, neither the degree itself nor the subsequent professional experience would have been sufficient; I needed both.

169. I went on and got my PhD in History, and got an inside minor in Public History.

170. I continue to look for a public history related job, but over four years after graduation I still haven't landed one. Part of my problem is that due to my spouse's job, I'm stuck staying in Indianapolis for the time being. Peers of mine who have gotten jobs have either been through an internship or have moved far away. So I know I have limited myself in that way, but I still hold out hope. My primary interest is in museum education, and my first professional job was running youth programs for a community center, so I'm at least able to get some related experience.

171. I am currently running the education program at a medium size museum. I oversee about 12 part time staff members and a handful of volunteers. My educational background really helped prepare me for this role. However, the pay in the field isn't great and the only benefit I get is health insurance. My boss tells me they are paying me in experience even if they can't give me a raise. I do think this is true because the experience I am getting so early is invaluable.

172. I feel lucky that I found a career in archives and records management, but it required moving across the country for it. I have little confidence I could find another public history job if I moved back to the Midwest.

173. I remained employed in my existing job after completing my master's in public history. In addition, I continued my education, and I am currently a PhD candidate in history.

174. I work in a genealogy library (my second masters was an MLS). In recent years, genealogy has been transitioning away from just lists of names and dates and "begats" into a field where people are

interested in the milieu in which their ancestors lived. So having a background in public history has allowed me to better help my patrons understand history and understand their ancestors.

175. Graduates should understand that the field can be limiting. Now that I am married with a place bound spouse, I have few options for obtaining another public history degree that is full time with benefits in my region. Long commutes are not doable at this time for my family. Bankers, lawyers, salesmen don't have the same limitations. There are more likely to be more institutions to apply to.

176. I obtained a dual Masters degrees in Library Science and Public History. I work as a Reference Librarian in a research institution. My Public History MA is invaluable in this job.

177. After receiving my M.A. in 2008, I earned my Master of Library and Information Science degree. I had always intended to earn both a M.A. and M.L.I.S. and I believe that this combination greatly assisted my job search and provided me with a greater variety of potential employment opportunities than if I had only received one degree or the other. After completing my M.L.I.S. in 2010, I worked in a series of short-term, soft money positions relating to digitization and rights management before assuming my current position in 2013. Anecdotally, it has been my experience that archival managers greatly appreciate a background in public history and the skills that I gained from my public history program have greatly enhanced my work as an archivist.

178. I freelance and contract public history work. Not having the institutional backing can be disadvantageous.

179. I am uncertain of the content of public history.

180. I feel that the museum world, especially doesn't know what public history is and most likely look over my resume during the hiring process. It's frustrating that the academic world is ignorant to the public history field and don't take my masters seriously. It seems to not have changed in the past 3 years that I have been out in the field. I hope it changes soon.

181. Trends in public history are leading toward privatization and the issue of public history and guidelines is not well-regulated. The variance of persons in the field are not licensed like librarians which may increase employment options and pay.

182. I only took 1 class in public history so I'm not quite sure how useful my answers are! I am a high school history teacher, and while my course in public history has proved useful in the ways I think about and teach history to my students, I have never considered a job in the field of public history.

183. While pursuing a graduate degree in history I completed public history classes and projects. My area of interest was archives. I continued my education and pursued a degree in library and information science with the goal of working in an archive or special collection. I obtained an academic library position focused on teaching and stayed in that area. My public history background and graduate education in history was important as I am responsible for collecting material in history and public history. Recently I began engaging in more digital humanities projects and again my public history training was valuable.

184. I don't think my public history training helped me any more than my general history masters education - I'm good at writing, research, and handling large loads of work calmly.

185. I entered a PhD program in history about six months after I finished my MA. I have about 2 more years to go to finish the PhD but I am very interested in getting a job in the "alt-ac" fields of public history/humanities. At my present university, there is not much support in looking for jobs in the public sector.

186. This is a difficult field to get into and earn enough money to pay back student loans (although working for a nonprofit for loan forgiveness after 10 years helps). For entry-level positions, there appears to be a glut of professionals chasing fewer and smaller salaries.

187. Even though I did not obtain a job in public history I obtained one in the private sector closely related to a public history position. The challenges I encountered were the lack of public history positions in my city. The positions that were available did not contact me sometimes over a year after I applied. Many asked for experience in the position at a range that was not possible for me to complete in graduate school. Also, there were very few paid positions. The skills I learned in public history such as research, public relations, and managing a project earned me my job as a researcher and cataloger (now specialist) at a well-respected auction house. I am very pleased with my position and I feel it allows me to still handle history with less pressure from the public or for funding.

188. When I graduated in 2010, full-time entry level positions were almost non-existent. I was fortunate enough to cobble together several part time jobs in the field until something full time came along about 9 months later. Even then, this was a grant funded project job with no benefits and little pay. A major reason I obtained this first professional position was because of the experience I had gained in an unpaid internship I found on my own the previous summer. My ability to move up since then, I believe, hinged on that first professional job and the network I worked to create. While I am fortunate that I was able to accept a short term unpaid position, it is wildly unrealistic to expect all graduates to have the resources to do this. I have worked extremely hard, but so much of my success is attributed to being in the right place at the right time. I worry that students entering public history programs will not find the kinds of jobs they seek because those positions don't pay a living wage. I am grateful for my training in archives and manuscripts, which is the part of the field that has kept me employed for almost a decade. I am very satisfied in my current position, and it's taken me 7 years to get here, including a short period of time when I left the field and considered not returning. I have found that a majority of the useful training I've received did not come in the classroom or on campus, but rather working in a variety of capacities within diverse institutions in my area. My suggestion to all programs is to make practical experience a priority and allow for greater interdisciplinary connections.

189. I am perfectly happy with my current employment in two part-time jobs, but I have also had zero success in finding a full-time public history job in the single metropolitan area that I am limited to for family reasons.

190. Limited job opportunities = much competition among history professionals.

191. I am a 3rd year Interpretive Park Ranger for the NPS. It is a temporary position, although I am qualified for permanent positions, they are offered to career status individuals only (those that are already permanent) It is very disheartening when you think you have your foot in the door, while in reality you don't. The federal government likes to think they hire "the most qualified" nah, that is just a ruse so they can hire based on everything other than qualifications. When looking for employment in the public sector, I find my education to be my greatest downfall. I don't have any of the sexy things employers seem to want: STEM background, diversity, computer technology, grant writing, armed forces experience, or the knowledge of dozens of languages. If I could do it over again, I would run far, far away from Public History and jump into Public Administration or something practical in the STEM fields.

192. While I already had a professional job in the public history field, getting an MA in public history allowed me to have my job upgraded and expanded.

193. I've been in my current position 8 years, and while the role has changed a bit, I've only stayed here this long because of how difficult it has been to get a job in another place. I've been applying and going on interviews for about 2 years and have yet to find the right fit or been offered a new position.

194. I have ended up in development and operations at a public history org. While not directly acting as a public historian, being trained in the field is essential to connecting to donors who care about our mission.

195. I left many questions blank; although I have risen to considerably greater responsibility, the only time I left my institution was a leave of absence to work on a PhD. I have had more titles than I can count, and have worked in every area of my museum over the last 40+ years. I am now quite close to retirement. My training equipped me to start in the field, but I faced, for a variety of reasons, a dearth of opportunities to build on my skill set, especially the administrative side. Based on current work with students in museum and public history programs, I believe many are better prepared than I was, but there remains a real need for mid-career opportunities for additional training, to which participants can be expected to bring a certain level of experience.

196. The one challenge I found in finding satisfactory employment was the three years of internships I had to have before I was able to apply for a paid job. Internships are important, but often students need 3+ internships to have the experience to apply for paid jobs (despite having a Master's in Public History).

197. I was able to find a position in about 6 months. The challenge was finding a job that would pay enough for me to move to that area. This for me meant above 30,000 to 32,000 a year with benefits. I beat out several applicants for my current position because of my degree and my experience in the public history field I had from jobs when I was getting my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I still consider myself somewhat underemployed based on my experience and masters degrees but public history jobs and especially manager positions in the public history field are few and far between. I could not be happier in choosing to pursue history education as a career but it will be a challenge to be able to move up eventually.

198. My training was useless, it was a waste of years and lots of money.

199. As a trainer of public historians, I have found that the one of the keys to my student's success, as well as my own, is the ability to "learn to learn." The learn to learn ethos opens students up to lifelong learning in a broad field such as public history. No one can learn everything they need to know to go into a museum, archive, or heritage venue in two or three years, but if students can learn about resources for information and how to pursue knowledge based on the needs of the position they will be able to grow in the job.

200. I found my first job within two months of graduating and then was promoted within four months of that. I feel incredibly lucky!

201. Mobility seems like the problem in the public history field for me. I am married to a military officer who is stationed in a smaller city so I am bound to these small military towns till he ultimately retires. Aside from docent volunteer positions there are no positions available at the four local and military museums. I have taken up teaching high school history for an income. Though I can relate programming and exhibit ideas in to my lesson plans, the rapid pace in which these plans must be produced on top of the at-home workload are not conducive to a great working environment.

202. My degree prepared me intellectually but my program wasn't very good with the development of soft skills. I had no idea how to write a resume when I graduated, but I continue to use the analytical skills in my current job

203. Very broad MA programs that are just in public history do not seem as useful as a more specific program. It would be interesting to know coming out of school what types of experiences museums are looking for. What classes would be the best to find employment. What skills should you have by the time you graduate and what skills are best learned on the job.

204. I needed more work experience to obtain a full time job in public history. I also wanted to specialize in public policy which turned out to not be a option in my MA program.

205. I am in my first job out of graduate school, and it is part-time, no benefits. I have a good job working with good people, but the pervasiveness of museums having part-time positions for jobs that really should be full-time is astonishing, and my graduate program did not prepare me for this reality, or for the reality that it could take a long time to even get hired for a position. So many people in our field are applying for jobs to no avail, or are working part-time jobs, without benefits or health insurance, and struggling to make ends meet. This practice needs to stop, but I am not sure how we, as a field, can put an end to it and ensure that people are getting paid a living wage and receiving benefits and health insurance.

206. The greatest challenge I think new Public Historians face is the amount of experience required for each open position. Most positions, including entry level ones, require at least one year of experience or even more. For new graduates that is almost impossible.

207. I got my job through luck and persistence. When I graduated I had four jobs: tour guide, admin assistant at my university, volunteer at an archive where I interned, and NFL cheerleader. I did everything I could to make myself a part of the public history community. Through my networking, I was hired in August as a full-time Museum Educator at the institution I interned for, and I am still in that position today. I consider myself lucky to have my current job, but I also do not think I would have gotten it without my internship and networking.

208. I attended the program part time while fully employed as an K-12 educator. Near completion of the degree, I was hired by my long term place of employ to structure and edit an institutional and community history celebrating the school's 50th anniversary. Additionally, I was hired to develop questions and lead a daylong workshop to train oral historians and theater professionals.

209. My degree programs provided a solid foundation for my career as an archivist. I was fortunate to have an advisor who really took the time and effort to mentor me as well and to instill in me the importance of professional involvement. A great deal of my professional success can be credited to what I learned from her. I would say that there are two areas that new grads need more exposure to: communication and management. And they must be able to write clearly and concisely!

210. I've only been out of school a little over a year, have held 4 separate positions with the NPS in the Interpretation division (in 3 states). The biggest challenge I am facing right now is deciding if I should gamble and keep at it, hoping for a permanent position. Overall, I am happy with what I am doing, though right now I feel like I am focusing more on my specific agency than public history. Aspects of my degree are applicable to what I do now, but the jobs that involve more research and working with collections largely feel out of reach at the moment.

211. I feel that my course work in public history gave me a strong theoretical backgrounds however it was severely lacking in the skills that museums were looking for. And so I found that the majority of the training that I have received has been through workshops additional classes and training sessions that it could not receive in a college public history program. It took me 10 years working in jobs without benefits to find a full time benefited position. I do warn all new entrants to the public history programs that full-time employment is very difficult to find in this field. I feel that the number of degrees that have been offered greatly outweigh the number of positions that are available.

212. My interest in public history (specifically oral history) grew out of my long career as a clinical social worker, working with an older population. I have been doing work since in the therapeutic use of narrative, as well as in oral history.

213. Graduating during the worst of the recession made finding adequate public history jobs near impossible. I was focused on finding museum work, most of which was criminally underpaid and there were too many experienced professionals looking for work at the time. My public history education never provided any sort of practical application or actual relevance to what public historians typically do.

214. My MA in Public History opened the doors for a museum education position at a small house museum near to where I was already living. That was a fine job, but in some ways intellectually limiting, which is why I left it to return to school for my PhD. I now teach public history at the college level, which of course the PhD was an essential stepping stone for. So... yes, the MA opened doors into the field, and I'm very glad I kept it in my back pocket because that training (and subsequent career experience) remains very relevant to my teaching now as an academic public historian.

215. I was able to find a full time position in a museum within a few months of finishing my MA coursework. However, when that grant-funded position ended, due to the economic crash, I was under or unemployed for the next eight years. When I was able to gain a position in public history, they were part time with no stability. I am currently teaching preschool as I have been looking for full time museum employment since my first job was terminated eight years ago, and I was unable to find work. I decided that I could no longer spend my time looking for positions which are not open and thus, I changed careers.

216. Went on to PhD and now teach public history, which I still consider to be employed in public history.

217. I finished my MA in history with a concentration in public history and went right on to a PhD program in history which I completed this spring. I am currently a visiting assistant professor in history. Throughout my graduate career, I kept my eye on the public history market, which was dismal in those years. I have also taken temporary positions in public history throughout my graduate career. I am still potentially interested in working in public history, but am wary of experiences of friends who graduated in my same cohort. I feel that some of the public history-specific education I received in my MA was useful in selling myself as a public historian for short-term projects. I loved my public history experience, but watching my very smart and competent friends and colleagues flail in a bad economy makes me wary of advising students to pursue a public history degree, or to pursue one without very carefully researching program placement rates and geographic spread. "Look into public history" tends to be a suggestion thoughtlessly tossed off by faculty to students who are unsure about a PhD and it needs to be done more thoughtfully. I have also been amused and a bit frustrated to see my graduate history program attempt piecemeal to add in public history content or steer students toward public history careers without actually developing a real curriculum or thinking through the realities of the public history job market, which are as unpleasant as that of the academic market. So while I appreciate my public history experience on a personal and intellectual level, I'm unclear on whether it has really provided me with any additional help in finding employment--ask again in 10 years.

218. My answer to many of the questions in this survey were skewed because I did not apply for full-time employment following the completion of my master's program since I continued on for a PhD in history. My background/experience does not necessarily conform to the way the survey is structured, either, because I was working in a museum as a public historian prior to beginning graduate school and have continued to hold this position throughout. Although I have been working in a museum for the past ten years and have worked in the field of public history for the past seven, I knew that I needed to go to graduate school to become an expert in content if I wanted to become a curator at a large institution. I chose my program at the University of California, Riverside because it allowed me to create a curriculum that was the perfect blend between public history and "more traditional" history courses. I am pleased to have been able to take seminars and practicums in museum studies, archival management, historic preservation, and oral history in addition to more traditional theory and methods courses. I'm glad, though, that my master's degree is in history with a concentration in public history. I think this will complement my previous museum experience. When looking at various master's programs in public

history or public humanities, I found that most did not require an internship. UC Riverside's program was one of the few that required an internship. We use the internship experience as the foundation for a case study that examines a public history theme or issue in the master's thesis that we write and later defend. I think this was a wonderful way for me to obtain experience in another museum institution while also being able to think critically about an issue in the field.

219. I found a job fairly quickly without much stress, but the job itself has left much to be desired. The administration I work under is very old fashioned. Where I see my "newness"/youth/passion as a good thing because I think I inherently bring new ideas and scholarship to the team, others see those things as inexperience. I think the value of experience is exaggerated, it hinders my ability to be taken seriously (which, as a woman in the public history field, I have found is already a bit challenging) and it also hurts economically because inexperience (outside of grad school projects) justifies paying the young professional the very least they can get away with.

220. I'm in the communications field. I have found ways to incorporate public and oral history into most projects I work on by using the theories and practices of the two areas.

221. I also obtained a MSIS in Information Studies/Archives, so the archival field is intimately linked with Public History. Not only does Public History intersect with different elements of my current job working in archives, it makes me more critical of whose history we're saving/studying etc... I also think the degree makes me a more desirable candidate to work in a variety of fields.

222. My public history training has been excellent, however I did find that hands-on experience dealing with adult visitors was lacking. I did focus mostly on the educational side, but when dealing with adults who have strong opinions about certain topics which are usually myth... That can be difficult to deal with and use my public history skills to emphasize a different perspective.

223. What I wish I had more thoughtfully considered is the expense of my education relative to the low pay of working for a nonprofit. Money has been, and will likely continue to be, a struggle for me given my current career and the student loans I took out to get here.

224. Contrary to what we were told in school, public history jobs are really as abundant as claimed. Due to the highly competitive nature of this field and the rampant nepotism of smaller organizations, getting a real job has been nearly impossible. And though I have gained great experience thus far in my career, my degree and abilities are meaningless in the area I currently live. Public history means very little in [REDACTED]. If I could go back to school and do it all over again, I would certainly choose a different field. This has been horrible.

225. There are few jobs. Most are poorly paid.

226. Most jobs are looking for PhD's to teach. I would've liked a stronger emphasis on interdisciplinary work and grant writing.

227. It was easier to work in the adjacent public history fields in a small town before moving to a bigger city. The degree was valued higher in a smaller community than in a larger city where everyone competing for jobs had the same degree. The small town experience gave me work experience and responsibilities I needed to better position myself for a job in a larger city.

228. Piecing together a living through various jobs (Public History Job + non public history) for a bit then bouncing around part time PH jobs.

229. My MA Public History helped me get a job at a national museum in DC. However, my MA alone does not help me advance. I need a PhD to work more closely with History. I am currently in teacher education.

230. I had extensive experience in the accounting field before I obtained my masters in history with a public history track. It was a challenge just getting into the program and has been very challenging getting employed in the public history field. I thought my business background would be an asset because public historians often need to wear more than one hat on the job and business skills are always part of that, but I get the impression that my lack of functional history experience is a significant roadblock. I expected the field to be more open-minded.

231. My stats will be a little wonky. I finished my MA in 2015, but then I stayed on that the same institution for a PhD, so while I am employed by the university and currently curating two exhibits, I'm not employed full time.

232. I have been working in managing records for clinical trials since graduating with my MA in Public History. While none of my training was directly related, I feel the skills I picked up while in school have been very helpful in advancing in this career path. I have received 2 promotions in the past 2.5 years since gaining employment. I feel that my studies/assistantship in the special collections of the library at my university helped prepare me to deal with the very detailed work I do now organizing and managing many, many records. Additionally, working in a team environment creating exhibits and researching topics in school, helped prepare me for employment in my current position where I often work closely with small groups. I feel that my program helped me to learn how to communicate effectively, give presentations, and research diverse topics. These have all been important in my daily work. While I don't get to work with "history" on a daily basis, the skills I honed while in school have been invaluable.

233. I was interested in exhibit design, education, and digital history. I could not find a local job, or one that paid well enough to justify the move. I ended up earning an MS in Digital Media. I focused my course work as much as possible on public history, however, I still could not find work. I was always either too qualified or somehow not qualified enough. I now work as a User Experience Designer.

234. Public history training applicable to other jobs, but hiring managers not interested in the degree/field.

235. The challenge for me and a career in Public History is the pay. I cannot support my family on most of the salaries provided by the employers of Public History.

236. I found my public history training incredibly useful when I taught in a public school social studies classroom after graduating. I often approached my own instruction from a public history lens which engaged students and provided a more diverse perspective than other classes.

237. I was lucky enough to land my full-time PH position from an internship placement with my graduate program. I think that the internship opportunities to develop my skills and gain practical skills were crucial to my success at finding a job. My Master's program has a strong, paid internship program, which convinced me to come to the program and ultimately helped me find employment. I did feel that my program concentrated too much on academic history pursuits and not enough on the practical management skills that are realistically needed to become employed. I was lucky enough to be able to take classes in museum studies, but some of our (seemingly outdated) requirements to take classes within the history department seemed as a detriment to developing my much needed skills as a professional. Furthermore, there was a lack of cohesion at helping students put their skills together into marketable packages to find positions, and sell themselves. I think encouraging more students to do "non-traditional" thesis projects or create portfolios would help with better job placement.

238. There simply are not enough curatorial, collections, or exhibitions jobs to suit the great number of graduates seeking them out. If you land one you have little leverage to leave or negotiate for more money or benefits because the opportunities are so sparse. You have to really love it and realize it probably will not afford you a very decent living particularly if you are obligated to pay off your student

loans. A position at a federal or state supported institution is about your only hope for a comfortable living; however, obtaining this occupation is extremely difficult given the competitiveness and the preference veterans and current employees automatically receive.

