



## **2016 Latino Museum Studies Program Practicum List**

### **Practicum Summary**

Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) applicants have the opportunity to apply for one of twelve, four-week practicums. These are offered in the form of a scholarship to work with a museum or cultural unit. Fellows remain in Washington after the first component and are provided additional housing and a stipend. The practicums provide a unique opportunity to assist in furthering the work of participating institutions while offering fellows additional knowledge and insight as well as expanding their educational and professional networks.

Please review the following list of practicums and **indicate your top three choices** in your online application and answer the corresponding essay question pertaining to your choices. Projects will be awarded based on the overall strength of your application as well as the quality of the answers to your essay question.

## **PRACTICUM #1**

### **Smithsonian Latino Center**

Project: Latino DC History Project: Muralism project research

Lead: Ranald Woodaman, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs

Co-lead: Samir Meghelli, Curator, Anacostia Community Museum

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The Latino DC History Project is a multi-year initiative to document, preserve, and share the stories of Latino/as in the institutions, culture, economy and daily life of the nation's capital. Working with the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) Exhibitions and Public Program Director, the fellow will explore the feasibility of a long-term muralism project in DC as a component of the Latino DC History Project.

Practicum activities will culminate in a final report and presentation that will include:

- An overview of the history of murals in Latino communities.
- Aesthetic and formal considerations based on research into history painting and theories about public art and muralism.
- Exploration of projection-based murals.
- Reflections on a participatory method of public art making which involves community members in its planning or execution, including building a bibliography on social practice art.
- Research into funding/sustainability of this program, i.e., developing a sense of the budget for executing different kinds of murals and research into grants.
- Report of ideal locations for murals with photos and rationale, including neighborhood profile.
- List of possible themes, which will be developed in consultation with the SLC Exhibits Director, Latino DC History Project researchers, and community members.
- List of possible artists and institutional partners such as the DC Department of Parks and Recreation.

## **PRACTICUM #2**

### **Smithsonian Latino Center**

Project: Latino DC History Project: Recovering the Racial Notions of DC's Latino Community 1930s-1960s

Lead: Ranald Woodaman, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs,

Co-lead: Ariana Curtis, Curator, Anacostia Community Museum

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The Latino DC History Project is a multi-year initiative to document, preserve, and share the stories of Latino/as in the institutions, culture, economy and daily life of the nation's capital. Working with SLC Exhibitions and Public Program Director, the fellow will research archives, field notes, reports, and articles, and conduct, record and transcribe interviews with DC's lifelong Latino residents, including two members of the Campos/Torruella family and the musician José Ceijas aka Pepe González. Some of them recall DC's Latino community as a pan-ethnic, interracial space that was insulated from the exclusions of both White and Black Americans. The goal of these interviews and research is to recover some of their ideas around race, class, and Latino community/connectedness.

Practicum activities will culminate in a final report and presentation that will include:

- An overview of the history of DC Latinos during the final era of Jim Crow and subsequent desegregation.
- Analysis of the interviews and comparison of the experiences and perspectives of the interviewees.
- Identification of any archival materials, artifacts, and intangible cultural heritage that would be recommended for acquisition/preservation by the Smithsonian, DC Historical Society, or other community-serving institution.
- Reflections on the methods, process, and objectives of the project.

## **PRACTICUM #3**

### **Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)**

Project: Commemorating the Centennial of the Jones Act: research and programming

Lead: Magdalena Mieri, Director, Program in Latino History and Culture

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The Program in Latino History and Culture (PLHC) was established in 2004 with support from the Smithsonian Latino Center, and works to develop public programs that reflect the rich and distinctive history of Latino communities and cultures in the United States. Through the support of Latino scholarship and the presentation of lectures, films, concerts, and more, PLHC enlivens NMAH's collections, exhibitions, and overall experience.

