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Scholars Day Conference

Scholars Day 2022

Apr 27th, 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Cemetery Preservation Workshop: Public History at Work

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Dennis, Emma; Furr, Dakota; Moore, Natalie; Munger, Makena; Spakes, Sarah; and Webber, Hannah, "Cemetery Preservation Workshop: Public History at Work" (2022). *Scholars Day Conference*. 1. https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/scholars_day_conference/2022/posters/1

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Presenter Information

Emma Dennis, Dakota Furr, Natalie Moore, Makena Munger, Sarah Spakes, and Hannah Webber

Cemetery Preservation Workshop

Public History at Work

Emma Dennis, Dakota Furr, Natalie Moore, Makena Munger, Sarah Spakes, Hannah Webb

What is Public History?

Public history is the field of study where we focus on the conservation of history and the stories that hold it together. As students, we study archival best practice, museum studies, and heritage tourism.

Workshop Process

The Grant

We received the Elrod Grant for Service to organize and lead a cemetery preservation workshop for the community.

Planning and Executing

We advertised and researched for our presentations and brochure. We arrived one hour early, guided participants through the cemetery, and demonstrated and participated in cleaning.

Cleaning a Tombstone

First, you must gain permission from the cemetery owners (private/public).

Second, acquire supplies (brushes D/2).

Third, Clean the headstone.

Takeaways

We had a larger than expected turnout for the workshop, as well as overwhelming support in favor of a second workshop. Participants received sample D/2 bottles and completed an exit survey. A majority answered that they most enjoyed cleaning the headstones.