239. I will be honest and say that I am highly disappointed with public history training and career opportunities. I have an MA degree in History and a public history certificate. Career opportunities require an MA in a specialized field such as MLS, Museum Studies, or Historic Preservation. MA programs in public history are not as competitive as specialized programs. I am also concerned by the "internship" problem that the field is experiencing. It is discouraging when you complete an advanced degree and you are forced to take a poorly paying internship working for a museum director that is trained with an MBA, in order to stay in the field. Other fields have acknowledged the systemic harm of unpaid and underpaid internships. Society will not value the public historian if we continue to allow the field to race to the bottom. Where are the public history lobbyists? State politics make or break a degree.

240. My answers are not a fair reflection as instead of going to work full-time I started a family after graduation. However, obtaining this degree allowed me great networking opportunities which lead to part-time gigs, ideal for this working/stay at home mom!

241. I think I am (I perceive myself to be anyway) an outlier in that I took full time employment far outside of my degree after graduation. Even though I have recently sought jobs and received full time employment in work much closer to what I studied, I was unable to find work that dealt with the "history" part of my degree. I have ended up at a place I had already worked at before that does not care to reflect on the past at all and that does not use the skills I went to school for. It's disappointing. I will always wonder if I had looked longer, especially that first time, if I would be doing work closer to what I wanted to do. But I am also certain I would not be as financially stable, and that my family would not be as secure, if I had stuck with my narrow and popular field. That's a tradeoff I made, and would probably make again, despite some doubt and regret.

242. My situation was not straightforward. I obtained an MA in PH at [REDACTED] where I became interested in the publishing field. I returned to my blue collar job for 2 years before going to [REDACTED] because they had a publishing program connected to the history dept and PH program. At [REDACTED] I was also a PhD student as I had 2 BAs in history and the MA in PH. After completing the scholarly publishing certificate I went to work in the publishing industry and eventually was the acquisitions editor for a publisher of PH and museum studies books and worked with the AASLH on their books. This was obviously very connected to PH and my training was invaluable. Some years later I completed the PhD in history and began my own editorial services company. I have always found the combined training of history and PH very useful in terms of framing research, developmental editing, and understanding larger issues. I often felt I was not taken seriously as PH professional as many discounted publishing as a real PH profession and were surprised I had a degree in PH. My impression has always been that "real" PH jobs are still hard to come by and they get cut in many institutions (govt and non-govt) whenever there is a perceived shortage of money. The training is invaluable in many endeavors but it remains hard to convince people of that.

243. There didn't seem to be many public history job openings and the ones I found seemed to prefer more specific degrees like MLS, museum studies, or marketing.

244. I was working as a teacher before and during my master's program. At some point in the future I will pursue a career in the public history domain. My program was wonderful and I hope it continues to grow. The staff at [REDACTED], especially Dr. [REDACTED], are supportive and staunch advocates of public history and it made a huge difference in my experience there.

245. This is my second career. Prior to this position, I was a musician with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for 25 years. Much of my prior [REDACTED] experience has enhanced my public history skills and qualifications.

246. The biggest challenge to employment in the field of public history is being able to move across the country.

247. The [REDACTED] program in generalist museum studies is varied, practical, ever-changing to match demands of the professions. Great network of alumni from over 50 years! This helps immensely with job searches.

248. I've found it very difficult to find education positions that are full time without also requiring much more experience than I have.

249. When I graduated with my MA, I don't think I would've been prepared for the job I have now. I would've needed lots of guidance. I feel like I needed that temp job to prepare me for what I have now, and that it was equal to my level of experience at the time. I do think the economy at the time played a role. It was still warming up a bit after the most recent recession and jobs in my area of the field seemed to be at a trickle. Those that existed wanted 3-5 years of experience. The temp job was the only interest I got in the five months it took me to find a job after graduation.

250. I left my full-time job with benefits after I had children because both my spouse and I worked in the field and neither job provided the flexibility needed. For over a decade, I did freelance work in public history/museum work before taking my current position as the executive director of a state museum association. My public history training served me well in all of the positions I've held.

251. While I ultimately ended up accepting a position with a non-profit youth arts organization, I absolutely felt that the skills I developed in my public history grad program were transferrable, especially the broad-based training I received in development, communication and storytelling.

252. Challenges? 1. Ageism - getting by the perception that anybody over 40 does not "understand" technology or the latest trends. The recent AASLH article claims employers are looking for a candidate that possess soft and hard skills – if so, where is my invitation to the party? I have the skills backed by experience to wear many hats and yet I am still waiting to make it to the interview process. 2. There are no jobs – meaning, if you add all of the job postings from AASLH, OAH (non-academic), NCPH, and AAM it hovers around 300 – I thought the AASLH article discussed this, as well? How do you place 1,000 graduates next summer? Square peg/round hole syndrome. 3. Hyper-specific job descriptions – this happens in every industry – nobody wants to spend the time mentoring a qualified candidate, employers (yes, even in cultural institutions) know they have an unlimited supply of candidates so they have the option of having a revolving door. In the past 3 years I have seen the same jobs open up over and over again. 4. I took the time to ensure that my skillset matched well in a number of industries- admittedly, I have an advantage because I entered school a bit later after being out "in the world" – maybe graduates should think about the future and realize that living the life of the mind, or having a fun job in a museum, may not actually happen- the question then becomes, "What else would I enjoy doing?" I took my (newer) skills as a historian and my skills as another kind of "storyteller" (writer/producer) and use them to keep myself relevant and appealing to the academy, public history jobs, and corporate America. Nobody wants to tell a student their chances are slim but at some point everybody has to step up and face the music! Whether it is an MA in US History or a certificate in collections management, in the end everybody is "selling" something. Students have to realize that working for cultural institutions simply means they are selling an "intangible" (an experience, an emotion, nostalgia – gasp) and the program they are attending is selling them on the idea they will walk out with an expertise to sell their skills to an employer and the "magic" of history/art/music to the visitor (and more importantly, the donors). As an adjunct instructor, I get it, so hard to hear the enthusiasm from both my young students AND adult learners – but, I find ways to gently explain how to curb expectations

and find a few types of jobs they would enjoy doing. We need to explain to graduates that they are gaining skills, enhancing natural talents – they should not be encouraged to define themselves by their diplomas – “I am a public historian, I am a historian, I am, I am, I am.” How about “Because of the rigorous research and writing skills needed to complete a public history program, I opted for that type of an MA, Mr. Employer. Therefore, presenting your corporate identity to the new stakeholders would be a welcome challenge – but a challenge I am used to successfully tackling – here is an example of a project. . . .” You get my drift. I hope this helped – I see the gaps, see the holes.

253. My MA program gave me the tools to properly interpret history, consider various “publics”, and generally understand the major issues in the field. My internships and practicums were heavily focused on research, theory, and how to design public history initiatives. I generally enjoyed my program and learned a lot. If my only goal was to be a team member at a local museum, these skills would be fine. However, I aspire to be in senior management at a major museum. Neither the coursework nor the hands-on experience in my MA gave me practical skills that I needed to move up at an institution like this. I was unprepared for any sort of managerial work, such as designing an initiative from start to finish, budgeting, personnel services, or fundraising. During my internship, my supervisor kept me at arms length from internal discussions like budget and expenses. I don't blame her for this decision (I was just an intern after all), but it left a huge knowledge gap. As such, even after my field work, I could design a great interpretive program on paper, but had no idea how much it would cost to implement it. I didn't know how to recruit volunteers, how to work with donors, how to help junior staff with their own careers, or even how much it would cost to print and hang new labels. Luckily, the three years I spent in the corporate world before going back for my MA were helpful with grant writing and some project management skills. But most of my classmates came into the MA program straight out of undergrad and lacked many real world skills. Several classmates couldn't even write a professional sounding email to our practicum supervisors. I debated going back for an MBA to work on my business acumen. However, I came to realize that without a PhD, I was left out of the conversations at AHA and OAH where members “with only an MA” are typically not eligible to hold most committee positions or even write book reviews. I wanted to take part in the academic side of my field as well as the practical, so I am now pursuing a PhD. I am also taking online MOOT business classes to learn other skills. I realize that Public History programs are not the same as “Museum Management” or “Non Profit Management” degree programs. But if we're honest with ourselves about the jobs MA PH students will be entering into, they MUST be aware of how to do simple tasks like writing a budget proposal, setting up a work flow chart, and understanding the myriad of costs of a new interpretive program. I wish I had been.

254. I think I was one of the luckier graduates from my program. I secured part-time work while in graduate school. Shortly after I graduated, someone at the institution where I was already employed left, so I was promoted to their position. I was probably a little under-qualified for the position when I graduated (it was in a collections management/archivist position), but was at the right place at the right time. Now, with all of the continuing education that I have completed, I feel overqualified. I think this survey should have incorporated something about continuing education, because most of my hands-on learning was from this type of education.

255. Getting a job in archives is difficult with just a public history degree especially if you want to work in archives located in libraries. Most of them want an ALA accredited degree. I went back to school to get an MS but the classes I took provide no new training from what I received in my public history program. As told to me by a boss who had a PhD in history but had to go get an MLIS is that its a union card.

256. I transitioned from a full-time internship with the NPS into a contractor position and then seasonal ranger positions. My public history training was far more applicable to my contractor position, where I had a much wider range of responsibilities, than my ranger positions. It is important to note that while the NPS is absolutely an applicable career field for public history, it is essentially impossible to transition into full time, permanent positions right out of school

257. I hold a master's degree in public history with a specialization in archival studies. After graduation, I pursued a career in archives and am currently working as an archivist. The master's program I attended was excellent and gave me the experience necessary to get my first job in the field. The program also gave me the connections I needed to get every job I have had since then.

258. I began my first public history job one month after completing my degree, and have been employed full time (with benefits) ever since. I've had three different jobs since then (over 15 years) and all have been obtained without knowing anyone or having connections at the hiring institution, but in all instances the reputation of the school where I got my MA was a key factor that got me interview. In my experience, where training is received is important in being considered for employment.

259. I taught with the Peace Corps in between getting my MA and getting my first professional job, so it wasn't as though I was really on the streets, looking for work, for two-plus years. I've found my training in history relevant. The public side? Not so much, but that's where on-the-job training and experience comes in handy. I'd hire someone with content before I'd hire someone who's taken multiple exhibit design courses, for instance, but very few history/methods classes. I do worry that there are too many MA programs these days. I have a good job, but I ascribe a lot of that to luck and to my having noncompetitive federal status coming out of the Peace Corps. These days, too many PH jobs aren't paying living wages (let alone loan repayment wages) and seem to expect the world of those they hire. It may be impolite to say, but I wonder if there's a pink-collaring of the public history profession in that people who get jobs in it (male or female) are assumed to be in a couple and to not be the main income earner. There's a local nonprofit museum here in town that I never advise people to work for because they don't pay a living wage - their interpretation manager makes half of what I do and works eighteen times as hard. I'm generally satisfied with my career, but I'm almost completely unable to help others achieve something similar, or at least it often feels that way. I also worry that there's way too much attention being given to public history PhDs (especially by that organization that no public history practitioner ever needs to belong to, the AHA, which doesn't seem to realize that MAs ARE historians and do have decent jobs and don't feel the need to get another costly, time-consuming degree). I think that the MA is more or less a terminal degree in the public history universe. The PhD is a university teaching union card (and not a good one at that, given the current academic job market). If the field, which already seems oversaturated by a new crop of MA grads every year gets new PhDs - especially those who think of PH as a plan B, or plan H - the job market is going to be even uglier. Perhaps the NCPH and OAH (and the AHA, if they'd deign to participate), or someone somewhere, need to look at better publicizing the kinds of work that a history MA prepares one for. Perhaps this survey is a start.

259. The main challenge I have encountered with obtaining employment in the field of Public History is the experience requirement. It has been difficult to find entry-level positions in the field.

260. Research skills I learned have served me well. my public history training gave me a good overview of the field and its possibilities. I also benefitted from a cadre of alumni who were very giving of their time and advice.

261. The time between graduation and my current professional job was long enough to almost require a full time commitment to a job outside my interests. I feel the need for more training now that I have reached my goal.

262. My dual degree was in Library Science.

263. I started off as part-time then a year later moved up to full-time hourly employment with health benefits. I still don't think my current role maximize all my training from grad school. I'm also learning new things about archiving that I didn't know before starting this job. I initially applied for my first position at the archives since the job was technically in the public history field. That's also why I'm still there. I also have a part part-time job indexing and cataloging 18th century court records for my county government. I'm somewhat satisfied with my current position in both jobs, and hoping there's room to

grow. My background and training in public history definitely helps provide a different prospective on research, and problem solving compared to my co-workers with Masters in Library Science.

264. I don't have training in Public History, but rather a BA in Historic Preservation and MA in Architectural History so closely related. I work for the NPS and absolutely love my job/career.

265. There were two major problems I encountered in seeking public history employment after school. The first problem was that there were job openings in small museums and historical societies along the lines of an executive director, education director, etc. that many students in my program would be more than qualified for, but the requirements for the job were much too high for new professionals. 10 years experience, X number of previous projects completed, etc. The other problem was that job offerings open to new professionals were frequently internships (paid and unpaid) or part-time work with no benefits. Therefore both my cohort and I personally faced difficult circumstances in attempting to find gainful employment because the few jobs available to us were not adequate enough to support us, while other jobs that were full-time and somewhat decent pay were restricted to us because of our lack of "experience." I have seen more openings on the NCPH webpage and elsewhere in recent years, but the challenge moving forward, I think, is finding a way to get public history sites to pay their new professionals fair wages for their talents. A job that pays \$10 an hour or \$20,000 a year isn't really an option for most new professionals who don't have the luxury of being from a wealthy family or benefiting from a bread-winning spouse. Furthermore, public history programs should avoid placing their students in unpaid internships. Unpaid internships lower the value of our labor and give the impression to institutional leaders that public history work is a hobby and not a profession.

266. I received my MA in History with some public history background in 2013. After graduation I took a part time job as library specialist in the local history department of a local library. After working there for a year, I decided to get my MLIS degree. After graduating in December 2015, I received a professional position in archives three months later.

267. Once I started working with graduates of other programs, I was shocked at how much better prepared other people were to work in preservation. At [REDACTED], we never learned what a Historic Structures Report was, let alone how to do one. We spent one day on Section 106 review. Meanwhile, I had to take seminar classes in History of Water in the West and European Interiors and try to make it apply to my field. I hope that the program has broadened its scope at this point. I firmly believe that I got my job because of the internships I did instead of the education I received.

268. My program was particularly useful for theory and application. It took me 1 year to find full employment as a managing director of a small museum.

269. I chose to teach English abroad for one year after completing my public history degree. Although, I did apply for positions in the public history field in case teaching abroad did not work out, I was unsuccessful in securing full time employment. I will be attending law school next fall in which I suspect my public history training will prove useful.

270. My MA in public history was not valuable in securing a position in the public history field due to ludicrous standards by employees.

271. I left the field because of a family move to an area deeply affected by the economic downturns post-2008. While I still keep one foot in the door through teaching public history classes as an adjunct, very few viable museum positions have opened in my area. I now work in higher education (student life) full-time, but I use many of the analytical and research skills I honed in my graduate program.

272. My current position was the first "adult job" I have held. Previously I worked in retail for 10 years through my undergraduate career. Retail provided skills in communication, design and reading body language which has helped when giving docent tours and designing exhibits. Jobs in the public history

field are difficult to come by and dominated by internships and volunteer which doesn't help someone who wants a career and a pay check.

273. Earned doctorate after MA in Public History. Have taught public history courses at each institution I have been employed at since graduation. The ability to teach Public History was central in landing my current teaching position.

274. Pay is extremely low for having gone for a masters. But you can't get in the door without one.

275. I think the most challenging aspect to finding satisfactory employment in public history is the simple lack of decent paying jobs. There are opportunities out there, but many of them are volunteer or pay very little. I am married with children and was unable to accept those kinds of opportunities simply because they don't pay the bills and put food in our mouths. For those who can manage to take opportunities like that, it very often can lead to better things. I just wasn't in a position to do that. A year after I graduated from my public history program, I went to library school, graduated with an MLIS and have been a professional librarian for the past 3 years – the job market for librarians, while not great, is much better than for public historians. But I have used my public history training as a librarian and certainly there are elements that are closely related.

276. My path was very straight forward. I was in the archives track (MA/MLIS), worked part-time at the state archives while in grad school and obtained a professional full-time position a few years later. Now working at the federal level. Most important, now and then is for students to obtain practical experience in the field. Currently, most archivists come from the library schools, no longer is public history a path into the field. History should still be a component, especially for appraisal and processing work.

277. The broad curriculum was very helpful for me. I thought I was on a trajectory for museum exhibits, interpretation, and collections management (artifacts). With the diverse training in the program, I ended up as a historian and managing a large county archive.

278. Gaps in my employment history largely due to taking time out to care for family members. Finding employment in this field is very difficult once one has taken a "break."

279. My program's course offerings covered a range of topics, but did not offer much in the way of depth in any given topic on offer. As a result, I had the minimum qualifications for most of the lower-rung PH positions I applied for, but I felt that my degree didn't prepare me to excel in a highly competitive job market. I worked in CRM, and my coursework gave me some background in evaluating properties, but didn't touch sufficiently (or even at all) on, say, questions of policy or skills in GIS. These were two deficiencies that kept me from getting positions I was otherwise well qualified for.

280. I received a certificate in public history at 70. It has been extremely useful in a number of public history volunteer management positions and projects. Survey does not capture how beneficial the courses have been to me and our community.

281. After completing the public history MA, I went on to obtain a PhD in history

282. All the courses I had in Grad School have proved very useful teaching History at the College level. Incorporate Pub. Hist. in my classes as much as possible. Having students do museum reports they must visit in my classes. Have students present talks on many historical artifacts and its use in History.

283. Since I work in the museum field, I have discovered that job experience that is too specified does not help in finding other employment. It is best to learn as much as possible because there are not many jobs available. Employers often want people who can do 3 or 4 jobs at once.

284. I could not find a full time permanent job. I freelanced for a couple of years and did my own projects on the side. Two years ago I started my own firm. It is professionally and financially rewarding. My education gave me a great academic grounding but it would have been nice to have more education related to cultural resource management. An architectural history class would have been wonderful.

285. I think the toughest obstacle public history graduates face is that they are competing with other graduates from more specific programs/fields that tend to be looked at more closely from hiring institutions. Advocacy for the public history field is a big issue. The broad education provided by the public history field is a blessing once you are working within your job, but it is tough to promote yourself when competing for that specific job.

286. I'm from [REDACTED]; did my MA in Public History in [REDACTED]. First job after the MA was as an educator at a science museum that was going to open soon in the island. The person who hired me was impressed by my Public History degree, so didn't take in consideration my background in history and not in science. The museum was developing its educational and what I learned during my MA and internship was really useful. The salary was around 10 dollars per hour and came with some benefits like sick leave and vacations. Six months after that, left that job to become a public historian for a non-profit environmental organization, but as AmeriCorps VISTA full time volunteer. The position was awesome: did a lot of historical research for a community/environmental public history project. Loved the position, but I was only earning a stipend, and decided to not renew my contract after my year of service. Two months later, got a contract job as a college professor to teach history courses. Loved the job; not so much the conditions of employment (no vacations, no sick days, 4 months contracts, etc.) Almost a year after that, I got hired to work as a Park Guide for the [REDACTED]. My boss didn't know what was a public historian, and when I explained to her she loved it. I think she hired me because of it. The job is not permanent; I have a 1 year contract that can be extended up for 4 years and comes with many benefits (sick leave, vacations, health insurance, etc.). I do tours, orientation talks and give general information about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to the visitors, Also, I clean the exhibits areas and half of the time collect the entrance fees. Right now, I'm not really happy with the position but the benefits and salary of the job are better than any other position that I held related with the public history field. I think that I'm over qualified, but I hope that I can get a better position where I can do historical research and create public programs, tours and exhibits. I really believe that my MA in Public History helped me to find jobs related with history, museums and education. I really enjoyed and found fulfillment in almost all of the jobs that I held after my graduation, but the salaries and benefits were not good for a person who holds a MA. In the [REDACTED] I receive a good starting salary (around 16 dollars per hour) and lots of benefits, but I'm not completely satisfied with my job. Working in a big federal agency is very different than working in small non-profit museums or organizations where you can actually do a lot of stuff. However, I really like the mission of the agency and hope to do a career here but in another position where I can do more with my public historian skills and knowledge.

287. I found the program at [REDACTED] prepared me perfectly well (combined with internships) for my career in cultural resources. I found a job with a good cultural fit fairly quickly out of school and have been employed about four months, quite happily.

288. Public History is a catch all degree, you leave the program trained in three general fields (museums, archives and CRM). For me as an architectural historian, that put me at disadvantage with others who completed degrees in historic preservation. Perhaps while everyone can stay under the Public History umbrella there can be three paths for students to take, with classes that let them specialize. This has become a real problem recently when [REDACTED] graduates who wanted to do archives, but could not find a job switched to CRM. As someone who is now looking to hire more architectural historians this is a real problem. Despite them having a degree they still lack the basic skills.

289. Internships are not viewed with the same weight as the entry level experience they claim to represent by most employers.