March 2, 2017 will be the centennial anniversary of the Jones Act, by which all Puerto Rican people became U.S. citizens by law. The relationship between Puerto Rico and the "mainland" has been a complicated one, and continues to be. Issues of statehood compared to independence are very much alive today. NMAH will work with a fellow to help shape how the Jones Act anniversary can and should be commemorated. Possibilities include online exhibits, teaching materials, and/or a conference. The Museum collection includes artifacts and archival materials related to Puerto Rico, which will need to be researched and made accessible.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Identifying and researching items in the NMAH collections database and Archives Center with attention to notions of: Puerto Rico, U.S. Caribbean relations history, Latino history and Latino culture.
- Suggesting public programming and scholarly blogs, articles and web presence based on findings.
- Identifying partners, collaborations, and funding sources.
- Participating in museum meetings and activities as directed.
- Writing at least one blog about experiences and interesting findings.

Useful links:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/about/departments/office-programs-and-strategic-initiatives>

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/about/departments/program-latino-history-and-culture>

Magdalena Mieri's bio:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/profile/461>

## **PRACTICUM #4**

### **Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH)**

Project: Music and Migration

Lead: Sojin Kim, Curator

Co-lead: Olivia Cadaval, Curator

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The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH) promotes the understanding and continuity of contemporary grassroots cultures in the United States and abroad. CFCH's largest and most visible project is the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The Festival is staged on the National Mall and convenes traditional artists for concerts, demonstration, narrative sessions, and informal interactions with each other and the public. The event is documented through photo, audio, and video, which are used to create online resources to reach a larger virtual audience.

The 2016 Festival will include activities featuring the relationship of music and social practice to immigration experiences. Many of these extend from the *Sounds of California* project, a collaborative research and community engagement project of CFCH, the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, and Radio Bilingüe. *Sounds of California* explores music and soundscapes as vital expressions of collective experience—with a focus on migration, identity, and the transformation of tradition. It involves **1)** research and audio/video documentation; **2)** the creation of new collections of music and sound recordings; and **3)** related presentation formats including live public programs in D.C. and California, exhibitions, as well as new media productions and publications.

Responsibilities will include:

- Documenting artists during the second week of the 2016 Folklife Festival—towards the creation of blogs or other media pieces that can be shared from the CFCH website
- Selecting and captioning media, transcribing key pieces of audio and video for Archives and website
- Secondary research—compiling bibliography and resource list on topic of music and migration. Two major content categories that must be represented: 1) California communities; 2) music and immigration rights activism.
- Fellow must be able to speak Spanish; reading and writing fluency not required, but strongly valued.

Useful links:

- [CFCH website](#)
- [Sounds of California: Hearing Music Through Migration, CFCH TalkStory](#)
- [KQED radio segment about Sounds of California program at the Oakland Museum of California, December 2015](#)
- [Radio Bilingüe radio segment \(in Spanish\) about Sounds of California program at the Oakland Museum of California](#)
- [Sounds of California/Sonidos de California concert at 2015 Folklife Festival—focusing on Latino music in California](#)
- [Information about the Northern California WPA Folk Music Project, 1938-1940, which is archived at the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress](#)

## **PRACTICUM #5**

### **Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)**

Project: Latinos in the 21st Century: A Digital Experience for All

Lead: Melissa Carrillo, Director of New Media & Technology

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The Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) celebrates the artistic and scientific achievements of Latinos and ensures that their contributions to the country are shared throughout the Smithsonian. By taking advantage of the Smithsonian's vast network of museums and research centers, the SLC offers diverse cultural programs ranging from exhibits and family activities on the National Mall to symposia and cultural celebrations in its digital online initiatives.

Since 2006, SLC has been a pioneer in dynamically representing Latino content digitally through its Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum (LVM). In 2014/15, supported by two Target Education Grants, the momentum and opportunity to produce and disseminate relevant bilingual educational online experiences resulted in a transmedia museum model for representing and accessing the vast Latino collections, scholarship and educational resources through a digital storytelling hub.

In 2016, SLC will kick off strategic planning, which will include expansion of its online presence leveraging its existing infrastructure and resources into a larger Smithsonian-wide digital framework that targets diverse Latino audiences and the general public.

Join SLC and other SI experts to discuss and rethink the possibilities for a Smithsonian-wide Latino digital interface or portal for exploring and experiencing Latinidad at the Smithsonian. Participate and learn more about digital asset management and digitization strategic planning as it relates to Smithsonian's goal and objectives for digitizing the collections, ensure thoughtful stewardship of digital assets, and define long-term management to enable preservation of and access to those assets well into the future.

