

AY 23-24



Center for Campus History
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Year In Review



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About Us

The Center for Campus History (CCH) officially opened on July 1, 2023, but it grew directly out of four years of work as the Public History Project, a limited-term initiative commissioned by Chancellor Emerita Rebecca M. Blank. The Project's mission was to uncover and give voice to the many groups across the university's history who experienced and challenged discrimination and exclusion on campus.



Since becoming a permanent center, the CCH has sought to continue and grow that mission, working to expand and enrich UW–Madison's historical narrative by centering the voices, experiences, and struggles of marginalized groups.

That work has taken many forms over the last year, from new archival research to classroom visits. We published new pieces of student and staff research, collaborated with other campus groups on public-facing projects, developed new curricular materials, expanded our staff, and much more. Consider this **Year in Review** a sampling of what we've been up to.

To learn more about the Public History Project and its continuation as the Rebecca M. Blank Center for Campus History, visit our website.

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Research and Writing

A core part of the Center's work is good, old-fashioned historical research, shared in an accessible way. This year we continued to publish new research in *Siftings*, our digital publication of staff and student writing. Highlights included "On Badger Belonging: The Complexity of Shared Identity at UW–Madison," by CCH Assistant Director Taylor L. Bailey, an analysis of survey responses left by UW community members at the physical *Sifting & Reckoning* exhibition; and "The Policy of Secrecy: Parents, Administrators, and Spies Investigating Sexual Violence Before UWPD" by PhD student Kyle Miron, a story uncovered from the archives about a string of assaults on campus in 1911.

We've also been working on a wide array of ongoing research with our partners at the UW Archives. Both CCH staff and student assistants have been working on topics ranging from university expansion in the 1950s and its effects on housing to campus pranks and traditions.

To catch up on *Siftings* research you might have missed, visit the [Research](#) section of our website.

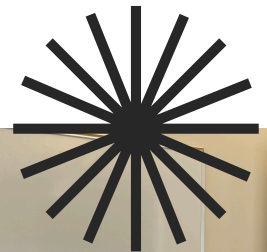


Collaboration

Beyond research, the Center's mission as a public history entity means we are committed to forging relationships and collaborating with other campus organizations and communities.

During the 23-24 AY, the CCH collaborated with the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) to develop a physical exhibition as part of the MSC's 35th anniversary celebration. The exhibition highlighted the MSC's three and a half decades of impact on students. We were also proud to partner with MEChA to support the creation of their archival collection at the Wisconsin Historical Society in partnership with the Wisconsin Latinx History Collective.

In partnership with the UW–Madison Committee on Disability Access and Inclusion (CDAI), the Center brought forward a proposed historical marker acknowledging former university President Charles Van Hise's involvement in eugenics: a discriminatory pseudoscience that sought to eliminate groups of people with traits considered "inferior." The plaque is set to be placed inside the campus building named after Van Hise.



Events and Outreach

Our outreach efforts over the last year included visits to graduate and undergraduate courses, university offices and units, and campus events. These ranged from general discussions sharing the CCH's work to presentations on specific parts of UW–Madison history.

In AY 23-24, the Center visited:

30 classes

12 depts./units

750 students

270 faculty/staff

Beyond campus, CCH staff engaged with other scholars and public history practitioners to inform our own work. In January 2024, Director Kacie Lucchini Butcher presented at the American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting in San Francisco. In April, the CCH team attended the National Council on Public History (NCPH) Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. Kacie presented alongside UW Archives Distinguished Oral Historian Troy Reeves as part of a panel discussion regarding campus oral history projects.

The Center is proud to have hosted, cohosted, or presented at roughly 20 campus events with hundreds of attendees. This spring, the Center hosted historian and activist Davarian Baldwin for multiple events on campus, including a panel discussion on campus policing and a student-focused conversation on academic activism.

Curricular Resources

In our first year as the CCH, we've expanded the Center's capacity to create curricular resources, most significantly by growing our team. This June we hired Dr. Daniel Berman as our new curricular program manager. Daniel earned his Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Curriculum & Instruction from UW–Madison and previously worked for the Public History Project designing our teaching and oral history guides. In his new role, Daniel will create new curricular material, help with in-person events and classroom visits, conduct new research, and teach courses for the Educational Policy Studies Department.

This year we created seven new oral history guides. Each guide has multiple interview clips of UW–Madison community members recalling their experiences on campus. Guides also include interview transcripts, discussion questions, and information about the possibilities and challenges associated with oral histories.

We created four new teaching guides that each include a classroom-focused adaptation of our award-winning museum exhibition *Sifting & Reckoning*, which explored histories of discrimination and resistance at UW–Madison. We also developed guides that explore Hmoob and Jewish experiences at UW. Finally, we partnered with the Go Big Read to collaborate on a teaching guide addressing disability at UW— our largest guide to date.

To access all of the Center's curricular materials including links to the Center's Canvas page, visit the [Resources](#) section of our website.



Looking Ahead

The past year a multitude of seeds were planted for projects, collaborations, and changes the Center will work on in the weeks and months ahead. Without revealing too much, here are some of the things we're looking forward to:

The inaugural season of the CCH's narrative podcast, *Reorientation*, and companion teaching materials. Coming Fall 2024!

The Center's next exhibition. We can't say much but know that we've begun researching, planning, and collaborating. We're excited to put a brand new exhibit together for the campus community.

An exciting scholar visit in Spring 2025. We won't spoil the surprise, but mark your calendar for April 4th for a special night with the CCH!



Contact Us

Engaging with communities, both at UW–Madison and beyond, is the core of the Center for Campus History's work. We're always looking to hear from you, whether it's a history question, an invitation to present or an idea for collaboration. You can contact the Center on our website, campushistory.wisc.edu, or at centerforcampushistory@wisc.edu.

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram ([@UWCampusHistory](https://www.instagram.com/UWCampusHistory)) and if you want updates straight to your inbox, subscribe to our [monthly newsletter](#).