290. I was employed in a public history job before, during, and after I completed an M. A. from [REDACTED]. The course of study was completely irrelevant in terms of obtaining employment in the field. Some aspects of the coursework made me a better practitioner, but the M. A. itself (i.e., possessing the diploma) in no way helped advance my career. Any career advancement I have achieved has been a result of my job training and tenure.

291. I was underemployed as an Interpretive Specialist – underpaid, over-worked, and when I became pregnant was not made to feel like my job, manager, or place of employment would allow for flexibility and/or increased hours/wages. I left mid-pregnancy. Was never able to find a job in my geographic area and in the PH field that allowed me to be the wife/partner and mother I wanted to be. I've lost interest in working as a history professional, but am thriving in my current position and use skills honed in graduate school - research/writing, creative problem solving, for example.

292. My first two professional jobs were in a museum. The first I did event sales and lead tours. I was able to use my public history background to help create events and content for the public on the side. My second job in a museum was solely event sales, but my intention was to move to the public programming department once a spot opened. When the spot opened, the recession was in full swing and I was afraid the position would be reduced salary or dropped. I stayed in events and now work at a university doing events. I graduated at the wrong time for the arts. I was worried I would get a public history position and be the first on the chopping block for salary reduction or losing my position. Events brings in money. I watched my coworkers get laid off my position remained. I now feel too far along in event planning (which I truly love) to switch back to public history.

293. My training in public history continues to be useful to me as someone who teaches history. I teach two different public history courses and incorporate public history assignments into some of my other courses. In addition, I have done some public history consulting over the years.

294. I have been unable to find public history employment that I could accept the salary for. Nearly all job offers I received were for less than \$10 per hour, leading me to pursue a career in higher education administration in order to pay my bills and student loans. I continue working in the field as a volunteer and writer/book reviewer, and could only see myself returning to the field if a nearby museum had an opening or I went back to get a doctorate and teach.

295. Employers need to consider experience when hiring not only the fact new graduates.

296. While earning my MA in public history, I held three internships and volunteer positions. However, that was still not enough to find a job once I graduated. I had a one year contract position at the [REDACTED], but have since struggled to find employment in the public history field. Currently, I'm applying to PhD programs in public history. If I do not get into a program, I'm going to start applying to public history jobs again. I'm not very optimistic I will find a job in the field, especially one that pays enough to support myself and the mass amount of student loan debt I gained while earning my degree. I do believe my public history training is very valuable outside the field and it's a shame more people don't recognize and value the skills and knowledge I gained from my education and experience in the public history field.

297. The Public History program at [REDACTED], particularly its partnership with the [REDACTED] and surrounding community organizations, was incredibly helpful in securing my first full time job in the field. My previous employer told me that my education and my work experience in both small non-profits and the [REDACTED] far exceeded the qualifications of most people at that point in their career. I found it somewhat challenging to find even an internship in the field in my home state, but secured an internship in UT very easily. This internship turned into a full time job offer prior to my finishing the degree. Unfortunately the Museum isn't accredited, and has a very uninvolved and disinterested board. In these circumstances it doesn't seem that the museum field has enough checks and balances to ensure that the director runs the organization legally and effectively. In communications with other museum

employees this seems to be a big problem, and a big factor in employment turnaround. I suppose it worth mentioning that I now work for a botanic garden, a "museum of living plants." Though not in the history field, I deem it still in the same career field. I'm sure some might disagree, however, I think this has been helpful in my securing a job I love. The ability to look outside of the history realm and market yourself accordingly is crucial. The education, research skills, and experience is incredibly applicable to any organization.

298. One of the biggest obstacles to finishing my degree was the foreign language requirement. I've now worked in the public history field for 15+ years and can honestly say I've never had a need to be fluent or somewhat knowledgeable in a foreign language. I would have graduated had this not been a requirement.

299. This was a complicated questionnaire for people who went from an MA program into a PhD program. That was my path and then from there to a post-doctoral fellowship, a Fulbright, and then an academic position. These questions didn't really fit that pathway.

300. I work with students on a daily basis and come across many who have an interest in the public history field. Many do not understand the importance volunteering can play in bolstering their resume and giving them valuable experience. In my experience, I felt that I wanted to pursue a career in a different part of the museum field, but after I volunteered in that field, I realized that I really wanted to have a more active role in interpreting history to the public. I advise the students that I work with to volunteer for as many different types of museum work as possible to find that perfect fit.

301. Students of history should absolutely seek part time positions working for museums, historic sites, archives, or other history related field during their schooling. This was key to finding my own position, as well as another manager who worked part time with our company while completing her MA in Public History. In fact, she often brought her work experience into classroom discussions. The MA degree alone is not sufficient experience to be hired in a management level or other full time position with a history institution. Practical knowledge was important to succeeding with my employer; not only was I a historian, but I also needed to show competencies in business management, accounting, customer service, event planning and management, booking, retail, construction, and more. I have worked for this company over 10 years and moved from managing one museum, to several museums, to finally becoming the Chief Operations Officer of a company that oversees 5 museums and a battlefield. The key to success for me and other co-workers is to work HARD and to accept whatever position you can find with a museum or other historic site, it will get ones foot in the door for other positions as they open.

302. My school did not offer real world connections or a good support system for degree completion. I was halfway through my thesis and they lost interest in me (no returned phone calls, missed meetings, etc.). The program needs more engagement in the community. More then half my grad school classmates did not finish their final projects due to lack of school provided support (random office hours and the archives never being open after work hours when the school marketed itself to working adults). Also the state of █████ cut historical funding so badly the year I completed coursework that job placement in our area for this field was nearly impossible. That was in no way the fault of the school but they didn't have a action plan in place to guide student who had been trained to work in public historical sites into other fields. The program could due with some better guidance on transferable skills. I have used my grant writing and basic administration skills learned in grad school in my work as a non-profit PR and fundraising person. It makes me so sad that I wasted so much time and lots of money and I never really had a chance to use the education as intended. I volunteer at museums and historical sites...but they never hire me because they are union controlled jobs mostly held by people without history degrees of any kind. Stronger non-profit management classes would have been great since that's the field I ended up staying in and it is sort of related to my goal of using the MA to work in public relations at a historic site.

303. Directly out of grad school, it took me a little while to get a job doing exactly what I wanted to do, but I was able to find jobs that were closely related, so that when the position I wanted opened up, I had a lot of tangential on-the-job training to pursue it. My program encouraged getting involved with real-world projects rather than hypotheticals and isolated research, which I think made all the difference in getting any related position right out of school.

304. My primary challenge was finding a job that paid better than most introductory positions in the public history field. However, I still sometimes look back and wish I would have made the effort to work in public history - and just been poorer longer. My internships were invaluable and I still miss the work.

305. Section 106 compliance is where there are opportunities, it was only just mentioned a few times but not taught how to navigate.

306. Museum positions in even history museum are reserved for those with anthropology degrees and archive positions are held for librarians. Public history programs are rather misleading in what we are qualified to pursue.

307. I was extremely fortunate in that a preservation position opened up in my home town. Initially I was temporary but I was made permanent in July, however my job duties do not go beyond the realm of public history/preservation. Personally, my training focused too much on ethics/theory and not enough on real world performance/expectations. Both aspects are important but I would have benefited more from learning about day-to-day duties.

308. Ultimately the degree allowed me to secure a position that gave me flexibility while providing a reasonable salary. I mention this because when I started the degree the job prospects seemed to have dismal salary projections and the Director's only comment when I questioned why I would get an MA that promised a career with lower pay than I was currently getting with a BA was, "You don't go into it for the money." Really? I didn't go into it to starve either.

309. All of the positions I obtained after receiving my Masters Degree in Public History were collections related in museums. I would consider this a 'closely related field' as I do not do research or write/interpret history for the public. However, the training I received in the program prepared me for a number of positions in the museum field. The assistantship I had while in the program prepared me for a career in collections management/registration better than any classes I took as part of the Masters in Public History.

310. I was willing to move to another state for my first job, if I hadn't it would've taken much longer to find employment. Also, although my first job technically had benefits, they were very minimal.

311. No support post graduation from my school to secure employment. Not a lot of networking opportunities. Unrealistic expectation of jobs available.

312. I found that public history is usual in a variety of fields such as communications. Learning to write and apply classroom education to real world problems was especially useful.

313. My public history education factored into being hired for my job developing museum exhibits, but it was on the job training and internships that I believe mattered more. But, I couldn't have gotten the job without the MA!

314. My spouse is [REDACTED] clergy and as such we move according to the church's directive.

315. I found my job 3 months before graduating. However, to be fair, I was already employed in a part time position at my institution. I find that Public History job openings are often filled internally.

316. My job started out as a part-time, grant-funded position with no benefits. I had to build it into a full time position. I think my work experience in museums while I was enrolled in grad school was almost more important in getting my job than my academic training. Your survey should take internships into account. I doesn't seem like anyone gets a public history job solely on the merit of their degree.

317. I would have liked to have had a course in career paths in public history and how to publish. There is an incredible variety of fields to work in and companies to work with, but I don't believe enough recognition is placed on that variety. Documentation is currently required in almost every business, but I think archivists and public historians have not made it their business to recognize and share how vital we can be in teaching and implementing historical research methods across business and government processes to preserve for our future.

318. My field of public history focuses on training or educating others, now I use public history techniques in all my classes, editing, making public presentations, interpretation, etc.

319. My M.A. in Public History was my second masters, I was and am employed as a librarian at ██████████ in Minnesota when I graduated with the Public History degree. The Public History degree opened new opportunities for me on campus, I took and still have an active role in the History's department's Public History class, the History Department's ██████████ project and I was able to start the library's digital library. Outside the library, the Public History degree has gotten me several appointments on various grant review projects.

320. I would have liked more hands on training with day-to-day activities that go on behind the scenes in a museum. I would have also liked to learn more of the administrative side of the business.

321. My first position required a Masters, which was too high a requirement for what the job actually entailed. The job was later reclassified to "Bachelors preferred but not required." It helped to have another Public History major as a supervisor who realized that I was underemployed, was able to promote me, and reclassified the job.

322. I was in the very first class in ██████████ enrolled in 1975, the field was young and wide open. There was flexibility. I was fortunate to catch the wave and have had a great career. The field has evolved and it is hard to judge if it will grow or simply institutionalize around gov't under-girding. After 40 years, standards are higher but I look for the history and the popular moral imperative to make the history in fact accessible, public and relevant – in other words – making applied history.

323. I have monstrous student loan debt, and am working part time in the bakery at ██████████. Previous to my "education," I managed shopping centers, and made over \$60,000 a year. Explain to me how this "education" has improved my life?

324. I believe that my success is due to my undergraduate studies being in a non-public history field (BA in Studio Art, minor in Theater.) The combined education has enabled me to bring a diverse skill set to my position. In other words, don't major in history in undergrad and move into a public history masters.

325. I have two part-time, temporary positions that equal 40 hours per week. No benefits and I have not had a single interview since obtaining these positions. I've applied to about 40 jobs. No benefits.

326. I went on to get a Ph.D. in History, which I am still working on.

327. Although I did not receive formal library or archival training in graduate school, my first (and current) position is at an academic library. The grant funded position began with responsibilities more closely related to public history, however, funding opportunities have shifted the position towards digital library work. As I begin to consider my next career move, I will be weighing my library experience with my museum experience to see what opportunities will be available. In both fields, a strong technology skill

set (including coding) has been more important than I would have anticipated entering graduate school (or that my graduate school prepared me for). My largest concern moving forward in the profession is to balance family life with job opportunities in the field, particularly with geographic mobility and my partner's career as a tenure-track professor in history and public history.

328. I work in an art museum, so I identify as closely related field. I would love to work in a history museum of a similar caliber, but that just does not exist in my region. I think my grad program was better than most in giving us hand-on experience, but I think the reality is there is just not the money in the field to support the number of people looking for jobs.

329. I am finding it extremely difficult to secure a permanent position with any degree of health benefits. I am struggling to find entry level positions that I am qualified for because they seem to expect or desire more experience than I could possibly have received as an emerging museum professional. I have accepted temporary internships, but feel that I am overqualified for these positions because of my training and degree. Thankfully, I am still able to work in the field but I realize that not everyone can afford to accept low-paying intern positions without benefits.

330. I did not end up with a job in public history, but instead I am working for an art museum. As I work in Registration (as compared to Curatorial), I did not find it difficult to work in a non-public history field.

331. Knowing that I wanted to work in a museum setting, obtaining a degree in PH was the best decision I made. I had lots of volunteer experience but the paid positions were going to people with degrees (often freshly earned) – not to people with experience in doing the job but without the educational background. Not to mention – the field is small, we either "know" each other personally or have friends in common. My current job came about because of these connections.

332. Regardless as to the institution from which one receives their degree, hands-on, practical experience in the field is a must. The trend, at least at one university, is to allow graduate students to work a graduate assistantship in their field only in their second year of study, with the first year placement being allotted to being a grading assistant. This does the student a disservice and robs them of much-needed exposure in the field, whether it is in museums, historic preservation, archives, etc. Internships are also a must and geographic diversity in taking them is something that students should strive to embrace. I would also recommend students volunteer in some capacity at institutions that are different from those in which they are placed for the graduate assistantships and internships.

333. I did not fully appreciate the extreme extent to which geography and finances would limit my career choices. My spouse earns twice what I could ever hope to make in the museum field, and we could not support ourselves solely on my salary as a museum educator. Therefore, we moved for his career, and, after several years of unsatisfying, underemployed part time museum work in our new city, I left the museum field for a position as a library programmer.

334. I went into the program as a married person, so I always had someone else's life to factor in to where I ended up. The only work locally in archives when I graduated was the same part time job I'd had since I was an undergrad, only making slightly more money. As a result, it became more economically and personally sensible for me to stay home with my child than to send him to daycare while I worked. After that, we made the decision to homeschool and had more children. At this point, when I'm finished with my youngest, I will have been out of the workforce for 24 years (I'm at eight years now). While archives was my passion, I'm not sure I'll be able to reenter the field at that point.

335. Had full-time job when I began MA Public History program. Continued with full-time job even after graduating from the program. That's when I made a career change to pursue employment in the history field. I am now an executive director at a museum.

336. My institution's public history program trained me thoroughly, but more importantly, my professors introduced me to the network of public history practitioners in my area. That, combined with my program's (well-deserved) reputation, helped secure me employment in this field.

337. It is absolutely imperative that PH programs include courses on grant writing and advocacy. Mine did not and these are essential skills in this field. My program was/is very good, but should add classes on these skills to be considered a 10.

338. I have taken many positions in community or economic development. I feel that public history is an often overlooked component in these fields. I think that a deeper understanding of place can aid in furthering projects and programs in these areas. I've also worked as a community organizer and leveraged local history to motivate projects and change in particular neighborhoods. I've also integrated public history heavily in the arts. Also, in historic preservation. I will say that pay is often low, that public history positions are afraid to engage my additional skills in media, art, and economic development, and benefits are often very minimal or too expensive.

339. I work as an archivist, having obtained an MSIS and MA concentrations in Archives and Public History. The public history component has proved very useful as an archivist when we are working on exhibits, writing finding aids, and doing research for patrons. My greatest challenge was finding work, and then finding a new job when my former condition became untenable. It is also hard to move up. It seems to me that in most cases to move up but you have to move out to do so, and finding that job can be illusive. I am currently in a position I do not intend to leave any time soon, but I still peruse openings and they are either not geographically feasible, require more (or less) experience than I have, or they pay far too little to support me and my family. I feel that employment and pay is the biggest obstacle facing our profession, particularly those of us who wanted to work as a curator or in a museum. The funding for full-time positions with livable wages is just not there in any considerable number. I would have liked to be in a museum or a university museum, but I found the jobs I was getting call-backs for were in libraries and archives, even with my museum work and public history background. For my current job, I was looking for 2-3 years and got a number of interviews, but there were so many applicants to the positions I was applying to, it was hard to break through and actually be offered the position. It is very frustrating to have degree(s) you enjoyed working on, wanting to work in a field you love, but be unable to obtain employment, whether full-time or otherwise, that pays you a salary that will allow you to live in a non-rundown apartment and still pay your bills and student loans. I am lucky that I have found a job that allows me to work in my chosen field and pays me enough to actually enjoy my life a little bit (while I don't make that much, I still make more than I thought I ever would as an archivist, so I'm pretty happy right now). Because of the terrible job market, it would be great to see programs like Public History help students understand that the skills you have are marketable to other professions and then help students figure out how to market themselves in a way that other professions would understand why those skills are useful to them. Archives are related to public history, but the skills you learn for public history would be applicable to other non-related field, but it's hard to explain that when you're in "museum/historical society/etc." tunnel vision mode.

340. I love my job, but the wages rates are below others in my field. I wish history museums (and grant funders!) had a better understanding of how important staff salaries are to obtaining and retaining creative, innovative, dedicated staff. Too often have I seen talented people leave the public history field because they could not earn a living wage. Many of my friends in the field (self included) are subsidized in part by spouses, or in the case of young professionals, parents. It is sometimes frustrating to see people with less education and fewer qualifications earning more money for similar work. I still love my job though, which is why I stay. For now, anyway.

341. There are several challenges that graduate schools need to address: 1) is that they should require internships so students have real experience on their resumes; 2) there should be more awareness of the potential careers that are tangential to history, and an aim to have students add skills that will make them marketable for those fields – for example, encouraging students to take a web design course or

other computer programming can diversify their experience and provide more employment options; 3) program staff rarely keep tabs on the modern job market and make adjustments to the program and advising accordingly – prepping students to be professors, archivists or museum interpreters doesn't make a ton of sense with a complete shortage of jobs in these fields.

342. It may have been overemphasis on geographic location, but I found that my credentials were insufficient to land me the jobs I wanted, which I was fully qualified to perform. This could of course have been my own failing as well, but I felt that as a strongly qualified applicant with an MA, I still could not land a fulltime permanent job and thus decided to pursue a PhD in history with emphasis in public history.

343. I love my job, I loved my degree, but my biggest complaint is how poor I am! I have no benefits, no long-term job security, I can barely pay the bills and I make more than my partner who I live with! (He is also in the field of public history.) It's frustrating to know how much experience and education I've received but how little these jobs are valued financially.

344. My public history training, an MA in American History with a 35-hour certificate in Public History, was very helpful in navigating a non-public history professional job as a researcher/writer in a public university foundation. My research skills learned, especially historic building survey coursework, which trained me to be able to successfully navigate court house records made a huge contribution in my job skills. Research methods also certainly made a difference in my "day job." Additionally, I should mention that the public history training, which included internship type of jobs in the museum field, allowed me to have the skills to develop a city/county historical museum. My training also came in handy to complete National Register nominations on historic properties as a contractor. These contractor positions were accomplished before taking the permanent, professional researcher/writer at a university foundation. I consider public history to be a wonderful mechanism for many professional positions – especially in today's world.

345. For context, I pursued a MA in Public History/MLIS joint program and then attended a film preservation certificate program before finding employment. It was implied that public history was not necessary to my moving image archives training by a faculty member in my MA program, but I very much disagree. The film pres certificate may have been more of a factor in landing jobs, but the joint program continues to inform my day to day work and interactions with colleagues.

346. Getting my degree was enjoyable, and the connections lead to my first professional position after my degree. However, the degree I received did not actually prepare me much for that position in terms of practical activity. The nature of the degree, I presume, since it is more focused on the "history" side of public history and my position was not focused on historical research or interpretation or education. I left that position because of personal reasons and was never able to find a comparable position in the field. In addition, I wanted to complete my state service for retirement purposes, and I've ended up making quite a bit more income than I would have if I had stayed in the public history field.

347. One issue I've noticed when job hunting is that I need to explain what public history is and stress that I do have a historical focus. I think that employers see public history as too general. After the employer sees a transcript it becomes clear that I do have training in a specific era/location, but it is getting to the transcript portion of job applications that is challenging. I regret that my university did not have the option to add focus or specialization to the degree, i.e. Public History with a focus in Middle Eastern Studies.

348. My first masters was from [REDACTED] and is in museum studies. My second masters is in liberal arts. I've worked in museums, humanities councils, heritage tourism and higher ed. All related to public history.

349. My greatest challenge was that the museum processes of designing exhibits and making changes moved at glacial speed. Coming off of 42 years of teaching secondary school, my work ethic was to move along with daily goals and continues focus. I found that those I worked with were not committed to that sort of movement forward. It was extremely frustrating.

350. Entry level jobs do not exist, especially in the museum field. I cannot and should not have to take unpaid internships to gain the required 3-5 years of experience following graduate school.

351. I am lucky in that I was hired for a high level position before officially obtaining my degree. While I am eternally grateful for the opportunities my job affords me, I remain frustrated. I am the only public historian at my job, as it is a nonprofit organization and fully dedicated to history. The search committee for my position did not fully understand the qualifications necessary for the job, or the demands of the [REDACTED]. I have little training in archives or library science. However, I am primarily dealing with archival materials and a full library. I am also working as a staff of one in a history center with little institutional memory and a large backlog.

352. I went on to get my PhD, with an inside minor in public history. I have utilized my public history training in working and commenting on exhibits and in constructing assignments for my classes.