The fellow will work directly with the Director of New Media and Technology and other curatorial advisors to research and provide editorial support on the overall expansion model and/or work in a select area of expansion project (digital collections, online exhibitions, collections search, etc.).

Practicum work may include several of the following items:

- Provide recommendations concerning the ways in which SLC can engage the physical and digital content available through a selected SI partnering museum and SI's central online exhibits and collections database to advance the identifiable Latino content and mobilize those assets;
- Leverage pre-audit data outcomes from 2015 Practicum participants;
- Provide recommendations to content themes, identify new collections for digitization, identify themes for community online building activities in real-time, digital archives;

- Provide feedback to concept ideas for SLC homepage using Google technology for representing the *Latino Gallery* digitally as a 360-degree experience.
- Select a museum collection: identify relevant material and digital objects that exist in collections that are not currently classified as Latino, Hispanic, or other usual labels. Determine what collections objects don't have digital surrogates available in keyword-searchable databases. Identifying these materials is crucial for future curatorial,
  - exhibition, scholarly, and educational efforts.
- Provide framework for a Latino eGuide to the collections, exhibits and resources

**Your practicum work will contribute in helping us to answer some core questions such as:**

Why do some exhibits incorporate Latinos while others do not?

What Latino relevant material and digital assets are available to Smithsonian curators?

What methods are currently available to access these objects?

What practical efforts should be employed by SLC to increase the accessibility to and incorporation of Latino related content in physical and virtual Smithsonian exhibitions?

## **PRACTICUM #6**

### **Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)**

Project: Museums, Exhibitions, and Latino Audiences

Lead: Maria del Carmen Cossu, SITES Project Director for Latino Initiatives

Co-lead: Katherine Krile, SITES Assistant Director of Exhibits

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#### **Background Information:**

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) brings Smithsonian knowledge, discoveries, and experiences to people where they live—from remote rural communities to small towns to dense urban centers. Through exhibitions and programs that draw on Smithsonian collections and expertise, we tell stories that define America in all its diverse voices and cultural expressions. As SITES revitalizes its mission, we are developing new working models with Smithsonian outreach units and museums, and with our national partners. We are looking at ways in which we can better leverage the Smithsonian presence nationally, creating community around Smithsonian exhibitions as they tour, and working with host venues to meet both the Smithsonian's and their own missions.

SITES is establishing a program to identify and implement projects highlighting the American Latino experience while simultaneously building capacity for sustaining Latino initiatives. This practicum will allow SITES and the Smithsonian to assess the work that the organization has already done reaching Latino audiences and will suggest opportunities to expand our reach strategically and effectively.

The LMSP fellow will support SITES' Latino initiatives program in conducting an assessment of exhibitions that highlight the Latino history and culture in the United States. The practicum will provide an opportunity to further SITES' work while expanding fellow's educational and professional networks. Working with SITES' project director for Latino initiatives, the fellow will explore 1) the motivations and anticipated outcomes of existing and prospective venues in hosting Latino-themed exhibitions and/or drawing a Latino audience and 2) the multiple attractors that bring Latino audiences to museums.

Responsibilities will include:

- a) Researching and summarizing trends in venue and visitor responses to SITES' previous and current exhibitions on Latino art, history, and culture
- b) Reviewing and consolidating information from existing Smithsonian and other organizations' evaluation and branding reports on Latino audiences' and community engagement models within museums and exhibitions
- c) Interviewing staff at a selection of museums about their short- and long-term goals for engagement with Latino audiences
- d) Suggesting avenues for further audience research and community engagement tools
- e) Sharing findings in a written report and presentation for SITES staff

Useful links: <http://www.sites.si.edu>

## **PRACTICUM #7**

### **Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)**

Project: Collections Research and On-line content

Lead: E. Carmen Ramos, Curator for Latino Art

Co-lead: Tiarna Doherty, Chief of Conservation

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The Smithsonian American Art Museum, the nation's first collection of American art, offers an unparalleled record of the American experience. The collection captures the aspirations, character and imagination of the American people throughout three centuries. The museum is home to one of the largest and most inclusive collections of American art in the world. Its artworks reveal key aspects of America's rich artistic and cultural history from the colonial period to today. The Museum owns an ever-expanding and important collection of Latino art, which encompasses paintings and sculptures from the Spanish colonial period in Puerto Rico, folk and self-taught art from the Southwest, and works in all media by important artists working since the mid-twentieth century.

