



# HISTORY

Redefining what it means to “do” history at a top-ranked public university

U-M Department of History has long ranked among the top programs in the country. With more than 70 world-class faculty members, we are uniquely positioned to offer historical expertise around the globe and across the ages. History is known for the excellence of its teaching and research, for producing new historical knowledge that changes the state of the discipline nationally and internationally, and for imparting it to succeeding generations of students. The department is a national leader in creating public engagement initiatives that make an impact beyond the university and help prepare students for a wide variety of professions. Our HistoryLabs are national models in faculty-student collaborative digital scholarship. History faculty and students are active in the public sphere, developing museum exhibits, producing podcasts, writing op-eds for major newspapers, partnering with communities on research projects, and more.

We anchor undergraduate study with a mentorship system that allows all history majors to choose a faculty member to define a theme for their concentration and plan a course of study. This work is complemented by internships, career skills workshops, and HistoryLabs that help students understand how to put their historical skills to work in an extraordinary array of careers in government, law, business, medicine, journalism, education, as historians, and beyond.

Our graduate students participate actively in all aspects of department life, and we strive to create a rigorous and collaborative academic and professional environment that encourages diverse student perspectives. U-M History Ph.D.s have gone on to shape the field as historians, both inside the academy and in places like the Smithsonian Institution and the Department of State.

Our alumni and friends have sustained our commitment to world-renowned research and instruction, simultaneously providing the flexibility for us to develop innovative programs in the classroom and beyond. With their continued support, U-M History can continue to be a global leader in the field.

## HISTORY AT WORK: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

As the world has changed around us, we have come to believe that the challenges of the present moment demand a broader range of training from a top-ranked history department like ours—one more focused on real-world impacts, adaptable to multiple media, and compelling to a broader range of publics beyond academia.

**U-M HistoryLabs** mobilize the power of history for real-world impacts. Reimagining the humanities, U-M HistoryLabs bring together faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates as investigators and lab members in long-term research projects that involve both curricular and extracurricular components. Projects are often developed in collaboration with community partners. Gifts of \$5,000 – \$10,000 could provide seed money for faculty and graduate students to work together to develop a new HistoryLab project, while larger gifts could sustain the program.

***Reverb Effect***, a history podcast written and produced by U-M History graduate students, takes listeners deep into the archives, exploring how past voices resonate in the present moment. Initially established by a gift commemorating former History faculty member Gerald Saxon Brown (1911-1999), an annual \$50,000 investment in *Reverb Effect* could help sustain this initiative for the immediate future.

**Michigan in the World** is a public history program for undergraduate students who develop online public exhibitions of research about the history of U-M and its relationships with the wider world. Working with a faculty expert and graduate student coordinator, students engage in extensive original research in campus archives and present their findings in a digital exhibit designed for public and classroom audiences. A \$20,000 investment in Michigan in the World can help sustain the program, supporting a team of faculty and students as they uncover the university's hidden past.

Larger endowed gifts could support the creation of a sustainable, comprehensive public engagement initiative with increased faculty and staff support—and provide the flexibility to innovate and develop new programs. For example, a gift of \$10,000 annually or endowed gift of \$250,000 to launch a public engagement summit would convene experts in the field of public history, community organization leaders, and business and civic leaders to facilitate collaboration with our faculty and graduate students. An endowed gift of \$1M would establish a faculty exchange program that would bring public history professionals—such as museum curators, cultural resource managers, or preservationists—to campus to co-teach a course, and also allow our faculty to serve as scholars in residence at public history organizations.

"Through the **Michigan in the World** program, I became a better writer and researcher. ... As an emerging public historian, my experience as a fellow was absolutely invaluable. Knowing that the public was going to read my writing encouraged me to explore engaging, narrative styles of history."

—Estrella Salgado, LSA '21

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY MAJORS

U-M History students develop the critical analytical skills required to achieve success in a wide variety of careers. To prepare our students for life after graduation, History hosts internships and offers programs that provide undergraduate students with concrete advice and essential resources. We are launching History Banquet, the first in a concerted series of efforts to grow connections between U-M History biggest asset—its alumni network—and current students.

We seek funding of \$10,000 – \$50,000 annually to expand our student career exploration and alumni networking initiatives. Gifts for this initiative could make the History Banquet an annual affair and connect current students with alumni throughout the year. This could include workshops on resume-building, interviewing, networking, and more, including specialized pre-professional career panels with alumni from fields such as law, public policy, medicine/public health, journalism/new media, business/finance, and education.

## UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS

U-M History has a modest yet successful student internship program, which allows students to apply their skills as historians in professional settings with community partners like the Michigan History Center. A gift of \$5,000 can fund a summer internship for an undergraduate student, while an investment of \$10,000 can fund a summer or academic year internship for a graduate student. Gifts of \$50,000 annually could formalize a large, more robust internship program, would help ensure breadth in training for undergraduate and graduate students alike, and ensure that these opportunities are available for all interested students on a continuing basis.



**“By creating a concrete  
history of police violence  
and racial injustice in  
Detroit, [the ‘Detroit Under  
Fire’ HistoryLab] presents  
key resources for progress  
in criminal justice reform.  
Our research was primarily  
conducted in archives.”**

**—Jack Mahon, A.B. '20**



## DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC FUND

The strength of our strategic fund is critical to our ability to pursue new opportunities and supplement whenever budgetary gaps appear. Contributions of any size to the History Strategic Fund can help support crucial activities such as new course development, faculty- and student-led conferences and symposia, undergraduate events and workshops, and recruiting efforts that keep our department among the finest in the country.

## EISENBERG INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES (EIHs)

U-M History's Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies was founded in 2004 with the goal of creating a world-class forum for historical teaching and research. Thanks to a generous gift in 2007 from benefactors Kenneth and Frances Eisenberg, the institute has amplified and extended the research, teaching, and public engagement of the History Department's faculty and graduate students for nearly two decades. We will continue to show that historical thinking is indispensable by maintaining and enhancing the three foci of our activities:

**Scholarship:** Thursday lectures and Friday workshops anchor the institute's commitment to enriching the research and scholarship carried out by U-M History faculty and graduate students. We propose to bolster this commitment to scholarship by: 1) establishing a boundary-crossing biennial conference convened by history department faculty that will produce a rich historical understanding of a pressing problem within the discipline and/or the broader public culture; and 2) hosting distinguished external scholar in residence for a limited term to engage with History Department faculty and students.

**Public Engagement:** The institute brings the insights of historical analysis to non-specialists, promoting a better understanding of contemporary issues and concerns. We propose the following enhancements to our public engagement activities: 1) hosting a journalist in residence to share with faculty and students insights into how historians might address more diverse public audiences and how journalists might work with historians more fruitfully; 2) developing exhibit spaces on campus to showcase public history projects by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates; and 3) expanding the institute's annual public talk to reach an even broader audience.

**Pedagogy:** Graduate student workshops and the postdoctoral fellowships contribute to U-M History's pedagogical mission. We propose the following important additions to this work: 1) hosting a biennial workshop for area high school history teachers focusing on state-of-the-art approaches to historical instruction, as well as pedagogical workshops for faculty and graduate students; and 2) enhancing undergraduate opportunities to carry out meaningful historical research through internships, summer workshops, and research assistantships.

The institute welcomes gifts of all sizes as we pursue these goals. A \$5,000 - \$10,000 contribution could defray significant portions of the biennial conference or teacher workshop, while annual gifts of \$50,000 - \$100,000 could support journalist- or scholar-in-residence programs. Larger endowed gifts could sustain these initiatives in perpetuity.

## HISTORY OF LAW ENDOWMENTS

Legal history is a growing subfield in the discipline of history, and U-M History has an exciting team of scholars teaching the history of law—not just in the United States, but also in the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, China, and the Middle East. Law is a common post-graduation goal for undergraduates majoring in history. We propose to strengthen our commitment in this direction by creating a Distinguished Professorship in Legal History and bolstering the fast-growing Law and Policy minor.

A gift of \$2.5M could establish an endowed chair in legal history, while \$1M could support visiting professors and other distinguished guests. These efforts would build on the presence of faculty already in the U-M Department of History—and draw on Law School expertise—to serve undergraduates while strengthening the study of law in our department.

## HISTORY OF MEDICINE ENDOWMENT

U-M History is known for its work in the history of medicine, with a distinguished roster of faculty who have conducted pioneering research while training the next generation of medical and health historians in our PhD program. Our Medicine and Health minor appeals to undergraduate students who might pursue careers in public health, medicine, or social work. We will build upon this tradition by creating an endowed chair in medical history that will sustain our commitment to this subfield for the foreseeable future.

A gift of \$1M could support visiting professors, distinguished guests, and teaching by professors from the Medical School with expertise in the history of medicine and health. These enhancements would bolster the Medicine and Health minor and ensure current graduate students continue to receive cutting-edge training in the subfield.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.

*for what's next ▶*

**Look to Michigan**

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