353. I technically have a public history job, but due to politics and workplace stuff, it's been moved under the library. So I still consider that I work as a public historian, though I am employed by the state library. It's challenging working in a library with no library skills, and wanting them to adhere to public history standards when they have no idea what that entails.

354. The Public History programs I am familiar with do a good job at teaching history in a public setting, but they do not teach the "business" of having a job. Every historian should know Excel.

355. Even though I completed multiple public history internships before and during my graduate education, I still only found a secretary position at the [REDACTED] and have been there two years. Only recently was I offered a new better position in another state that reflects my actual education, experience, and skills. I am very excited about my new position, but I thought seriously about leaving the field of public history frequently while being so under-employed for two years after graduation. This state has a poor job market for public historians and I was very committed to staying here for a long time. But, recently began pursuing opportunities in other states. I think the history coursework I took, in particular working with my advisor – and my internship with a local city HP program, was tremendously useful in helping me to become an urban and architectural historian (now working in historic preservation). The more generalized public history training I received was helpful in a more theoretical way. We didn't focus on project management. I think more flexibility with coursework and specifically being able to take courses from related departments in the university would be tremendously helpful (like architecture, urban planning, business, public policy). I would also recommend embracing more technological training for specific programs, databases, and other tools that relate to your area of study – example GIS mapping. A common phrase heard is that "public historians wear many hats" and I find this to be very true in an ever changing world. You need to have a very diverse skill set outside just history and we need to prepare our students to reflect that daily reality. All young professionals now need the skills to do it all, and be very dynamic to compete in the 2016 job market. I'm now a public, urban, and architectural historian two years out of my master's program working in the field of historic preservation!

356. I received an MA in Public History at [REDACTED] before enrolling in the PH.D. program at [REDACTED]. After passing qualifying exams at [REDACTED], I accepted a full-time position based on previous connections made in [REDACTED]. As often said, it's not what you know, but who you know. So an emphasis on internships, volunteering, and other types of exposure to working professionals in the field should form the basis of Public History curriculum. I also recommend bringing in working professionals to teach on an adjunct basis, so that leaders in the field can build relationships with those entering it.

357. I obtained my degree in public history, but entered the library field. I always knew I was interested in libraries and archives, but thought that a public history degree would allow me to focus on libraries while broadening my skills. This was not the case. I will need to return to graduate school for an MLIS, as colleagues have expressed they prefer to see candidates who have an MLIS. Public history is most applicable in the way I think about my work. Thinking about broadening audiences, unearthing silences, and making history digestible is critical to my work. However, I also wish more of my graduate studies were spent learning business and project management skills. In both my positions I do much more administrative, marketing and management than creative, historical thinking.

358. The preservation track should include more information and training on the National Register and writing appropriate and informative Sections 7 & 8 in the NR Registration Form. An architectural history class or two would have been extremely helpful, too. I would also have liked a class that review HABS, HAER and HALS documentation and writing strong architectural descriptions. Focused writing that works for these purposes, perhaps even working on a few NR nominations as a team would help people understand limiting the writing to what's appropriate to the task at hand.

359. PH is a widely applicable discipline. Disappointed to hear of the changes to [REDACTED] program since the new director moved there. They had a strong program. It sounds as if it is a barebones operation at this point.

360. I believe that public history programs need to better train students on how their skills can translate across career fields, as well as how to sell themselves to non-history jobs. There are not enough positions being offered in the field that are entry level and paying a decent wage. We are expected to suffer through low to non paying positions for too long before competing for a position against 50+ people. Other fields are not expecting their post-secondary education graduates to suffer with unemployment after school is over. Public history needs to be the same way.

361. My graduate school courses did not necessarily prepare me for a job in public history. It was the practical experience I gained through assistantships that put me in contact with people, taught me communication and time management skills, and, quite frankly people skills, that enabled me to land employment and adjust fairly well from being a full time student to a full time employee at a museum. Graduate courses should be grounded in theory, and I believe a strong background in content history is important, but the leap from school to job is one that graduate school itself did nothing to aid. There needs to be more "public" in our public history programs to help prepare students, and a lot of that means cultivating a culture where faculty genuinely mentor students.

362. I think all the theoretical studies is nice but should be complemented with practical classes like creating and maintaining websites and grant writing and budgeting.

363. It's very hard to gain experience as an entry level person with the hard skills and projects of being an historian. Writing interpretive panels, curating exhibits, leading oral history projects . . . people who have been doing it for years, professors attached to universities, grad students, or those with other specialties (graphic design, communications) are hired as consultants to do the actual history work. I've moved up in the field but never had the opportunity to do any of the kind of history work I trained for and wanted to try my hand at. It's also VERY difficult to find work or funding for history projects when you aren't attached to a university. Grad students and faculty seem to be the only ones being hired to do history work.

364. I landed in public history because I had a good research background in geography that, at the time, emphasized methods more than topics – which was the case in many history programs. It was and is better for working in a "natural" area, at least for the NPS.

365. I became an archivist. Courses that required use of primary sources and understanding how they are organized and how to find them was very useful and because it was the most interesting aspect for me - I pursued it as a career. The archives field does not appreciate its alliance with public history, with most archivists being library school trained due to academic library dominance of archival administration. This is even becoming more so in government archives due to the technical requirements of record keeping. I believe a closer alliance with digital humanities programs and projects will alleviate some of the technical gap that exists between public history trained archivists and library-information trained archivists. Public historians still have much to contribute to the field but because of the technical gap it is now often more difficult to break in with the requisite experience.

366. I graduated when the job market was at rock bottom. I had one year of unemployment, with only one job interview at a public history job. I moved states and continued on the path to unemployment until I got a very basic admin job with a law office. I then switched jobs a couple times, each with public facing work but not related to history and very admin based. I'm not pursuing a PhD in history, hoping that'll get me closer to the jobs I seek.

367. I did not find full-time employment with benefits in a public history role but as part-time contract position. Having a professional full-time (non history) administrative job helped me gain employment.

368. I retreated to retail after obtaining my degree when I couldn't find a job. I found the critical thinking and communication skills I gained through PH training to be invaluable, I quickly rose to department manager in my retail position.

369. I've had some trouble getting a job, I'm still only working part time.

370. For the M.A. we had to focus on two of three areas: archival management, historical editing, and historic preservation. I focused on the first two. In my first professional job, I worked in archives and was the managing editor of an historical magazine. I was wisely advised to take that position even though the money was low because it would allow me to build my skills. My second position, and the one I've held since 1991, largely involves the arrangement and description of manuscript material. What really helped me to obtain both positions was that by the time I received my M.A., I had assembled a large resume. My Public History professor had her students complete classroom assignments for outside entities so that upon graduation we had wonderful resumes.

371. The internship I had in a local county government archive in my first year of graduate school led to a co-funded graduate assistantship in the same archive in my second year. These experiences led to my current full-time position as the manager of this archive. Work experience in a public history setting during school was a key to my successful employment after graduation.

372. My current position is in development, a field seemingly dominated by candidates with Masters in Public Administration. Public History programs that offer overlapping classes with MPA programs or provide training on non-profit administration are highly beneficial to obtaining employment.

373. Finding employment after earning my public history MA proved to be difficult. My first full time, professional job in the field (historic preservation office) probably had more to do with my undergraduate minor (historic preservation) than the training I received in my MA program. When I wanted to pursue a career shift into the museum field, I returned to graduate school to secure a museum studies MA. At the time, it seemed that I needed more concentrated instruction in that field than my previous MA provided.

374. I have a bit of a unique situation. I had an internship with [REDACTED] during my studies and then continued on as the [REDACTED]. It was clear I wasn't going to be selected to take the job permanently and was subsequently hired as a [REDACTED]. While based in HP it really had little to do with what I studied. After three years I had an opportunity to go back on Active Duty with the Air Force. I took this chance because I was ready to leave my job. Subsequently I have

become accustomed to a standard of living that a job in historic preservation cannot sustain and that is the main reason I am out of the field today.

375. The part-time jobs and internships I had while in my program, while not officially "required," are the reason I am employed in the field now. I highly recommend working throughout the program in as wide a range of jobs as possible, to prepare for the possibility that your exact dream job will not necessarily be available when you graduate (I worked in paper archives, audiovisual archives, and museum education/program design).

376. I achieved a job in public history while working on my degree. I left that job for another in the nonprofit sector, but not history related, that provides a higher salary, benefits, and retirement. My MA has earned me additional vacation and certification within my new role.

377. I graduated with a masters in history and archival studies from [REDACTED]. At the time I graduated the public history program was separate from the archival studies program; however, they are now combined. I believe that archival studies and public history are closely allied but please note that all of my responses are in regards to my studies and professional work in archives.

378. As a white man I feel totally unwelcome in the Public History field. Everyone I've worked with/for, from fellow students, instructors, institutional representatives we've worked with, internship supervisors, and the public, have raved about my work. However, I can get nowhere with my employment searches. After 4 years it has become so frustrating that I don't even look for listings for months on end.

379. I had the fortune of gaining employment in the field of public history; however, the skills, training and knowledge I gained are seldom employed. Day to day operations and basic functional tasks consume much of the work day and there is limited application of public history skill set.

380. It's extremely difficult to get a new job if you don't want to move.

381. The challenge I'm facing is that I have nearly 10 years of actual experience in this field and I am unable to secure even a single interview because the field is competitive and we continue to demand more and more education but offer little compensation. I honestly believe that it may not be worth coming back to the field to deal with high stress, low pay, and the fact that I am losing out on jobs to people who have no training, no background, and who happen to be "nice people." The field is filled with people who got a degree in history or art or archaeology and didn't know what to do with it so they're treating our field like its disposable. I have to say I have a BA in Public History and even that didn't train me. The degrees that focus on public history and museums are not interdisciplinary enough to really prepare students for the reality of working in a museum.

382. I moved to another country and completed my thesis (coursework was already completed) abroad – during that time, I needed a job and no jobs in the public history field were on offer that I could qualify for. While visa issues kept me away from a few opportunities, a big struggle I faced was that I was too qualified for the regular museum jobs (customer service, lower level education assistance, etc.) and would not be considered. My attempt to approach the field 'from the bottom' was not possible with the qualifications that I had. Similarly, I did not have the experience to get higher level roles – I found I was in a weird 'middle ground' that made employment difficult to find.

383. In my experience, most positions in Public History requiring a Master's degree do not offer a living wage. I have continued my education to include graduate certificates in nonprofit management and digital curation to add to my qualifications.

384. Museums, historical societies and most positions in the historic realm do not pay adequately, considering the mountainous debt incurred to obtain various degrees.

385. The fact that the survey doesn't ask any questions about full vs part-time vs contract employment seems like a major oversight. I indicated that I didn't have a PH job after finishing the MA program at [REDACTED], which is true insofar as I didn't have a full-time job at all. I was, however, doing part-time contract work for a [REDACTED] project, and additional part-time work as a digital archives assistant. Neither of these jobs had benefits, but I was fortunate enough to be able to find a part-time job that did have benefits, which allowed me to continue doing PH work. I've since come back to academia with a full-time PhD fellowship in the social sciences (education).

386. For 11 months after finishing my degree, I worked some combination of 2 part-time jobs in public history and a third as a substitute high school teacher. They were in three different parts of the state, so I commuted a lot. Despite the obvious downsides of this situation, I'm actually very grateful for it in many ways. Having that range of experiences (in addition to several internships while in grad school) actually helped me in the end to land a full-time job in the public history field that aligned very closely to my interests. I've been in the same position now for almost 5 years, and my job has morphed extensively over that time, in some ways good and in others not so good. But even in the new duties that I have taken on that are not as related to the public history field, I do feel that having had a variety of internship and part-time experiences made me better prepared to adapt to new responsibilities outside of my previous experience and outside of the field. The ability to do so has been noted upon by my employers, and when I was hired my employers also told me that the combination of having an MA in history with a concentration in public history was actually very attractive, as it gives a sense of having both depth of knowledge and range of experience. The somewhat arbitrary adjustments in my job description (which I realize is just a reality of any non-profit) do sometimes give me pause about next steps, and what exactly I want my next position to be and if I'll have the right experience for it.

387. I might have skewed the results a little bit, since I have two MA's but am still a student (PhD program) and am also a research fellow at a nearby museum. So I wasn't quite sure how to answer some of the questions. I am extremely satisfied with my path thus far. One reason is that I have been able to avoid debt. My first MA generously offered a full tuition waiver, and the second was tuition-free since I entered on the PhD track. It's been incredibly freeing to not be weighed down by student loans. I have been employed in public history-related jobs since 2010, gradually moving from an unpaid internship and low-paid seasonal work to higher-paid fellowships (& also my grad student teaching work, which has included organizing public history projects for my students). I love what I am doing and feel grateful that I get to do it! I came into my first MA program with a BA in a totally different field and basically no experience in public history. My programs have really transformed my life in a positive way, and I am thankful!

388. I was trained in public humanities at [REDACTED], which may differ from many other public history-related programs. For one thing, it has an expanded view of what jobs are related to this field. For instance, I have always worked on engaging the public in contemporary architecture and urban issues, both in public history settings like museums and at professional organizations and nonprofits. The Public Humanities program did not strictly differentiate between what is and isn't public history, and I think that was to my benefit in finding work. Both the course work and our practicums were very open ended, allowing us to pursue whatever strange corners of the field we belonged to. Lastly, I'm surprised that this survey does not ask any demographic data about respondents. In general, the experiences of my female colleagues has been more difficult than that of my male ones—a problem I think cannot be ignored.

389. I work part-time in university administration, dealing with grad students. Having gone through rigors of public history degree, I can relate more to grad student issues.

390. I sometimes feel like I would have been better suited from an employment perspective if I had pursued a degree in Museum Studies rather than Public History. However, I certainly enjoyed a (Public) History Masters program more than I would've a Museum Studies one.

391. My largest concern with finding permanent employment (non grant-funded) is based on salary, benefits, and location. With a partner in the field of history, I feel great uncertainty to how we will balance our careers moving forward with seeking quality jobs in the same geographic locations, particularly full time employment with benefits. The limited job market for recent graduates has been a factor in waiting to marry and start a family.

392. I am now a public high school history teacher. My training in public history gave me great theoretical frameworks to shape how I teach and what weight I give to material.

393. When I graduated, the economy was still in recession. In the past few years I have seen employment opportunities increase. Due to the situation of the economy I found it necessary to use unique employment opportunities to gain necessary experience to be considered for public history jobs. It is hard to find full-time employment when starting off because every opening wants 3-5 years experience. AmeriCorps helped me have the necessary years of experience to find a full-time public history job.

394. Finding full-time employment is difficult, even when casting a large net. I've been applying to jobs in a rather large geographic area, and have heard nothing from most of them. I understand that likely dozens (at least) apply to each position listed on the major job boards, but it would be nice to at least have a firm answer in reply, even if it's no. The part time work that I've found in the public history field is encouraging – conducting a historical architecture survey and digitizing a historical society's collection – but not enough, and I am unfortunately not being paid very well for either position. It's a tough field, which I knew when I entered my program. I just wish it were slightly easier.

395. I had a Master's in librarianship going into the public history program. After finishing my Master's in public history, I went on to the PhD program in history at the same institution. I was looking for a job either in public history, academic librarianship, or academia. I was interested in a job that provided security, a comfortable income, and focused on education. I more easily found a job that met those qualifications in the library field.

396. I started working part-time in a museum about halfway through my graduate study. Eight months before completing my MA, I took a different part-time job with more hours and better pay at a large, well-known museum. One month after finishing my MA, the museum turned my part-time job into a full-time job with benefits. Even though my museum job is in development, which is not my ideal public history profession, I have stayed in my position for just over three years. I have applied for other museum jobs, but each one has involved a pay cut. I am paid much more than my counterparts in more history-intensive positions, such as curatorial and education. To further my career in a financial sense, I likely will need to stay in the development field, as opposed to using my degree more like I would like to.

397. While trained in public history, I have found employment in an adjacent field as a full-time educator at a garden and cultural center. In this capacity, I have been able to do some traditional public history work, including write and deliver history programs and curate two exhibits. I also have developed skills that would serve me well in the education or public programs departments of historic houses or museums. These include: supervising and training volunteers, interns, and part-time staff, developing partnership programs, coordinating tour bookings, and evaluating programs and visitation. My training in public history provided an excellent entry point into conversations endemic to all cultural institutions, such as their place in a diverse society and responsibility to community stakeholders. I feel that I have been able to add a fresh perspective to strategic planning. Also, the object-centered approach to education I learned in my program complements the type of nature education I do today. While I still consider myself a public historian, I have faced challenges finding full-time employment in the field. The biggest barriers for me have been the low pay, lack of benefits, and part time nature of most positions. Additionally challenging is the monetary barrier to education or experience needed for archival or curatorial work. I wish there were more affordable professional development opportunities for full-time workers.

398. It took me nearly two years to find a job using my public history education because I focused on archives but did not have a library science degree. However, due to my public history background, I was accepted everywhere I applied to obtain my library science degree, and my public history internship proved incredibly useful in landing my current job in archives.

399. In my market (New England), there are many, many more people applying for jobs than there are openings. Jobs that used to not require a college degree are now able to pick from multiple candidates with graduate training. Getting a good job is largely up to chance and fit for people entering the job market – people much more qualified than myself were turned down for the job I have now; I was lucky enough to be a good fit. And in finding jobs outside of PH, the graduate degree was a hindrance. Employers fear that you will jump ship as soon as you find a decent job in your field of study, and they're right. PH training needs to emphasize networking, internships, and simply how to get along with people. The field is too competitive and too close-knit to afford lapses in professionalism and cordiality.

400. Learning how to think and write, which aren't linked to public history training specifically, continue to be the most important skills in my current profession. Taking courses in public history was a neutral experience for me. I could have learned these skills in any number of programs.

401. I just obtained my public history degree (this weekend!) and so am still on the job market. One thing I liked in particularly about the program I attended is the networking opportunities. The faculty are very connected/active in the field and always looking to get their students placed in positions that will use their degrees.

402. I completed my MA in History with a Public History certificate in 2009. I then pursued and graduated with an MLIS and secured employment as a special collections librarian in an academic library during my final semester of graduate school.

403. I decided to be a stay-at-home mom for a while because my partner was in a field that paid more – I do public history volunteer work now and would like to be paid.

404. I did not receive a public history degree. I got a History MA but I took almost all of the public history courses that a Public History student would. The reason I chose not to switch to a PH degree was because I already worked in public history and I would have been required to quit that job to do the same thing as an unpaid intern. I was a high school teacher before working in public history and based on my experience as a public school teacher and as a museum educator I would say that my colleges often do not feel that they know enough about the public schools systems they are working with works, I think more education about that would be beneficial.

405. When it's time to move onto a full-time job, which will be within this year, it is unclear if I can stay in Public History. Student debt is crippling and I need a position that is full time and offers benefits or I may not have a career in the field that I love and am trained in. This is the case for many of my alumni peers (millennials) and almost none of us have just one job that supports us fully.

406. Limited jobs but am fortunate to have a semi-related job to historic preservation. Luckily my boss is very determined to see me use my skills for more than just membership work. Consulting is great but very limited/competitive with the current state fiscal situation.

407. I got my current job by doing an internship at the museum I was employed at in a different department. I am finishing my degree in a few weeks and actively trying to find a new job at a different museum/cultural institution.

408. Worked as an auditor from May 1985 to March 2016 while earning public history degree. The MA in public history is useful in volunteer work and genealogy research for self and others.

409. I had a great job in public history as Collections Manager then Curator in a historical society but the pay was meager and benefits were nonexistent. I opted to leave the public history museum for an art museum position about six years due to a large pay raise with the possibility of increases in the future and state benefits. I was happier in my history position but unable to support a mortgage and a possible family married to a teacher. I wish I was still in public history but frankly could not afford to be.

410. I found full time employment when I graduated with my BA and obtained my MA while working full time. Eventually found my way up to an ED position but only part time pay so I had to work two jobs. That's when I left the field. Our field is looked at more like a hobby. Even directors in large museums make 6 figures and then pay their employees (who have MA) minimum wage. It's pathetic and embarrassing to our field. I left and became the ED of a bar association. I have to work for lawyers but at least I'm paid a livable wage.

411. In addition to the MA, I have an MLIS, jointly obtained. I have worked as an archivist for over 25 years.

412. After my first semester of grad school, I received my first public history position with the National Park Service. I worked to open a National Park Site as their first public historian. From that point on, I pretty much either worked as an intern, grad research assistant or in the field of public history at the county, state and federal level.

413. Finding positions in a certain geographical area has been difficult. I'm currently working in the humanities, where I get to use my public history skills daily. However, the position is part time with no benefits. But I will say that what I learned in my grad program has helped me in a variety of positions not just those in the public history world.

414. I retired after graduation and have been volunteering at a historic society since. On side I am collecting data for writing history of my town.

415. Currently, I find myself outgunned in terms of experience when competing for a Public History job. This is after I completed the degree with an internship.

416. I had some amazing courses and practical experiences in graduate school at [REDACTED] but currently I can't continue to stay in the public history field due to finances and benefits. I love what I do as a visitor services associate but I ended up going back to school to finish my teaching license. I actually am leaving the museum field and will be teaching in a public school setting in the fall.

