



After completing my work on the 100 Years of Stories project, I volunteered to be interviewed for two different articles regarding the exhibit currently featured at the library. Here are notable quotes from those two pieces:

Hawley, Rebeca. "Student-Created Project Shines Light on UH's Rich History Over 100 Years." University of Houston, October 2023. <https://stories.uh.edu/2023-100-years-project/index.html>.

Public history master's student Cady Hammer learned that in 1969, the student group Afro-Americans for Black Liberation presented a list of demands to UH administrators expressing their frustrations. Later that year, the Afro-American Studies Program was established, the first at a Texas public university.

"The most surprising thing for me about this transition period was how much change at the University was student-driven," Hammer said. "The University was founded by young adults who wanted to further their education while working full-time jobs but also wanted to participate in extracurricular activities. Throughout UH's history, all of the major movements were driven by young adults."

Hammer helped create the overarching narrative for the 100 Years of Stories exhibit, "Agents of Change: Celebrating Innovation at the UH Centennial," at the MD Anderson Library. She worked on the exhibit outline in former Center for Public History director Monica Perales' class in the fall of 2022; the following semester, a different class, which included graduate student Alec Story, chose what specific items to include in the exhibit.

Fisher, Esmeralda. "'Agents of Change' Exhibit Honors UH Activists and Advocates." UH Libraries News, July 2023. <https://libraries.uh.edu/news/agents-of-change/>.

Cady Hammer also worked on the project as a student curator during her first semester at UH.

"I was excited when I got the syllabus and saw that we would be formulating the concept and major elements of the 100 Years of Stories exhibit," Hammer said. "This was the first direct interaction I had with exhibit development, which is something I would love to do in my career."

The overarching concept that guided the exhibit, the "big idea," was categorized into three UH eras: its founding, expansion, and contemporary community impact.

"My classmates and I found that this concept worked best for incorporating key stories that the Center for Public History wanted to represent in the exhibit," Hammer noted. Class members selected items that would fit with the focus of each era and wrote descriptions. The impact of activism and advocacy at UH was a significant theme that emerged from the archives. "So many of the biggest changes at UH were student-driven," Hammer said. These improvements "signified the power of young people banding together to accomplish an important goal."

Archives curation offers interesting contextual lines of inquiry. Hammer offers this advice to other students: "Learn how to read between the lines. No matter what you're researching, there are at least two stories to every document. The first one is the story on the page. You can pull facts, people, and events from it easily. The second is the story hidden in the details of the document and how they connect to other materials. Some of the most important points of a document are the voices that have been left out of the narrative."