Humanities, Histories and Futures Task Group

Statement of Scope
12.13.2019

CBE’s degree programs train students in strategic approaches and technical skills that are required by their chosen professions. However, it is their common preparation in the values, stories and experiences of the built environment that allows them to excel as designers, planners, analysts, developers and builders.

Facing an increasingly complex world, we maintain that engagement with history and the humanities in the CBE are essential in preparing students to:

• develop fluency in qualitative research, including critical evaluation of information sources, and contested/evolving narratives

• make informed and innovative decisions about human concerns shape the built environment

• envision and articulate future narratives for just, responsible and resilient communities that improve human experience

• communicate these values clearly and persuasively to a wide audience.

More broadly, research and teaching in the areas of history and humanities promotes critical thinking about human concerns and values in relation to the built environment and provides a framework for putting them into practice. A critical understanding of the past enables insight into the present and envisioning the future in both academic and public dialogues.

The task group mission is to employ histories, humanities and futures as modes for engaging in critical discourse, practice based in values including those of curiosity, imagination, equity, diversity and inclusion, and communicating effectively.

The scope of Humanities, Histories and Futures is profoundly interdisciplinary and connects the departments and programs of the CBE across all areas of teaching, research and service. Humanities, Histories and Futures provide the platform for integrating the professions and disciplines of the built environments, and for communicating the scholarship, practical knowledge and vision produced in the CBE to the University and broader communities and publics at large.