417. I found public history employment before and during my pursuit of an MA in public history. I found my on-the-job experience more valuable than my MA training, particularly since my MA required taking a number of academic reading courses which were less than helpful and the professional courses were all introductory level. I could have used much more training in general nonprofit management such as people management, grant writing, board management, etc.

418. I found my professors were not very helpful to me and were generally rude. I am currently going back to school to become a teacher.

419. FAR too many MA programs. There aren't enough jobs for all the graduates. A program that would have *actually* allowed to tailor my degree to my interests would have been better than one that forced me down a path that the program head liked.

420. Broad training in public history served me well, but it was still a steep learning curve in my first job.

421. Many challenges I encountered were the requirements in job descriptions in terms of degrees. Many just wanted a BA therefore not considering an MA. Some aspects of public history can be utilized in other fields, however employers are not considering that during the hiring process. I think the flexibility of having a public history degree should be emphasized and discussed in how to use those skills elsewhere.

422. Although I worked as a public historian after earning the MA, I was continued in the program to earn a PhD.

423. I was incredibly discouraged after grad school. If I was wiser then, I should've given up pursuing a job in the field and gone on to something else. I'd like to think perseverance is noble, but it's not.

424. I am vastly overqualified for my present position. Because I work in a larger institution that is not just history-based, there is little understanding among higher administration of the necessity of specialized skills and experience for my position and a lack of recognition that archiving is more than scanning something or writing folder labels.

422. Graduate school has proven invaluable to me for many reasons: critical thinking and analysis, awareness and thorough understanding of best practices and procedures, communication skills (written and oral) among other professional skill sets. I appreciate (now) that my program required both a masters thesis and written comprehensive exams. An indirect though immensely important outcome is the network of peers formed during graduate school. These colleagues form the core of my professional network fifteen years after graduation; while not directly discussed in grad school, this network of peers is so important! Of equal importance to my graduate school training was the hands-on experience in LOTS of different museums through Graduate Assistants programs, internships, etc.

423. I felt the only thing I wish I had more experience in would be conservation and preservation as well as grant writing.

424. I applied for over 30 jobs in public history and related fields (planning departments, historic preservation offices, etc.) in the last few months of my MA program. A new graduate of one of the US' oldest Public History programs with interesting internships and assistantships on my resume, I thought I would be a strong candidate for most of those positions. What I found instead (and continue to find as I continue to search for full-time employment in related fields) was that entry-level jobs were scarce, and that my training had not been technical enough to make me competitive for most positions that were open. Technical skills in architectural materials identification, drafting, and preservation techniques were in high demand, and listed among most jobs' minimally required skills. I think the research component of my MA program is really the only translatable skill I honed, but I could have honed that in a "regular" history program or any other field at the graduate level. The most important and useful skills I honed in grad school - networking, teaching, funds development - I taught myself and practiced independent of my coursework and without help from anyone leading my program. Though our program is fiercely vociferous in proclaiming its distinctiveness from the academic side of the history department, it's really is focused on the less technical, more navel-gazing academic side of public history rather than the technical, practical side.

425. Despite having the education qualifications to work for the NPS as a GS7 and up I do not have the experience. Therefore what I did was applied for the lower level positions to gain that experience and to work my way up the ladder. To get that GS-4 job though took me nine months, seven of which I was still in school for. I believe though the fact that I interned at the park that I am working for right now really helped. So connections, education, and experience are a must. If other universities are on the fence regarding internships let this serve as an example. As for my satisfaction . . . I want a permanent GS7 and up position. I cannot live on a GS4 salary. Despite this I enjoy what I am doing. I am giving tours to adults and children. Researching information to present, and working with individuals who love history as much as I do. Thank you for your time and for this survey. I am curious to see what the results are.

426. Current non public history jobs pay three times as much as any public history job I have looked at. Hard to switch and start so low on the pay scale with a family.

427. Professional internships are absolutely critical to any PH program.

428. One of the biggest challenges with job applications was not having enough practical experience of curation, something which could have been covered through group projects facilitated by the MA course and the university. Generally, practical experience as opposed to academic record was lacking, and it is especially difficult to gain such experience in the heritage sector without the help of university connections, etc.

429. I completed a joint MA/MLIS program at [REDACTED]. I'm not sure that I would have completed either degree individually, so the MA in public history was important to me. The critical thinking skills I gained continue to be useful, as well is the broader exposure to cultural history programs that I received. My career path shifted even while in graduate school towards technology and public libraries. While I have occasionally considered applying for public history jobs over the years, I have not pursued any public history position.

430. Coming out of graduate school and finding a full time job with benefits was difficult. I thought that I was qualified for what I believed to be entry level positions such as assistant positions (curator, registrar, etc.). I found that I was going up against people who had much more experience than me. Because of the job market, people were applying for jobs in which they were overqualified for because they needed a position. With entry level jobs going to people who had already been in the workforce several years, it made it extremely difficult for recent graduates to find full time positions. I ended up applying for temporary positions and paid internships which provided housing. Although they do not have benefits, it allows me to stay in the field. I have heard that this is common, and I might jump around to several different temporary positions before landing a full time job. This doesn't phase me as much as it does my parents.

431. My degree in Public History not only prepared me for working in the field, it also gave me a wonderful professional resource in the many colleagues who also graduated from the program.

432. I definitely picked the right career for me. My current job inside a government agency that is not entirely history-focused can be challenging. I feel that I am always fighting for the legitimacy of what we do as public historians and it can be exhausting. If I wanted to find another job in public history, I'd probably have to move to another city or state. There just aren't that many positions out here.

433. I would have loved to have found a job in the public history field after graduation. However, we wanted to move back to the area where my wife and I were from. Unfortunately, public history-related jobs are few and far between in the area where we moved. Many are part time or volunteer positions. Those that are full time don't pay nearly enough to pay the bills (i.e. student loans!). Most positions are locked-up for years (I'm thinking of the director of our county historical society). As an administrator for a local manufacturing company, many of the skills developed/learned while obtaining my MA in Public History has definitely paid off. I'm current trying to get back into the career field, but realize that I'm going to have a bit of a climb as I've been "away" for 4 years.

434. For public history programs with an archival track, greater emphasis should be placed on hands-on work. Either extended internship duration or a year-long practicum.

435. I have been very satisfied with my career. My current position is my fourth job in the last 15 years and is the one I have stayed at the longest. I am tenured, I have full benefits, and I work in an academic library where my colleagues are conducting cutting edge research in history, documentary editing, archival management, and librarianship.

436. I was not prepared for the economic realities of a poorly paying job in public history while dealing with undergraduate and graduate school degrees. I found the field overall to be filled with unhappy people who had gone into the field with passion and quickly burnt out between lack of economic and personal advancement. This is especially true since many leaders of these organizations do not have public history degrees and instead earned their positions through political or personal connections. At my level of employment, I discovered I had essentially "topped out." All of these factors plus personal considerations with my growing family led to a career change to teaching history in schools.

437. Politics! Wish more hands on/materials related training had been made available.

438. This is a broad degree that could be useful to a variety of jobs and career paths; however, I am currently working in HR at a [REDACTED] because of a personal connection – I could not find viable work (reasonable salary/commutable location) in any other way. I am hopeful that I will make a career shift so that my education and job relate to each other in a more direct way.

439. I am finding it incredibly difficult to find full-time paid employment in public history. I am currently an unpaid intern despite having previous experience in the public history field.

440. I am seeing a general trend, in the federal government, in hiring PhDs without a degree or training in public history, which leads me to question the marketability of an MA in public history, particularly for federal government positions. At a federal job workshop only four days ago a hiring official for the Smithsonian Institution emphatically stated that if you have a master's degree that you may as well not apply for a curatorial position because so many PhDs will be competing for the same position. Are the hiring trends in smaller institutions similar? Will graduates with a master's degree in public history be limited to smaller, less well-paying institutions in less desirable locations? Is a master's in public history in danger of becoming obsolete considering the state of the job market? Are we overproducing PhDs? Are we overproducing public historians?

441. I had the skill set needed to create my job and to perform in a way that it is sustainable. I don't see the new graduates possessing those skills. They can Tweet but they can't Think! Plus many seem to possess a sense of entitlement that does not serve them well. Having both mentored students and hired interns, I can honestly say that this trend has become more and more evident. I actually had an intern refer to themselves as a "partner" in a project, though they did less than 6 percent of the work and didn't complete the tasks as necessary. I think the emphasis on social media has a lot to do with this trend. There is no trench work, just Googling for data without understanding what it is that they are really looking at. The world needs another Noel Stowe.

442. It is a competitive job market. Having multiple skills in basic business: marketing, accounting, management, and public history can only help.

443. I teach high school level history. I incorporate museum visits and the interpretation of artifacts into my classroom. Furthermore, I am a sometimes antiques dealer. The skills I acquired in identifying material culture artifacts and their preservation has helped me in this field. While I would enjoy working in a museum, most public history salaries and benefits packages cannot compete with those in education. Therefore, it is somewhat prohibitive for me to switch careers even though I would enjoy it.

444. I think a MA in public history provided me with a lot of skills that I was then able to bring to a job in the nonprofit field. My job isn't technically in public history, but working on the local history in the city around my school helped me to learn a lot about neighborhoods and the way the area is structured and why. As a result, I feel like I understand the communities I'm serving a bit better and I've had the opportunity to think through the way you approach, engage, and partner with a community to meet their needs, not simply push your agenda on them. Of course, there's the writing and communication skills you learn as well, but I think the biggest skill gained was learning how to interact with a larger audience

and consider their needs. I think it's hard to work directly in the field of public history. The pay doesn't align with the years of training completed or skills gained, and it's a small market so jobs are very competitive. I was also limited by my location and not wanting to uproot my husband for a job that wouldn't pay well. And it's rare to get a job in public history with a full time job from the beginning. You're expected to work part-time and eventually be promoted, but it's not realistic. I think that was my biggest struggle finding employment. But I'm happy where I ended up in the nonprofit sector, and I never regretted getting my MA in history because it was a great experience and it made me a better writer and thinker.

445. My public history training prepared me for much of my current job. What I liked (and continue to like) was the breadth of training I received. What it did not prepare me for was the budgetary responsibility I have. Incorporating financial management into the training could have tremendous benefits for students. Not only is it useful in nearly every job but being able to manage a personal budget is important as well.

446. My age and the economic crash had a lot to do with my employment status.

447. It took me nearly two years from the time I graduated to find employment in the Public History field. One of the big obstacles was the amount of time each application could require. Even if I had only applied to positions strictly titled "Programs Coordinator" (the position I now hold) it still would have resulted in fifty different applications. There is no uniformity or structure in the titles/positions and duties of most Public History jobs. I recognize the challenges in even attempting to create a common set of titles, as each institution has very different needs in each position, but it certainly becomes a question of how best to find jobs when they are titled so differently and the duties can have such a wide range. It was also very frustrating to come out of a two years Master's program to find those two years count very little towards the often required "at least two years experience," but I know that to be a frustration in many fields. I love the job I now hold – it is precisely the type of job I hoped to find – I could almost say it was worth the nearly two year wait to get it, almost. I know my degree is what enabled me to obtain this position, and I know I use the degree on a daily basis. Areas I which my Public History training could have prepared me better are areas of management – volunteer management, rental management, budget management, fundraiser management – the nitty gritty, unavoidable aspects of any nearly every institution that would employ Public History graduates.

448. I got offered my current and only public history job based on an internship right as I started my MA program. I have been there for 13 years. It is a narrowly focused job and I don't use most of my degree to do it.

449. My degree program had a dual track in museums and archives – although I entered the archives profession, I always felt very lucky to have such a broad background.

450. Although I have been fortunate to find and keep working in the field, I have always found my salary on the low end for my skills and experience. Although, my husband has a degree in the public history field and is not currently working in it due to a lack of positions in this area.

451. I would say most public historians are extremely satisfied with their full time positions, once they find one. Discovering a place that will hire you and which has benefits is extremely difficult in the field and is perhaps our greatest barrier.

452. I moved to the Washington DC area to complete my public history internship in order to make it more likely to find a full-time position. Additionally I went on to receive a graduate library degree, which has also helped significantly when applying for positions.

453. I received my MA in public history but went on to get my PhD with an emphasis on public history. Due to personal circumstances and the challenge of finding a public history position (in the area I currently live), I am currently adjuncting. I am looking for jobs both in public history and academia.

454. After my degree, I became employed in a university library setting. For job advancement, I also had to obtain a master's degree in library science, even though this additional degree did very little to contribute to my work. I felt that the MA in public history provided me with the skills and knowledge I needed to do my job successfully. However, there was no way to achieve promotions without the additional degree. I know several people in this same position. Those who were unwilling or unable to obtain a second degree, often hit a ceiling rather soon in their careers with just a MA in public history alone. I wish the degree were more valued among employers in the academic library arena.

455. I regret my degree. Those who pursue public history would be better off earning a degree in museum studies or in library science – at least those fields some name recognition. Few know about or have heard of public history, so it is always a burden to explain exactly what that means during the job hunt. This has led to underemployment, where I would be making more money now if I had stayed in retail after my undergraduate degree – and I will never be able to pay off my student loans.

456. I already had a job in a related field when I completed my masters. After taking maternity leave and quitting that job to move to another state for my husband's degree, I have failed to obtain another job. I'm not free to move and I think the area we are in does not provide enough opportunities for entry-level history employment. I find I am only looking at positions with my previous non-history experience because no one will hire someone with limited experience and a couple months of internship or project does not substitute for the years of professionals experience that employers here want.

457. Very useful. Grant writing, and overall writing was useful. Had great profs at [REDACTED].

458. Public history is considered much less valuable than an MLS/LIS degree in the archival field, especially for more experience/advanced positions. Improving training in such areas may help, or creating more "dual-degree" programs.

459. My husband attended graduate school with me and is currently employed in the public history field. I left my first position when he was offered his job, which required us to relocate. However, I had been actively seeking new employment because the salary at my first public history job was extremely low. We currently live in a small town where additional public history jobs are essentially nonexistent. I use a little of my public history training to do adult programming at our County Library, as Adult Services Coordinator. I have been in this position for three years. My advanced degree and experience with programming were factors in securing my current position.

460. When I graduated from [REDACTED] in 1997 I did not have help from my program in securing employment. [REDACTED] seems to do better now and in the past 10 years. My first position was a very underpaid paraprofessional position in a HCOL area outside of my preferred geographic area. I wish I had never taken that position and I wish I had more mentoring during my job search. I was told that jobs were hard to find (ha! less so then than now) so I thought I had to take the first position offered. I was not respected as a new professional in that first job. I was only 23 and I needed guidance from more experienced archivists.

461. The first job I found upon graduation (part-time) was actually more closely related to my public history graduate training. I took that part-time job primarily because it was close to home and I was able to live with a parent. I continued to look for a full-time position, but was unable to find one until I expanded my search geographically. My current job, the first full-time job I was offered out of grad school, is in Norfolk, Virginia. I think the Cincinnati/Dayton area is oversaturated with public history grads because most of my fellow students also wanted to stay in the area. While my current job is technically an archives position, it is quite different than the training I received because it is an audiovisual archives

position that deals mostly with digital media. However, I have found the job immensely gratifying, and I am glad that my public history training made my resume stand out, considering the position did not require a master's or even a bachelor's in archival studies/public history/library science, just a "degree in a related field" or two years of archival/library experience.

462. It took me more than 4 years to find a full-time job in public history. At one point I had three part-time jobs.

463. Technology changes are happening so fast, that I feel I could have benefitted greatly with more technology based training (cataloging systems, digitization equipment and software, database systems, etc.) in the public history degree. More training in communications and networking- most of my job in a corporate setting is talking to upper management using business jargon and reasoning, which is very, very different from traditional academic way of writing and reasoning.

464. This was not a barrier for me (because I have a relevant second Master's degree), but I am concerned that almost all job listings specify a Library Science degree. Why is PH seen as a generic semi-equivalent to an MLIS? For me, PH was better preparation for service in the field than LS. I would love to see a job add that seeks someone with "a Master's degree in Public History or an equivalent degree and work experience."

465. [REDACTED] University's career services ca. 1994 was useless. After graduating and entering resume information in their career services, they told me there was nothing they could do for me. Nine months on your own trying to find a job leaves one slightly better. However, as I understand, the [REDACTED] Public History program made several changes that I strongly agreed with both to improve the program and to hopefully make their graduates more valuable in the job market.

466. I think the field is being flooded with people with their grad degree and little to no experience because every time I turn around another college or university is opening a Public History (or similar) program.

467. I currently work at Kroger earning just over minimum wage. But I am working to create a business based on my education in Public History.

468. I am working as a Visual Resources Curator in an Art and Art History Department. I do not consider it a related field, but the training I received in digital media management, cataloging, scanning, and organization are helpful in my current position.

469. I did not feel like I was "done" when I graduated – I still knew I had an awful lot to learn to secure and be successful in a senior position, so I did think of my early career jobs in much the same way as internships. I networked, made friends, sought mentors, attended workshops and conferences. I think that my graduate program encouraged that behavior while I was enrolled, but also intended that I continue to do that after graduation as well.

470. One of the key elements that has been useful to me were the transferable non-profit related skills. I would suggest public history courses that address fundraising, non-profit management, communications and volunteer management as good additions to the program to provide graduates more avenues for employment. When I graduated, I moved overseas with my husband's job and began volunteering with the [REDACTED] which led to a 20 year career in public affairs. My internships during school were focused on fundraising and public relations in the public history field (at historic homes) and proved useful in my employment with [REDACTED]. The writing and presentation skills I got in my public history education have proven invaluable over the course of my career. I now run my own communications business and hope to eventually secure clients in the public history field. Currently, most of my clients are in international development and petrochemical (I currently live in Nigeria).

471. While I found a job quickly, it pays very little – 27,500.00 annually to start, and after 2 years, only 29,000.00, which is hard when one has an MA and a M.Ed. There are difficulties with the board who is more used to having a secretary with some museum skills rather than a fully trained and educated professional so it is taking a very long time to try to establish some of the standards of the field – graduates should be confident in what they know but respectful of those who have been involved with the organization.

472. My first position after graduating with M.A. in Public History was in the field working for a state government. I had a full-time position and received benefits but my salary was below average for the field, even given the region where I worked (southeast U.S.). I am now in my second position post-graduation and have a higher salary but still find limited room for career advancement within state government (I work in a different state now than I did previously). My current job is challenging because of management issues and my satisfaction at work is lower than I would like. In the past year I began to consider seeking a position outside public history because it is difficult to find full-time jobs in the field in my city and surrounding area that also pay well and offer benefits. I am currently tied to this location because of family needs.

473. The problem is less the skills and more a massive symptom of the field. Nobody quits, and basic entry level roles want anywhere from 3-5 years experience with pay that doesn't even remotely match up for a master's degree, even for the non-profit field. I work as a preparator, paid a fraction of my value, and all of my training is for the most part useless – everything I had to learn on the job. I'm extremely dissatisfied and frankly, wish I had never bothered with the degree and massive loans it incurred since I'm certainly not paid enough and unable to secure a better position since NOBODY quits and there's little upward mobility. Unrelated, I've noticed a very strong sexist trend in that most places seem to favor women, are run by women, and hire women. In every interview I have had, it's been done by women. I'm a white male, and I honestly believe that it's actually more difficult for me to get a job because I am neither female, nor a different ethnic group.

474. Internships far outweigh university requirements in prepping for career. Lucky my program organized these internships and they had a stipend. A year into my first public history position and it is unclear if I will be able to proceed due to the low pay. Single income families have a disadvantage in being able to stay in this field.

475. I have been working with a small convention and visitors bureau off and on for the past 6 years. My primary role is to help develop the heritage tourism aspects of our county, as more and more people become interested in the historic places, people, and events here. My training in historic preservation and public history is well suited to this task. I have attempted to gain employment with the state and national parks services and several history-related museums/sites. I have been able to secure interviews with a handful of museum positions and state preservation positions, but have been unable to secure employment for one reason or another. I enjoy what I do at the visitors bureau. While my face-to-face interaction with the public is minimal, it is encouraging when people respond positively to the various projects I have begun to develop for the purpose of bringing more tourists to the area who are interested in culture and history.

476. My current position is in more of a Public Humanities (as opposed to Public History specifically) position. I work at a research library administering our research fellowship program and our adult education seminars program. I feel that my graduate training professionalized me and gave me the intellectual capital to assume a program manager position in a field that is adjacent to academia. Project management, working in groups, time management, and the writing skills I gained in graduate school have been very useful, as has the ability to "talk the talk" with scholars. Unfortunately, the jobs I see posted that are truly public history work (the really cool stuff I'd LOVE to be doing) mostly require a PhD or loads of previous experience in highly specific areas of the field (curation, research, community partnership work, education, etc.) that most 2 year graduate programs cannot provide. I went a more administrative route because that was the opportunity that arose for me, and one that obviously

appeared qualified for. It's hard to get that experience in the "cool," truly Public History/engagement/making meaning aspects of the field as a recent MA, and hard to find entry level positions that will give one the experience to eventually take on those roles.

