
“…I am currently with the National Park Service working on the heritage travel and heritage education programs. It would be interesting to co-author a piece with one of our spectacular interns, Jade Ryerson, a public history student at DePaul University. Jade and I have had an interesting work experience - we've developed a strong mentor-mentee relationship even though the entire experience has been digital. We are currently collaborating on a project to identify historic sits associated with underrepresented communities- all of which has to be done online due to the pandemic. While our work is very much about research and community collaboration, Covid-19 has changed our approach. The pandemic has also changed the trajectory of our working relationship as Jade was unable to relocate to DC for the internship.
Some of the questions we'd like to explore and address include: How can cultural institutions offer robust, meaningful experiences to potential interns during Covid-19? What kind of projects can mentors plan if interns and other staff cannot conduct in-person research or community outreach? How can interns take advantage of these professional experiences if they are social distancing and unable to access outside resources? What strategies can mentors adopt to make interns feel valued and included?

As the pandemic continues to change the landscape of the field, finding ways for practitioners to connect and mentor future public historians is absolutely crucial. Jade and I hope to engage fellow public historians in a conversation about how we can effectively continue to do our work and train a new generation of scholars during these unprecedented times…”