477. I participated in a dual-degree Public History MA/MLIS program. I definitely feel that both degrees reinforce each other and ensure that I am qualified for a wide array of jobs. I come to archival work from a public history perspective, which is important.

478. The museum/history field is very competitive. I think an internship that provided more hands-on experience in a specific skill set like cataloging, object restoration, or writing condition reports would've given me a leg up when it came time to apply for positions.

479. I am an independent historical consultant with my own firm, which I've been doing since 2005. I have supplemented that work with grant-funded temporary employment at various institutions and the occasional university teaching gig. I am currently at a personal crossroads where I am deeply dissatisfied with the kinds of projects my firm is getting and feeling trapped in work that I do not enjoy and that does not make the best use of my skills. I am looking to retool my business to better suit my interests and talents.

480. I was very lucky to have gotten my "foot in the door" at the museum I currently work. It allowed me flexibility to finish my MA while continuing to work there. I was able to work my way up because of my degree. I guess the downside was that I wasn't able to work at different sites to get different perspectives.

481. Encourage students to be employed in any capacity in the kind of field they are hoping for, such as a museum. The biggest obstacle I faced was not having experience when I felt like I had an extremely good knowledge base. If I had been a cashier at a museum, I could have started networking within that community and possibly been given tasks relating to my ultimate goal. I believe that would have made the transition into my much easier.

482. I feel as though public history programs and training are both great and have been fairly successful, my only not about all programs is to enforce the need for internships more, both outside of and within the university. In my job searches I have learned that my degrees only take me so far and my on the job experience carries me the rest of the way.

483. I have a dual degree in Public History and Library Science. My professional goal was always to be an archivist, but I also wanted to do graduate level work in history. I identify professionally as an archivist, not a public historian, and this is the field in which I have pursued (and gained) employment.

484. While my job has aspects directly related to public history, some aspects are much more development based (although for a historical institution). I believe my training makes me marketable to many different types of employers and for many different types of jobs. While this broad training makes me a well-rounded candidate, I feel my public history training lacked some of the technical/practical skills that are necessary for the field. There should be a balance between theory and practice in graduate programs. While practice often comes from internships and assistantships, there should be some inclusion in the curriculum as well.

485. For my first (current) position I had to move to a geographic area that was highly undesirable for me personally. It was also a temporary position, which has serious disadvantages.

486. I was employed as a paralegal while completing my public history degree. I did apply for a couple positions in the public history after the degree, but I did not receive any invitations to interview. I decided to continue my education (while continuing to work as a paralegal). I am currently a PhD candidate in U.S. History.

487. I can't stress enough the importance of Master's Public History programs with internship opportunities. Not only does it provide firsthand experience in the field, but it led me and many of my classmates to our current positions.

488. My education prepared me well for the theoretical and research aspects of my job but I felt ill prepared for more of the practical aspects of the field, especially in relation to networking and business aspects.

489. My hope after graduating from my public history program was to find work in a museum, historical society, etc. Unfortunately that didn't pan out, primarily from the lack of decent paying jobs at the time. I did get several interviews for good jobs, but I think my lack of experience hurt me. It got to a point where the jobs just weren't there at all anymore, so I pursued a different avenue: library science. I went back to school, got my library degree, and currently work as an academic librarian, working with digital collections. I feel that my public history training has been useful in this position, as a major function of my job is to work to make historical documents publicly available. It took me longer than anticipated to get to a good career start, but I feel it was worth it. If I ever have the opportunity to move to museum-oriented job, or something similar, I would certainly consider it.

490. I remained in my second public history job for almost 10 years. Over that course of time, I advanced from a coordinator to the director of a department with 3 f/t, 1 p/t, and up to 2 interns as direct reports. My public history training was wonderful, but since I received little management training from my institution, I think public history programs should include some practical training on how to run a department/organization. (i.e., how to create/read budgets, write grants, conduct interviews, manage staff, etc.) Even just one semester focused on general best practices and resources would have been incredibly helpful. As it was, I learned with the help of colleagues – and certainly realize acquiring new skills on the job is important in any profession – but public historians are expected to engage deeply with the content and, essentially, help run businesses. We need better preparation to do that.

491. This was a tricky survey to complete for someone who completed an MA and then went straight into a PhD program or even for someone who later returned for a PhD. Please remember that this would include many people. Additionally, it doesn't leave much room for us who are teaching public history rather than working in the field.

492. My program had 2 tracks – public history or archival work. I did the public history track. While I found my classwork to be useful and effective, I felt that most of the extracurricular opportunities were for archival students. Even now, a year out, nearly all of the job notifications I receive from my program are for archivists. I suppose this might be reflective of the job market currently, but I don't really think so.

493. I did not take advantage of the dual degree option for MLS during my public history degree but my subsequent professional position was more archives related than I was originally looking for so I ended up getting an MLS at a different institution less than 10 years later. In retrospect I wish I had done both at once at the original institution. I was not happy with my MLS institution which also offered a dual degree but I feel my public history degree was much more rigorous than the MLS or the dual degree at the institution where I received my MLS. It is a field that I love and hope to get back to but because I live in a high cost of living area the pay is not livable for a single person and is less than daycare costs in a two-income with children situation unless working for the federal government. I encourage people who ask me about my experiences as they make their own career and graduate school plans to think carefully about how much loan debt they have from undergraduate school, where they want to live/work when they graduate and how those things will affect their long-term financial situation.

494. Life just gets hard sometimes and that influences how we are able to choose our jobs. Patents get sick and die, we get sick, we meet partners, and all that really impacts our ability to go anywhere/do anything.

495. I am currently in my first position. I was trained to think, write, and research at my program. I did not have the opportunity to gain as much detailed training in collections and exhibits. However, I realize that I went to a public history program and not a museum studies program. I plan to be in my current position around 3 years to get this more practical training on top of my degree.

496. Too many grads, too few jobs. Increasing the number/size of programs out there is irresponsible.

497. While work stimulating and satisfying that way, pay levels I experienced were crummy, especially for raising a family. But training truly versatile – especially for hands-on projects (both simulated and real-world) and exploration of "gray" literature and thinking more about how non-historians encounter history in their lives. (That last part especially has enriched my approach to teaching at community college – to good effect!)

498. I encourage others to broaden their job search outside of history, particularly in the field of science. (STEM) Since retiring as a Business Archivist, I now work part time in a Science Museum/Paleontology Lab. My skills as a PH carried over from a collection of documents to a pile of fossils. (In any museum, your chances of employment are high if you first volunteer.)

499. My degrees are MA/MLS. The MA was a major factor in being hired as a Reference Librarian in a research institution. It carries much more weight than just the MLS.

500. I have applied for positions in museums work, archives and digital collections, and oral history and applied cultural documentation. My folklore and oral history training have been important for the latter two; in the first two, I have received interviews from did not get positions – received the feedback that positions went to candidates w specific degrees in museum studies or archives/library science.

501. I obtained my first public history position without my masters degree, and did well. It was paid hourly and did not have benefits. I do not believe I could have obtained my subsequent, benefited positions without my degree. I left the field for several years when I had children. My current position is in a library, and I have found my work experience prepared me well for that.

502. I got my doctorate in history, with an inside minor in public history. This has helped me to do work for [REDACTED] as well as contributing to museum displays/exhibits as a consultant, and several books and articles I have worked on.

503. I did the dual degree track with library science. I work as a librarian and I'm satisfied with my career. I'm not sure I would look in the public history field for future career prospects.

504. I ended up with a PhD in social studies education from [REDACTED] and am now an assistant professor of education. I'm happy with my choice to do an MA in public history.

505. I am finding my age is a handicap and the fact that I do not have experience.

506. I have been in the job market for less than six months, and the biggest challenge I have found regarding public history jobs is a lack of relatable professional experience. Many of the jobs I am interested in require at least 2-3 years experience. I am currently employed but continue to look for a more satisfying position directly related to public history/history.

507. I believe the biggest reason I didn't get employed in public history was because I was not offered a good internship. I was a part-time student, and therefore I was required to find my own opportunities or complete additional projects for internship credit. If I had been given the opportunity to work for an actual public history employer on evenings and weekends, I might have been better able to make contacts that could have aided my employment opportunities. Overall as a part time student, I felt

forgotten and not helped as much along the way as the full time students were. Also, post-graduate refreshers would be really welcome. I have been out of grad school 8 years, never employed in public history and I greatly doubt at this point I could break into the field. However, maybe if there was an opportunity to take an alumni class – a type of refresher on what's new and different and stay abreast of the field I might have had more of a chance.

508. I was very lucky. I kept in touch with the NPS supervisor from my internship and she got me into a long series of contract jobs at the Park Service. I spent three years contracting like that until the contract work was turned into a term position, which I got because I had people in the Service working their connections to get me hired. Luck and networking and hard work worked together. I'm blessed. I'm hoping to have the term turned into permanent in the next few years.

509. I was saddened when the archival studies component was eliminated from the curriculum at [REDACTED]. I really benefited from it, as well as the documentary editing course. I have worked both at the [REDACTED] and served as head of the [REDACTED] for 31 years. My MA definitely helped me get promoted over the years. I feel that the current program needs to be expanded and I would be willing to teach courses as an adjunct professor, as was the practice in the 1980s and 1990s.

510. The program was a great mix of academic and practical courses that set me up well for future work. The academic courses greatly improved my critical thinking and verbal and written communication, which are crucial to job performance anywhere. The practical work (classes and internships) was also helpful because I entered the job market with relevant experience, useful skills, and a sense of what is expected as a professional employee.

511. You are not taking into account those of us who were already working in a public history field and sought the degree.

512. I have used what I have learned in PH to help teach students history in a school setting. I think that there needs to be more of an educational aspect to PH in some cases.

513. First I want to say that I only looked for part-time jobs. I started as an independent consultant and still do that but only have one client now – who keeps me busy. I also worked as a corporate archivist for 3 years while still doing consulting and work in a family business. It would have helped to have some basic business class.

514. My first graduate degree is in library science and I added the public history degree because it seemed like a good combination. I pursued a job in the library field and landed a position in an archives/special collections. Although I do not use it heavily my public history degree means much to me because my BS degree is in history. I did not wish to teach so I pursued library science as an alternative to a job teaching history.

515. What was most useful for getting both jobs after graduation was my graduate assistantship at the University Archives, my internship at a large archives, and networking. My last job (which I stayed in for 1.5 years) was a result of the internship I had during both undergrad and grad school. I found out about my current job because an alum of my public history program works in that office. My employment has been in both archives and large museums. On one hand, the degree in public history is good because it is relevant in both fields; however, I am also competing against people with more specialized degrees and wish my program had offered either an archives or collections management course/seminar.

516. I continued part time work for a software company, that I had worked full time at before my degree. The degree has been almost useless to this work, which involves a lot of proposal writing, software design, QA testing and project management. Immediately after graduation I secured a position at an arts council, where I am the lead coordinator for the municipal government's public art program. Although I

never received training in running artist & site selection jury meetings, or ethics of public art, or even networking skills among artists, I have found that my public history MA has been extremely useful. It has greatly prepared me on issues of public art collections and collection policies, community sensitivities, municipal culture policies, and non-profit management.

517. I obtained a position at my alma mater and taught part-time as a history professor. I am a full-time study abroad coordinator. I plan to remain working in academia. My public history training was extremely helpful in my current position in international education – public history seeks to bring history to the public. International education and study abroad seeks to bring education to life in and out of the classroom; to help student grow in cultural sensitivity and awareness, and uses visits to museums and historic sites to do this!

518. I started out in a part time position that enabled me to complete my degree and that grew into a full-time position with benefits. My second job, which I still hold, was within the same organization but allowed me to shift into fulfilling part-time work, at a time when I needed to work less than full-time hours. It has since become, again, full-time with benefits but again in a shifting work environment where I am in fact paid more but working at a level below my expertise and experience, but may have the potential to shift again into a higher level position.

519. I went on to get a JD degree and practice law immediately following my graduation from my public history Masters program. I found my public history experiences very useful in my law school career and later as a practicing attorney. After becoming disenchanted with litigation and the practice of law more generally, I sought and obtained a position as a historian working for a firm doing Section 106 cultural resources work. My public history degree and internship experiences gave me the ability to quickly transition out of the legal field and back into the history field.

520. I'm still a special collections librarian, but I have used my public history training to collaborate with cultural memory organizations to document local history and culture through a digital memory project. I also teach public history and oral history for the history department at my university

521. Consideration of part-time employment or volunteer work would be helpful.

522. I think public history degrees need to do a little less academic history classes. There needs to be more about public policy, business, accounting, board and fundraising development, etc. A lot of public history jobs involve non-history components and graduates may not have any background or experience in those aspects. Providing options for electives in other areas (business, management, public policy, accounting, etc.) would help!

523. I have ended up working in fundraising and my public history training has helped me. I've worked in prospect research (looking for new funding sources) and in stewardship and in both cases the research skills I learned have served me well. Plus, my training prepared me for working in non profits and interacting with the public.

524. I work full-time in an academic library. When I first graduated, I looked for positions in historical bureaus or archives – some type of position that would (in my mind) better use my training in public history. I've been happy, though, in being able to use my training in my current job – whether in how I approach work with digital collections, or in how I approach research.

525. I have been in the same public history position for 26 years after two short-term positions right out of graduate school. I've stayed in this position mainly due to the increased difficulty in finding public history positions particularly with the benefits this one has (state position) and compounded by needing security related to supporting a family. When I started my career in the 1980s I felt that I would progress to higher level positions or at least different positions in the field but that has not happened.

526. I think this survey would have benefited from asking about people who continued their graduate education (i.e., Ph.D. level work), as that significantly impacts the direction and length of a job search following an MA degree program. In my case, I had an entire series of other factors that influenced my career choices, far removed from the public history field. Ironically, I find myself in a position where I am actually using my training again, but in a capacity that is far removed from what a public history instructor would imagine in creating their curriculum.

527. My experience may be somewhat different than others because my current position began as an internship in the final semester of grad school before becoming a FT permanent position. While I didn't have health benefits then, I do now.

528. I also received an MLIS in Library and Information Science as part of a joint degree program. It would not have been able for me to work in ANY of the jobs I've had with only my MA in Public History as these jobs have been archives/special collections jobs in academic libraries. While I found my Public History degree very valuable, if a person only had the time/money for one degree, I would encourage them to get an MLIS instead. I have been on MANY hiring committees at this point in my career and we have not even been allowed to consider candidates with just MAs in Public History, even if those candidates are just as (or in some cases more) qualified for the positions.

529. I began full-time work with just my thesis left to complete. I wish my program had prepared me better for administrative roles. I also fear we are producing too many graduates for the available positions – especially when many are part time and without benefits. At this stage in my life (age 45) with family considerations making me geographically bound, I have the only full-time with benefits position in a history museum within the area in which I can make a commute work. I think new graduates need to understand how limiting that can be.

530. To be truly useful, the public history programs have to strive to be a mix of academic training and real world experiential learning for the students. Understanding the gray areas is the hardest part of this profession, but the most useful for the students. I'm pleased with the growth of the Public History programs and their dedication to continuing to refine their curriculum.

531. My dual degree was with library science. I found employment in this field and have remained in it.

532. At the time I completed my degree, I was married to someone that was active-duty military. I was discriminated against by multiple potential employers and it was even noted that I would not be able to hold a job for any length of time because I would get pregnant or my spouse's orders would change. I eventually found a low-paying/entry-level job with the ██████████ Department of Natural Resources because it allowed me to utilize the knowledge and skills gain through my experiences in the ██████████ program. When I relocated due to my spouse's decision to enter law school, I had to re-establish my professional network in an entirely different area of the country. Thanks to cronyism and limited opportunities, I was unable to find a job in the field. Financial need led me to an entry-level job on a college campus. I found a new vocation in higher education administration and returned to school to earn a second master's degree and doctorate and have remained in this field for the past 26 years.

533. I have work in museums for close to 25 years now and am currently in a supervisory position responsible for registrars and collections managers. As such, I not only hire staff but train interns and volunteers who want a career in museums or a related field. It is my opinion, based upon my interactions with emerging and seasoned professionals that all related fields are stressed regarding employment opportunities. There are far too many programs training students at both the undergraduate and graduate level, with not enough positions to support those who are looking for work. When I mean work, I mean a permanent position with benefits and a living wage. As someone who loves all cultural institutions, I find it disheartening to know that many young people are potentially acquiring debt in order to earn a masters degree for a career that they may never be able to enter. Or, if they do, they may be jumping from job to job for quite some time for finding a permanent position.

534. Although my experience does not really fit this survey – I had a position in public history before I started the master's program – I wanted to answer the survey to encourage you to consider this function of public history programs. These programs provide valuable "in-service" training to professionals in the field or in related fields. Many of my classmates also had jobs already but lacked needed expertise in public or local history. This may be especially true of urban universities that serve non-traditional students.

535. Internships are critical to a complete education and to finding a good job. Students should be offered a variety of opportunities both locally and also internationally during their studies to gain new skills and experiences.

536. I work as a college administrator and have found it to be rewarding and challenging. I think I use the skills I learned in my program every day and I think it makes me a good administrator.

537. I worked as an architectural historian for about 10 years. Then was asked to join FEMA to do Section 106 review for a disaster. I stayed with FEMA because I like the work, but my public history training helped me with grant writing and knowledge of federal regulatory compliance.

538. It should be noted that I had roughly 2 years of paid public history-related job experience *prior to* beginning my graduate programs in Public History and Library Science. I suspect this is why I had better "luck" securing employment in my field after graduation.

539. I work in research administration at a large university. I feel my background in public history prepared me well to work with diverse groups of faculty.

540. There is still rampant use of graduate students as cheap labor that lessens the job market for those with degrees looking to do consulting or be hired full time. There are too few jobs and the pay is too low. Our SHPO and state archives staff and city level planning department staff with years of experience all make less than \$50k.

541. I have worked six days a week for four years in two part-time jobs. In 2010 the grant public history job ended, and I have only done contract work in public history since then. My longstanding other part-time job is at an art museum.

542. I left public history to pursue a legal career. My history background helped me in many ways. I went into law school as a more well-rounded student with a better understanding of the world. I left public history because I was interested in the law, but ultimately I had to increase my earning potential.

543. I am finding that hands-on, practical training has been the most helpful, my current public history peripheral job has yet to utilize what I've learned in regards to theory, analysis, research and writing skills.

544. There just aren't enough jobs, and when there are, it seems to pay to know someone on the inside. While there have been a couple of state jobs available in my area recently, the current political climate makes them hardly appealing – primarily due to a history of a lack of pay increases and changes in state law that eliminate any type of job protection. I would be thrilled to get back into the public history field; however, it just doesn't seem likely to happen anytime soon. In the meantime, I use my education and training to serve my community by volunteering at a local museum and serving on the board of the local preservation non-profit.

545. I had secured a job in public history before entering the Public History MA program. I worked full time and took 4 years to complete my MA. Since then I have been promoted multiple times within my

organization. I believe that today, there are more people with public history degrees than there are jobs for them to fill.

546. There needs to be more of a focus on applicable skills. The courses on National Register nominations, grants, GIS, etc., were extremely helpful in my career. However, I could have used training in city planning, community development, revitalization, etc.

547. More than classroom work, the opportunity for internships and hands-on training were crucial to my public history degree as well as finding and being hired for a position that was a great fit for my interests and skills.

548. I don't work in public history, but my education for it has helped me secure a very good job as a trainer in another field. I am not sure I would have felt prepared for working in a museum though. I feel more comfortable in my current field though I don't regret my studies.

549. I obtained my first professional job a month before graduating from my MA program. I technically still hold that same position, but after holding out as a staff position for four years, the position was upgraded to faculty and I was promoted. Also, the job has continued to offer opportunities for growth along the way – which is part of the reason I stayed. I was looking for jobs anywhere as I approached graduation – but was ultimately attracted to the job I took because my (then) significant other was living in that location at the time.

550. I also received an MLS, which I think is more useful for finding employment in my field than the public history degree.

551. I was very fortunate to find full time, fulfilling employment quickly after graduation. However, I was the secondary earner in my household, with a sizable pay gap between my income and that of my spouse. When my husband and I made the economic decision to relocate for his career, I could not find full-time work within my field within an hour's drive of our new city. After 3 years of underemployment as an "extra help" worker with minimal compensation and no benefits in the state museum system, I left the field to work in library programming.

552. Coursework was helpful, but I would never have landed a job without the hands-on experience I gained as a museum grad assistant and intern.

553. You're likely to toss this survey out because I spent three years following the MA getting a PhD, and that makes me an outlier. However, while applying for permanent public history and academic jobs, I got a tenure-track job teaching public history first. That says something very interesting about the state of the job market in public history. I enjoyed my time in the program and the MA in history certainly helped me get the academic job, but it did not serve me well while searching for permanent work in public history. I don't fully understand how the dreaded academic market could be easier than the public history one.

554. I'm currently in a records management analyst for the federal government. I consider this a related field to Public History, but others may not. I've worked in archives and records management for state and federal government throughout my career. I completed additional post-grad certificate in electronic recordkeeping (library science) in 2009 from [REDACTED], which significantly aided my career.

555. Graduating at the height of the recession (2009) meant I was competing for PH jobs with people who had been laid off but had tons of experience. Employers' market, could not get on the first rung of the ladder. I was willing to move but stayed in the South. Once I finally found a job (in a public library actually), I purchased a house and was therefore much more limited in location. Applied for a handful of other PH jobs, including at museums where I had interned, but was still not an attractive candidate because I had not been in museums professionally. Graduate Assistantships were not as helpful as I had

hoped, perhaps because everyone has those. I was extremely disappointed to be overlooked for local museums, because, basically, they had their pick of applicants during and after the recession. I'm now working at a State Library and earning my MLIS because I have had a lot more luck in libraries than museums. Will apply to select PH jobs (just interviewed recently actually) but I am not expecting much.

556. I had a very difficult time finding a job in the field of public history around 2011 when I graduated. The jobs weren't there and when I looked deeper, neither was the compensation or proper resources.

557. This survey doesn't seem inclusive of contract or freelance work, which is also something that I do.

558. I felt my MA was too broad – and there weren't enough jobs for all the graduates. While I did complete one internship that was related to public history, which I had to move to another city for, I was unable to find employment in my city of choice (Toronto, a major city) where my husband had a good job. I ended up going back to school to do a college post-grad certificate program (community college to the American folks?), which gave me practical skills (fund-raising, communications/marketing, etc.) I could use to get a job in a performing arts institution. So I'm still in the arts/culture/heritage field, but I had to broaden my job search/skills/education to find a job. I was working in an art gallery for a long time before then, but it was more customer service – not really putting the MA to work.

559. I held approximately 3-4 contract and grant-funded full and part-time positions before finally landing a full-time job with benefits in an institution where I felt I could remain and grow throughout my career. Overall, I feel like the field is under-paid, but my job satisfaction level is very high and I was aware of the limitations of the field going in. Also, I feel that I was extremely persistent and willing to three part-time positions (simultaneously) in the field in order to continue gaining experience and have career growth in my chosen field. Overall, I count myself lucky among my peers for being able to remain in the field and find full-time work with benefits.

560. I had difficulty for several years finding employment in public history (or a related field). I worked in marketing and publicity for a publisher for over 3 years. The critical thinking, writing, editing, and communications skills I developed in my program were essential to the job I did. In 2013 I started in my current position as a curator (and archivist) in a special collections unit at a state university. While my job borders the field of public history, it is more commonly grouped with archives or library/information sciences. Most of my colleagues hold LIS degrees or the equivalent with specialized training related to the preservation of specific materials. I don't currently refer to myself as a public historian, but on the previous page I stated that I did eventually find employment, and am still working in public history. I believe this is true. I would be unable to do my job without the experience in collections management, interpretation, and archival preservation gained through coursework, an internship, and my position in the university's archives and special collections as a graduate assistant. I consider the work I do, which includes interpretation and historical contextualization as well as cataloging and description, conservation, curating exhibits and programs, increasing/improving access to collections, social media/online outreach, and guest lecturing classes, to be public history. At the very least I play a support role to many who are more widely considered public historians. One challenge I faced beyond a lack of available jobs is a slight stigma held by certain people in the archival/LIS fields when one lacks an ML(I)S degree. Despite the fact that I had all the relevant experience, including archival work and specialized training with the kind of materials we hold (through my undergraduate degree), there are those in libraries and archives that believe a person without an MLIS (or the equivalent specialized degree), is not qualified to do the job. I, personally, was lucky that those responsible for hiring (and retaining me) do not hold this belief. I mention this because I think public history and archives flow naturally together in many cases, but I fear that many who graduate public history programs without LIS degrees may face the same challenge. Some programs have courses that lean toward the archival field, and I think that courses or full programs that bridge the PH and LIS divide will only become more important as time goes on. Parts of my job would have been easier early on if I had some more traditional library experience, despite the fact that I am able to bring other things to my position I never would have learned in a library science program. Additionally, the social media and outreach experience

that came from my previous job was highly valuable, as a large portion of my duties are related to various forms of traditional and online communication. This is an area that I believe will only expand, and offering or encouraging training in online and social media outreach will be useful (even necessary) for future graduates. My public history training was widely applicable, even well outside the field, and now I use what I learned in my work every day. It took four years and a miraculous situation that I was luckier than most to find, but I eventually ended up with my dream job.

561. Experience/Marketable Skill weighs more than education.

562. If working in academia its useful to have an MLS or subject expertise. A management course in PH is also useful. Without becoming a manger you will never make a descent salary.

563. My first job was initially part-time, but it became full time within a year. I have been lucky and gotten good jobs in the field I wanted.

564. I would urge applicants to the field to think very hard about working in a museum. I know professionals with 20+ years of experience making less than \$40,000 a year. Also, networking is vital. Knowing the right person helped me get 2 of my 3 jobs in public history.

565. My first public history job as a historic interpreter would not have been possible with having my husband be the primary wage earner – the pay was beyond abysmal. Despite holding a masters degree, I was expected to clean restrooms on holiday weekends as part of my job responsibilities.

566. It took me a year and a half to find this position. Competition was fairly stiff for public-history jobs. I was lucky I had financial support from family in the meantime, and I held some part-time jobs, one of which was in public history (volunteer coordinator for a fairly small local history museum). I loved it but of course it provided no benefits. With pre-existing conditions I had to pay the exorbitant cost of health insurance premiums through COBRA. There was no ACA at the time so I was "stuck." I moved from ████████ to Louisiana for my job – I had never been anywhere in the Southeast before but luckily I did not have to be limited geographically and the benefits package was very generous for what I needed. Previously I was losing out on jobs to people with more experience or education. There were/are always PhD's applying for jobs that only require a Master's. In the case of the Louisiana job (which I still hold), it just happened that, due to personality conflict with the professional who previously held my position and had been encouraged to resign, I understand, was that beyond the minimum requirements of a Master's degree and previous experience in a history-related field, administration's main criteria was amiability in order to be able to work well with others on staff and in the public. Therefore they turned down other applicants that included PhD's and folks who had been out of graduate school and working for several years already, because they "liked" me so much from my day-long interview and local tour. Then I could prove my other skills once here.

567. Although I am extremely happy in my position and love my work, I do feel that my degree and skills are financially undervalued.

568. I deeply regret getting a degree in public history. It is a very constricting and inflexible degree. Employers outside of the field usually don't even know what the degree is or the kind of work you did in order to complete it. The only way this degree might be useful outside of the field is if there is more of an emphasis on technology, web design, communication, or other digital media platforms. I currently work as a temp at a utility company (the only interview I could get in 4 months) and the reason I was hired had nothing to do with my education. I have over a decade of professional work experience and a master's degree in such a specific field has closed a lot of employment doors for me. This degree is only useful if you live in a big city with multiple public history institutions, you're willing to volunteer and intern for years while someone else pays for your life, or you're fine with making next to nothing the first 10 years you're in the field (if you're lucky enough to have a paying job of some kind in the field). Frankly public history shouldn't even be a separate field from history. Traditional historians can stop writing books only

other historians read and discuss history on a level the average person can understand and enjoy. Public history has far too few jobs for the number of people with the degree and it's hurting the field to have such a dearth of young, unemployed talent.

569. I am currently a reference archivist and I am required each day to handle queries relating to both well-known and obscure historical events and figures. My training in Public History helped prepare me to both know a great deal about a variety of topics but, more importantly, how to access good information quickly and then convey that to the general public. I completed a dual degree with Library and Information Science during my training, but my Public History education has proven much more valuable to my on-the-job tasks.

570. The first four years of my public history career I was grant-hopping, working on soft money, or juggling additional part-time positions in related fields until the next round of funding came through. The instability caused me to leave the field temporarily (to secondary history education) until I obtained my current, full-time, permanent public history position. I found my training in public history to be valuable in all my jobs and am satisfied with my current position.

571. This questionnaire is hard to answer. I obtained my degree, immediately obtained employment, stayed in the profession and every position I have had since has moved me up the ladder until I am currently a Library Director of a Special Collections Library – the only thing I dislike about my current job is the politics of dealing with elected officials.

572. I loved working in public history and consider it to be a calling. Unfortunately, in NC, it's almost impossible to raise a family on a public history/cultural employment salary. On average, jobs in public history in the Triangle area pay less than those of school teachers and much less than other fields requiring equivalent levels of education and experience. For instance, my job as [REDACTED] in Raleigh paid \$35K after 8 years, required a master's degree and was one of the highest paid positions in my department. I left for a writing job that required less experience, less education AND required less overtime for a \$21,000 raise with the same benefits package.

573. Programs that require an internship (or even recommend that students volunteer or work part-time in the field) during their program will be doing them a big favor. My intern work and part-time work directly lead to connections that got me to my full-time positions. Any hands on, experiential training in the program (i.e., cataloging a collection, designing an exhibit, etc.) is also helpful. Theory is nice, and it puts your brain in the right mindset, but learning specific skills is priceless.

574. I am a military spouse so I move every few years, which makes finding employment difficult. I volunteer several places and have lucked into a part time and now full time position but it has been a fight to stay in the field.

575. After some time in academia and then in the corporate world during the dot.com boom where I was able to use my research skills learned during getting my MA, I went back for a Masters in Library and Information Science. That led to a tenure track position as a Librarian and now I am Library Director. The MA in Public History was useful in both doing my job as a Librarian and in opening doors with the extra credential.

576. This survey should include a question to capture those of us who went on from MA programs to doctoral programs. Some of us are unemployed because we are currently pursuing additional education and training in history/public history.

577. I'm now a librarian, but I use skills I learned in public history classes and archival conferences and workshops to repair books in the library. The biggest barrier I came up against was the lack of experience outside my internship, which lasted almost 2 years, but for all the positions I applied for, I was consistently denied for lack of work experience in the field, but I felt stuck because I couldn't get

that experience without a master's degree. The only students from my graduating class in PH that work in archives still are those whose internships happened at the state archives of NC.

578. I am volunteering for a historic site in [REDACTED]. I am using my degree. But when I applied for the PhD program in public history I was told that my degree, from 2000, was "old."

579. Too many in the history field feel themselves to be far superior to the rest of society. They shield themselves in an academic world and generally refuse to associate with real people.

580. There aren't a lot of public history jobs available in my state. To obtain a job I would have had to been willing to relocate. However, I can't really afford to move to a low paying job in another state. It just doesn't seem worth it. Move across the country to make \$28,000? No thanks. I have student loans and lots of them. However, I became a librarian! I went to library school, moved across the country for a better paying job and can now act as a subject specialist for the department of history/public history. Also, I have knowledge of what research is like – the research process.

589. I got forced out of a museum job that I loved due to changes in ownership, but it wasn't paying me enough to live on anyway and it led to me writing a book and taking a job with benefits, so I guess that's not all bad. I ended up starting my own business that gives classes, events, and tours related to food, history, and traditional food practices. I feel like I was well prepared for the research and presentation sides of this field (and my business) by my MA program, but I definitely could have benefited from some introduction to the financial side of things. My training in school mostly focused on museums and historic sites, which are almost exclusively nonprofits, while for-profit history pursuits seemed to be looked down on. There's a very real and important place for maintaining academic and ethical standards in the for-profit world too, which I am navigating now. Some discussions from school have been able to transfer but not all. I enjoy the freedom I have to direct the topics and issues I get to research and share, but it'd be nice if there was more opportunity to get paid a real wage at a stable job to do this kind of work.

590. I have degrees in public history and library science. After graduating, I accepted a job at a state archives. I worked there less than three years, all the while trying to find a job in a library. Being unable to do so, and unhappy with my job I left the field. I now work in a university setting doing unrelated work. The state of the job market is abysmal and no one (professors or advisors) had any idea that this was the case, or if they did, they didn't communicate to the students. Other than writing and research, my graduate program didn't provide any transferable skills, like actual skills one can list on a resume. I don't necessarily feel like it was a waste of time going to graduate school, but it hasn't turned out to be much of a benefit for my career thus far. And the student loans don't help either.

591. I have worked in public history since 1994. What I find, looking back, is that the jobs are fun and mostly rewarding, but the pay is unsatisfactory. The field is overcrowded so there is always someone willing to work for less to get their feet in the door.

592. I've worked at 2 historic houses and have seen how, because they were under a larger umbrella including recreational parks, the historic sites are generally treated as the "stepchildren" of the organization. Not enough funds, not enough attention to the site's needs, not enough attention from the powers that be. It's frustrating.

593. MA in history and certificate in museum studies. Then went to [REDACTED] for the PhD in ph program. Got a full-time job right after defending the dissertation. Skills from museum and ph studies translate well to any job.

594. I obtained an MA in history from [REDACTED] in 1991. At that time I was already working as a full-time librarian. I later took three courses in the archives program but did not complete the certificate. Both the

MA and archival training were valuable for subsequent jobs in academic libraries and non-profit administration.

595. I worked a series of part-time positions before getting my first full-time position, which I achieved before graduating. Working in the field did delay completing my degree for a few years.

596. ██████████ offered me a wide variety of classes and opportunities that greatly prepared me for my current job. I wish there had been more classes in archival sciences, but understand that a lack of funds, availability of space and professors to teach this prohibited ██████████ from doing more in that area. One of the things that helped me the most at ██████████ was the interest and help my advisers and professors had in my desired career and the help and direction that they provided me in taking classes that would help me be prepared for employment in my desired area of interest.

597. I have occupied my present position as an archivist for 13 years. I have been generally very satisfied with this position until recently. My years of experience and expertise have not been rewarded due to lack of promotional opportunities – partly excused by the recession – but now that no longer holds as valid. Lack of understanding of what archivists do, the complexities and value of our work, and the skills necessary means administrative types see no reason why "filing and organizing papers" should be compensated at a higher level, nor do they understand how years of experience are iterative and add to my skills, qualifications, expertise and knowledge as the years go by. I am STILL in an entry level position 13 years later! My daily work is far from an entry level (and always has been), but now my work and my abilities vastly exceed entry level work.

598. When doing my public history program, we mainly focused on public history in museums (which makes sense since I did a Museum Studies track) but I ultimately found a position in a public library. I do many of the things I thought I would as a public historian but in a setting I was barely even aware of in school. I think expanding the conversation about where public historians can do their work would be helpful to students attempting to get jobs in the field.

599. I have been out of work for TWO years since I graduated from the program. I feel like it is IMPOSSIBLE to secure a job in the federal government as a historian. It is equally challenging to find a job in the nonprofit world. I feel like the only opportunities I'm ever able to find are part time and/or seasonal. I received next to zero practical training in how to successfully land a job after graduation. I don't feel like I should have to uproot my life half way across the country just to find a job in my field. Why can't I find one on the east coast? Why are older employees not retiring? Why are museum interns NOT PAID?!

600. I was very fortunate to find a career in this field that I was excited about before I graduated. Most of my fellow students were not as lucky, though several found jobs over time. I am now having to search for a related job in a new area, as my spouse is moving for her career. Though the city has many careers in this field, there are no job openings and few prospects. I am now faced with the choice of waiting or jumping to a new career field and potentially not being able to return to public history. I would be very interested in how many people are able to transition back and forth between public history and other fields.

601. Programs need to give better guidance on prospectus and thesis work early in program and have non-traditional, non-thesis projects and committees that understand the fluid nature of public history to cross disciplines. Traditional programs expect traditional research. If it's public history it has to be flexible not just a class or two that focus on public history practices. Traditional research training develops excellent skills but is not applicable to most public history jobs. I am never likely to publish even if I do research for something. It would not be a goal of my employer, only a personal goal.

602. The field is super competitive as there are so few positions available, so it can be difficult finding a job before or immediately after graduation. I consider myself one of the lucky ones finding a job in the field so soon, and even that took me a full year after graduation.

603. Since I have already been employed for 30 years in IT, my responses are probably not applicable. I pursued the degree because of my interest in the topics and may serve in a voluntary capacity at various organizations.

604. My training as a graduate student at [REDACTED] prepared me for daily requirements of the job. Since I had to restrict my search to [REDACTED] because of children in school my search took longer.

605. I enjoyed the programming aspect of the museum field, creating activities and such for guests, and I currently work with children, so I don't see my time spent working on my masters a complete waste.

606. Came into the program with a Bachelor of Education degree, and returned to teaching high school after a few years' study in a PhD program in History.

607. When I graduated, I was employed in a position in which public history should have been important, but staff cuts had made that part of the job insignificant. In large part because of my public history degree, plus interpretation planning experience, I am now in a job where I can use both of these. Planning experience and training was a great asset in my case.

608. I started as an intern and was patient with the history society to find the money to be able to hire me. They hired me for two consecutive full-time temporary contracts (w/o benefits). After the two contracts (total of 16 months) they offered me a full-time permanent position with benefits. It was difficult to get the multiple choice questions to reflect this experience.

609. My degree was free; I think it a very poor decision to take out more than 10k max in loans to pay for a graduate degree if pursuing a public history career. I've also met students with unrealistic expectations about the job market or museum work, in part due to professors who don't understand the non-academic side of the field.

610. Training in public history was beneficial to developing my skills in stakeholder engagement, useful in and outside the sector.

611. Unless you plan on being an entrepreneur, I see a real problem with a degree that lacks focus. I pretty much feel that I would have better employment opportunities if I had gotten an MLS or similar concentrated degree.

612. I love public history, but got into it at the age of 60. I taught history in secondary school prior to public history degree and found the public history degree was very beneficial. Public history work is low paying and has very few health benefits. Most folks I know in the field are either working second jobs OR are in a two-working family member situation. Even directors of major museums are not highly paid considering the requirements of their work and time.

613. I have found the nonprofit management elements of my public history to be the most useful and transferable. I work in nonprofit fundraising outside of public history now and while my writing for the public skills come in handy, the most useful parts of my training were definitely the hands on management experiences I had in grad school.

614. I had a job in higher education, already in the field of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. I was allowed to teach some classes in History after my degree even though I was still teaching in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER). I am retired from my old university, but teaching at other universities and technical colleges on a part-time basis teaching Health and History. I still do many

public talks on military history at public schools, universities, libraries, air shows, and museums. I do re-enactment programs now with WW II, Vietnam War, and American U. S. Paratrooper groups.

615. I started my employment search 6 months before I was to graduate. Most recently, I picked up a part-time, 12-hour-a-week curator job that I happened upon by chance. I took this position in January of this year, and it took 2 months of avid applications to get 3 job interviews. I was called for all three of these interviews this past month. Most of these posts are not looking to fill the position until May when the museum season starts, but they are all part time year round. Many organizations appear to be going away from full time jobs with benefits – this is the major struggle for current history graduates. I feel that if an organization has a few full time employees, they are able to save money in the long run. They will also build loyalty. As opposed to a ton of part time employees they need to continually train and replace, where they will also lose money. I find it best when an individual has a particular job, but can assist in other areas within the organization. I feel that while I enjoyed school, going to conferences and interacting with people in my field is what taught me the most about public history.

616. I am in a unique position in that I am a retired military veteran and thus have veteran's preference. it is definitely difficult to get a permanent position with the National Park Service and my veteran's preference gave me an advantage. Having said that, my internship was what got my foot in the door. My resumes were not being advanced. By applying to the federal Pathways program, I was able to build an NPS resume that helped me to get hired as a permanent (as opposed to seasonal) employee.

617. I'm now a copyeditor for genre fiction. Oddly, the public history courses I took helped me see the importance of the audience and how to balance the needs of the grammar pedant (me), the storyteller, and the reader. I'm not sure that would have been as clear had I just earned a history master's degree.

618. Definitely underpaid. In fact, I earn less than my male predecessor despite the fact that we have the same level of training/education and now the same time with the department (state job). I was told in the interview that the salary was absolutely non-negotiable. Raises and professional development are nonexistent. As it stands right now, I would not recommend this field to anyone.

619. As someone who temporarily pursued work in another field, the skills common to public history grads are very desirable in different fields. I made more money using my skills outside of my field. However, in grad school, leaving the field is seen as a failure. There needs to be more work done to make grads see that there are many options for employment.

620. Finding full-time employment with benefits has been very difficult. I am still working part-time and I have been looking for 7 years.

621. Moving to nonprofits specifically has been a good move because there are so many more options for advancement outside of history-specific jobs. I wish I'd had more nonprofit specific classes in school to boost my move so I'd had to take fewer low paying jobs.

622. I lived in a major city while searching for a job. Entry-level positions were regularly swamped with applications from over-qualified individuals, simply because the competition for the few jobs that were available was ridiculous. In the 4 years I looked for a job, I applied to approximately 100 jobs and received interviews for only 5. It was pretty soul crushing. The other difficulty was trying to find a position that wasn't grant funded and that wasn't a short term contract. I was the primary earner while my partner completed a PhD, so I needed more than 3-6 month stints. I stayed in a job that was related to my field, but was certainly not the field of PH that I actually wanted to be in. It was grant funded, but offered contracts of 2 years. If I didn't have a partner to support me, I would have had to give up on PH a while ago, for the simple reason that the field doesn't usually pay very well. I was surprised at some of the job postings that wanted oodles of experience but then weren't willing to pay for it. It's a shame. I'm presently a museum volunteer, which I enjoy mostly because it's the type of work I actually want to do. Now the trick is to get paid for it! So in sum: there are too many poorly paid short-term contracts.

623. I do not have a Public History degree. This was not an offering in 1977 at [REDACTED] when the Archives Program began – as you can see from my answer to Question 1. However, I think the program's link w/Public History should provide a versatility that would be very helpful to success at the entry level and beyond. I am referring to the combination offered at [REDACTED]. I do not know if there are similar combinations offered elsewhere in academe. Other institutions should seriously consider following [REDACTED]'s example, if possible. As for my own professional experience, I have been gainfully employed in successively more responsible positions in archival facility or project management since graduation – through June 2014. One of my positions took me to the research staff at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This week I will begin feasibility studies for 2 potentially grant fund projects in our city's archives, as a volunteer. The [REDACTED] program with its emphasis on management and outreach and its two-internship requirement has served me very well. Hope all this is helpful to your survey. Good luck!

624. I got my first job before I completed my degree, used the benefits of my job to continue on to a Ph.D. and then used that to secure a job that is mostly public history and partly teaching.

625. I found full- and part-time positions in the field of public history but also experienced several periods of unemployment, which as a new graduate was financially difficult. The positions were incredibly short-term and the pay is/was extremely poor. You will be expected to volunteer or work unpaid internships which make your financial situation extremely precarious.

626. I have worked as an archivist both during and since completing my public history degree. My positions have involved varying degrees of public history, and I have brought what I learned during my degree both to my professional and volunteer pursuits since graduation.

627. I could not have worked in the field as, and for how long I have, without my training, nor without the support of my professional organization, the Professional Historians Association (Vic).

628. Much of what I learned about public history I learned on the job or through conferences and professional associations. My academic training, while valuable, did not really prepare me for the types of jobs I've held. That said, the piece of paper that credentializes me with a Masters education as well as the networks formed in graduate school have enabled my career path. For that reason I consider my investment in graduate school to be a good one.

629. I run a freelance public history project which receives independent grants. It is award-winning, but I do not yet have a stable income. The grant market creates opportunities with specific stability limits.

630. I felt very underemployed in my first job in the public history field. I left that organization after 12 months because of lack of opportunity to advance, and took a part time job with poor pay and no benefits at another larger, local organization in order to get a foot in the door. I worked in that part time job for six months before I was offered a full time job at the organization, where I am currently employed.

631. When I entered [REDACTED]'s archival management program I already had an MA in history (a requirement). I completed the archives program in 2003 prior to the establishment of a public history program. I eventually obtained a MSLS (2007) and was give credit because of the archival certificate. I needed to detail this because it was difficult to respond to some of the questions.

632. I was very lucky in that I was able to use my internship to establish a position for myself. I worked part time for four months after my internship before establishing a regular position. In almost 10 years though I've had about 8 titles and my role has continued to evolve and include a variety of positions. I've been lucky to stay with one organization and to have the opportunity to grow my areas of responsibility.

633. Courses in public history prepared me for many aspects of different non-public history related jobs I worked prior to becoming executive director of a local history museum in NC. Having knowledge of

proper archival management, museum management, and preservation techniques provided me with skills that were beneficial in publishing and project management.

634. I took a position with a natural history organization that was looking for a historian to fill that niche. They are no longer interested in that and so I've found myself drifting further and further from public history while I stay here. Not my preference.

635. I took my current position shortly after graduation with my Masters. The position is in a small city museum working in many areas including: admin, exhibits, programming and collections, so I've built up my job skills considerably. I've had my current position for 8 years now. I have been trying for about two years to secure a job in a medium to large sized museum in either collections, curating or in education. I'm having great difficulty. The job field is very impacted. (I'm trying to stay on the west coast or the southwest.) Mind you, this could also be because, in addition, I have a PhD in History, which I finished in 2013 while working full time. Most museums or public history opportunities are looking for a Masters only. Having said all of this, my current position pays pretty well. I have great benefits and my job is secure. But, I would be willing to forfeit a little of my pay to get out and enjoy working in a museum that is in my field of study instead of general local history. (Also, I've been working in museums for over 20 years and it could be that museums are looking for younger people. That's a guess. I could be wrong.) There are many factors at play. It seems that museums today have their pick of the cream of the crop if it is a full time position with benefits.

636. Upon graduation in 2013 I applied for many jobs, until I was finally hired by an office working with a civil engineer and geotechnical engineer providing CAD drafting services and scientific report writing. While I was working at this job I was constantly applying to public history jobs as my passion is in public history. Finally in January 2014 I landed a job as the Museum Curator at the [REDACTED]. In order to accept this position I was forced to take a pay cut from \$25.00/hr working for the engineers to \$12.87/hr working for the Historical Society. In my pursuit of a public history job I applied to over 75 jobs across the United States and 15 international jobs in an attempt to get hired. While my career and work satisfaction is very high I am extremely dissatisfied with the level of compensation in regards to the amount of work and responsibility. I believe underemployment is the biggest struggle for public historians, especially those looking for their first job in the field.

637. Employers need to understand the difference between historians and public historians. They also need to understand the difference between people who dabble (a.k.a. 1 small project) versus true public historians.

638. After a successful career as an archivist for twelve years, our organization lost 40% of its staff due to downsizing during the great recession, which included my own. It took 12 months to secure another permanent position; including 6 months working on a full time temporary grant-funded job with no benefits. My Certificate in Archival Management certainly helped obtain work in both the temporary and eventual position I now have by providing an advanced skill set in management and knowledge of adapting oneself to meet unforeseen on the job challenges.

639. I answered 'No' to question 4 because there was not an option for 'not yet.' I graduated in December and am still actively looking for (full-time) work with only a couple interviews after sending out many applications. I think I might have had better luck if I had stayed in the state where my university was, but I didn't particularly like the weather and was also hoping to find work closer to family. I guess I would have liked more information on finding and gaining employment during my degree (such as cover letters and resumes); I felt like I had good experiences in internships and coursework but it doesn't seem to be transferring into applications like I had planned/was expecting.

640. I held a job in public history prior to and during my graduate program, so I feel as though my time in the public history program helped to enhance my employment.

641. I couldn't find permanent employment in the Public History field (Canada). All were very short contract positions. I left this field to find more stable employment.

642. This degree is worthless. I should have done academic history instead. All the jobs I have applied for have gone to historians with history degrees. I even lost a job to a candidate who had a Bachelor's in History. Just time and money wasted. I regret every second of my MA "training" in ph. Now I'm unhireable. What a joke.

643. My public history degree was often passed over in favor of more specific programs, like museum or exhibition studies. Employers tended to say I had too much of varied experience, and not enough refined experience, despite my diversity of talents being applicable to their job descriptions. I have ended up working in the for-profit sector, and though my work serves museums, it is not in any capacity I ever imagined working in.

644. I worked as a contractor in [REDACTED] for five years but at the end a person with certificate in Museum Studies got permanent job. I work as a volunteer with no pay now. I believe the program has no problem but the institutions have not much perception of public history. There is a need to mobilize institutions about public history and the job of public historians.

645. Public history was included as one of three disciplines in the interdisciplinary [REDACTED] Masters program at [REDACTED], along with Archaeology and Museum Studies (my focus). I am in a unique situation because I have worked for two years full time as the Executive Secretary at [REDACTED] Museum of Cultural and Natural History (while completing my degree) so I was technically already employed in the field when I graduated (May 2016). But I feel the public history training I received in my program very well prepared me for my future career and has already helped me in my current position.

646. After working in a job that was slightly related to my degree, I ended up leaving due to lack of advancement opportunities to take a job that would allow me to be far more financially stable and pay off student loans. I'm still in museums, but a STEM field rather than history.

647. I find the MA in Public History very limiting in terms qualifying me for a job in highly regulated processes such as government and universities. I work in an Agricultural Library that includes rare books. So while it's moderately related to PH, my PH degree didn't qualify me for the job, my MLS did. That's not to say the PH experience didn't help. The PH degree was useful for developing soft skills like team work, and my PH internship at a government archives gave me experience to obtain other government employment in areas such as Information Management and Libraries. However, my job situation would have been impossible had it not been for my MLS degree.

648. I love my work, and know myself to be lucky to be working actively and productively in public history. I often fear that should I lose this job I would be unlikely to find another in the field. Even when my tasks are not specifically public history related, I find that background training to be relevant – research skills, analytic skills, how to find connections are all useful in other applications.

649. I feel very lucky that my internship led to student employment and that led to a full-time position at graduation. I would not have the job I have today if not for the internship requirement of my degree and my advisor's help in securing the internship.

650. Prior to obtaining my degree in public history, I worked in marketing for 15 years. After graduating, finding a position that was directly public history has proved to be impossible. Therefore, I relied on my marketing experience to find jobs that were more marketing in the public history field and used my education to apply it in different ways to various positions. I do not feel that my public history program adequately prepared me for finding meaningful employment after graduation beyond employment at a museum or historic site. It would have been nice to know that we would also be competing with people

who have degrees in historic preservation and archives, and it is harder to obtain jobs in this field with a public history degree.

651. I eventually landed a job as a National Park Service historian about 11 months after I graduated. My public history training was important for this job, but the three NPS internships I completed helped me get the job and understand the role of the NPS historian. I do try to bring public history practices to my job when there are opportunities and I hope it will improve the value of the historian position for the park.

652. I feel my MA program was helpful in that it showed me the range of possible employment with a degree in Public History but in terms of how to handle day-to-day work we barely scratched the surface. That training came from internships and on-the-job.

653. Public history training and experience with outreach and project management has been a huge help in pursuing my career in archives/library science.

654. In my personal experience, a Public History MA was not recognized as a professional designation. I might as well have had a plain History MA. I went on to complete a MLIS (masters in library and information science) in order to be eligible for any type of full-time professional role.

655. More information about jobs outside of public history that are still related would've been nice, especially jobs within the government. Also, I didn't get any job help from my department. It felt like they focused on 2 or 3 students in each graduating class and hung the rest out to dry. After graduating in December 2013 I worked as a substitute teacher. I didn't get offered a full time position until August 2015, which is within the [REDACTED] and was thankfully the job I was trying to get all along. However, it's April 2016 and I'm still in my background check and thus still substituting.

656. I obtained a position at a museum where I completed an internship to earn my M.A. in Public History. As stated earlier, I left that position because of my nightmare of a boss and my lack of benefits. I worked in the financial sector for two and a half years, where I had benefits and made more money than I did working for a museum. Since then, I have returned to the nonprofit sector, where I've been for the past two years. I am the grants coordinator for an education nonprofit and I love what I'm doing now. As far as my job, I research and write all day, so I think that my public history degree prepared me for that. I also learned much about the inner workings of a nonprofit while completing my degree and that helps me in my current position as well. In the meantime, to get my history fix, I am a genealogist and help others in tracing their family histories. If I ever find myself unemployed again, I'll definitely consider museum positions, as the grant writing experience that I'm gaining now could translate to some museum positions.

657. I was very fortunate to receive a full time permanent position right out of university but so many positions call for 3-5 years of experience. It is difficult to find contract work or 3 year contracts that help you fulfill these requirements.

658. The question flow only really worked for those still employed. As someone who returned to do more graduate school, I didn't want to muddy the waters by responding to too many questions. My first job was doing historical research in a litigation context. It began as an internship and became full time (if term-to-term) after graduation. After about 2 years I jumped into litigation support where my previous work experience (not degree – though the degree got me the previous job) was key to getting the position. I ended up doing research consulting on the side as I found the new work too far from the history side I enjoyed.

659. I ended up taking a position with AmeriCorps, whereas I was worked to death for what amounted to \$3 an hour, plus the wonderful "educational grant" (i.e., golden carrot) at the end of my contract was considered "self-employment" by Uncle Sam and I was taxed HEAVILY, even though I never physically

TOUCHED the money nor could I do anything BUT put it towards my SLD, plus, only a percentage of what I paid on my loans (it all went for interest, btw) was actually allowable. I lost money.

660. You can almost never advance in your career in the place where you held your first position. You won't be considered as skilled or educated as you actually are. Another major obstacle is in the huge abundance of free work from volunteers and interns which are counted on by organizations as a way to avoid paying and staffing big appropriately.

661. I completed an MA in history with a concentration in public history in 2011. The job market was absolute garbage and my program didn't set us up well to navigate these new realities. I went for my PhD in public history and I'm glad I did. I used my time in my program to expand and refine my skills, establish a strong professional network, and diversify my experience. I was fortunate to land a postdoc at my home institution doing work in my research area. I am on the job market again, because my position is only a year, but I've already had a far better response than I ever did after finishing my master's. I have had interviews for federal jobs and a historic preservation job with a university. Any level of dissatisfaction I have with my current position is that the salary is low compared to other postdocs, but I do have benefits (which I negotiated for). I've had to take a part-time job (also in public history, which luckily I enjoy). I think I've learned to be far more entrepreneurial than I was after I finished my MA. I think having the Ph.D. helps me overcome the issue of the dearth of entry level jobs in the field, but I still suffer from the lack of budget and supervisory experience employers want for more mid-level positions. You didn't ask in your survey, but my student loan debt is \$38,000. I have to use Income-Base Repayment because my salary isn't enough to cover the standard loan payment. I have this debt despite being "fully funded" through BA, MA, and PhD.

662. I think it is more likely to hop around from job to job for a public historian. We would all ideally like to stay in the field, but options are limited. I think most places lack funding and cannot supply public historian type jobs with benefits. I also think more training in grant writing, social media as outreach, digitization, and archival skills could benefit public history programs; many public historian-ish jobs are in the archival realm.

663. One of the main challenges I see Public History graduates face regarding employment is the competition from other graduates in more specified fields like Library Science or Museum Studies. Seems like employers are still not as knowledgeable regarding Public History in comparison to these other closely related fields of study.

664. My training as a historian hasn't been used to the fullest extent in either of my positions. However, the skills of researching and writing have translated well into both jobs I've had since graduating. More "practical" training in grad school would have been beneficial. I'm thinking particularly of the nuts and bolts of certain parts of PH work like managing a budget, fundraising, working with boards, software of all kinds (collections management, etc.).

665. I received a dual degree in public history and archives management and although I wanted to be a public historian I fell into digital archives and am really happy in this field. That said, my public history education has been immensely helpful in how I view and construct digital archives projects because I have a lot of experience from my public history training conducting research, writing, and critically looking at resources related to digital humanities. I feel like I am a better archivist for digital collections because I can understand how to see things from the researcher/user's point of view from experience. Additionally, I think my dual training has made me more versatile. In my current position I'm the head of digital humanities initiatives, and while I primarily act as the digital archivist, I also oversee the oral history project. Having studied and interned as an oral historian in grad school, I bring experience and a deeper academic/theoretical knowledge of the process to my role, which I wouldn't have if I only had an MLIS.

666. Most job openings want super specialization and years of experience, and often they're seeking to hire internally. In my unfriendly-to-the-humanities state, the job market is grim for public historians, especially if you require a living wage.

667. My biggest challenges for a job within the public history field were distance and cover letters. I found that many employers wouldn't look at my resume if I was applying for an out-of-state job. The other challenge was learning to write a proper cover letter. I know there are many places that provide help but when it comes educational institutions, they are searching for a particular style of cover letter that unfortunately I was only able to learn through trial and error. Many job opportunities were wasted during this process. I would like to see some these areas of job applications and searches during a student's tenure at university.

668. I think I was simply too old in my career to try to obtain a job in a new field (public history) because the pay for the entry level PH jobs was not substantial enough to warrant a career change.

669. I served in the Peace Corps between getting my MA and my first job – I'm not sure how to reflect that in your survey. Serving in the Peace Corps gave me federal status and allowed me to apply for the first professional job that I had.

670. I worked full-time while earning my public history degree, and so I didn't feel like I was able to accomplish completing enough internships to establish enough connections to land a job in the field. I had a few interviews, but nothing panned out – partly because the salaries in the public history field were lower than the field I was already in (healthcare communications) which made people nervous to take me on. That said, after a few years I eventually landed in marketing, focusing on content, digital and experience strategy. I've found that my public history education has helped IMMENSELY. It taught me how to parse through large amounts of information and distill it into a meaningful, accurate, and engaging story – which is also the basis of good marketing. It taught me how to prioritize and disseminate complex information, which is another key skill that helps me now. Also, public history is all about create a meaningful experience for individuals who are visiting exhibits, etc. – and this is what I'm trying to do now, just with branded content. I've been quite successful in marketing, and I don't believe I would be this successful had I not received a public history degree. I'm also interested in figuring out how I can create technologically innovative, place-based historical experiences – so the interest never wanes! Exposure to new fields just opens up possibilities as to how they may work with old ones.

671. While I was able to find employment in the field of public history after I graduated, I didn't realize how low the salary range generally is for available positions and how difficult the burden of graduate student loans is with this reality. As a mid-level professional, I am noticing that there are a lot of entry-level opportunities, but it is not easy to advance in the field. Growth is limited.

672. I should specify that my dual Masters is actually an MA in Archives and Public History. I chose to take the archives path, and as such, have been working as an archivist in various settings. My Public History training, however, has proven invaluable in my approaches to the archival field.

673. Public history in combination with Archives has been very versatile for me in terms of employment.

674. If it were not for the Archives component of my degree, I feel I would have had a much harder time getting full-time employment with a living wage.

675. I found it extremely difficult to find a job that matched the training I received during my time in the Master's program. I work in the library of a history museum, but there is no real "public" aspect to it, as I work behind the scenes cataloging manuscripts. I wish my program had prepared me more for specific jobs, but I think the degree was too "free-form" for me. My school gave me no career guidance. I want to use my degree, but I don't see how. I really dislike the library world; currently I am getting a certificate in horticulture because 1) I'm interested in it, and 2) there are actual jobs and clear career paths in that

field. I regret how much money I spent on the public history degree. It was not worth the time, effort, and money.

676. I was extremely lucky to find a job in archives. Several of my classmates never found a position in public history and now work in completely unrelated fields. The classmates who now work at, for example, Whole Foods, as a veterinarian, as teachers, and as an urban planner, may not have found their archival training all that helpful for their current positions.

677. My program was combined public history and archives, I only intended to pursue archives employment but answered the questions assuming archives is a related field.

678. Before my graduate program I worked in a professional capacity in the private sector. Once completed, my MA aided me immensely in a year and a half of service with Local History Corps. 4 months ago I was hired as a director of a small heritage society, part time. In order to survive I have worked additional jobs in the service sector.

679. To get a job in Public History or other applied field, graduates need to obtain substantial experience BEFORE graduation, be high energy, and highly motivated. I was handicapped by having almost no practicing public historians in the academic programs I was in from undergraduate through Ph.D. This is still a problem in many programs and students suffer because of it.

680. I live in the UK so benefits come with living here and aren't part of employment remuneration.

681. I didn't receive an internship, but rather am continuing my education to the doctoral level. I will be pursuing a doctorate in public history, so I'm not sure exactly how helpful this will be. I did not get an internship, but an assistantship, which may be semantics, but is still different.

682. I graduated with an MA in Public History in 2006 and went on to a PhD in History (2013). My first job was as a public history consultant, which lasted about 18mo. I also adjuncted for two semesters, until I obtained a tenure-track position teaching public history in 2014. My MA degree and consultant work helped me on the job market tremendously, especially because I applied for all public history positions. I believe it was a unique set of factors that helped me get a job though- there happened to be a lot of public history TT jobs that year (2013-2014 job cycle), and I had good credentials and practical experience. I would not consider my experiences typical, and admit that I have profited from what may be a misguided assumption on the part of traditional history departments that public history programs are the "wave of the future" because they can get more students jobs. I don't think the museum world is any better off than the academic market (in fact, it may be worse), but the perception is/was that public history programs can save departments with dwindling numbers, which created a demand (however temporary) for more PhDs who can teach public history. Thus, I have a job. As a teacher of undergraduates, I try to prepare my students by diversifying their skill sets, which I hope will make them more marketable upon graduation. But it's a difficult line to walk, when you know the market is bad and your administration thinks public history is the answer.

683. My MS was in preservation and heritage interpretation within a geography program. My training provided skills in quality control in manufacturing.

684. I went into the public history program I completed knowing that I still desired to teach high school history if the opportunity presented itself. Before graduation, I secured a job as a tutor at my old high school. I held that position for the summer following my graduation. I could have continued to hold that position until a teaching position opened up, but another opportunity for a full-time job presented itself. Before summer school was over, I got a job within the field of Public History at the organization where I completed my graduate internship, which I decided to take. A few months into the position, the high school I was working at contact me and notified me that they had a full-time teaching position open beginning the next semester. For both personal and professional reasons, I decided to take it. I am

currently employed as a social studies teacher at this institution. I regard the training I received as a public historian to be beneficial. I wanted to make myself as marketable as possible in the entire spectrum of history jobs, both academic (secondary school) and public, which is why I decided to attend this program instead of obtaining an MAT. Even though I am no longer employed in the field, it is not something that I have ruled out for the future.