The LMSP fellow will work closely with SAAM's curator for Latino art and Chief of Conservation to conduct research into the permanent collection. Research will focus on new acquisitions, as well as works that have recently undergone conservation. The ultimate goal of this effort is to produce high-quality and accessible on-line content in the form of posts for our blog *EyeLevel* and/or artist biographies for our website. This content will help educate our web/blog/social media followers about the perspectives and contributions of Latino artists. The fellow will write posts about artists to be featured in the upcoming spring 2017 exhibition *Down these Mean Streets*, which will examine photographs of America's inner cities since the 1960s. Recent conservation projects around milestone works such as Domingo Ulloa's *Braceros* (1960), one of the first works by a Chicano artist to depict farm workers in the United States, will also be a focus. Additional works will be selected based on the Museum's current priorities and the selected fellow's areas of interest.

## **PRACTICUM #8**

### **Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)**

Project: Documenting and Collecting Spanish-language Television

Lead: Kathleen Franz, Curator, Division of Work and Industry, NMAH

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The NMAH has received a small grant from Telemundo to help the museum document and collect the history of Spanish-language television in the U.S. between the 1950s and 1980s. In the summer of 2016, a small team of curators will travel to three television stations to collect objects and stories for the permanent collections.

Responsibilities for this project include:

- Researching the material culture of Spanish-language broadcasting in the U.S. and making recommendations on what to collect. This will include surveying the current collections across the Smithsonian.
- Working with the lead curator to write a collecting plan.
- Writing an historiographic essay on the topic that documents the current literature and schools of thought on the topic.
- Present the findings as part of a colloquium talk at the NMAH.
- Researcher must be interested in working in teams and researching material culture.

## **PRACTICUM #9**

### **Archives of American Art (AAA)**

Project: Research & development of Collection Plan for a target area of the United States

Lead: Josh T. Franco, Latino Collections Specialist, Archives of American Art

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With over twenty million items and counting, the Archives of American Art is the world's largest repository for documents related to the history of American art. In 2015, AAA hired a Latino Collections Specialist to focus on acquiring papers related to US Latino / a art. Building on AAA's holdings resulting from past initiatives in south Florida and Texas especially, the Latino Collections Specialist has made further acquisitions from New York, Denver, and the West Coast including: Paul Ramirez Jonas, Andres Serrano, Rimer Cardillo, Scherezade Garcia, Tony Ortega, and Iliana Emilia Garcia. AAA's mission is to acquire primary sources—letters, diaries, journals, notes, and other unpublished writings, financial records, photographs, sketchbooks, scrapbooks, audio and video recordings, rare printed material, and the like—from artists, critics, collectors, art historians and others. The Fellow will spend a significant amount of time researching these holdings in order to give due diligence to AAA's history in the given region and topic. Acquisitions require the Specialist to travel to different areas of the country in order to reach out directly to those identified as potential donors and to review and prepare collections for shipment to Washington, D.C.

The Fellow will focus on one area of the country. S/he will develop a plan for the Specialist's trip to that area to take place in Fall 2016 or Spring 2017. Through research within and outside of AAA's existing collections, the Fellow will identify desirable donors in the area as well as determine the travel logistics of the trip to maximize the Specialist's time in the field and AAA's resources. South Florida is a targeted area for AAA currently, though other areas will be considered depending on the applicant's expertise. These might include: the Pacific Northwest, The Midwest, and areas throughout the South. If an applicant feels they have a sufficient knowledge base of an area not listed here, they should substantiate this in their application.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Researching AAA's collections for context of a targeted geographical region
- Identifying potential donors of material related to US Latino / a art history within a focused geographical area
- Communicating with potential donors in advance of Latino Collection Specialist's travel
- Organizing the travel logistics of a multi-week trip that maximizes AAA resources

Useful Links:

[www.aaa.si.edu](http://www.aaa.si.edu)

<http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/topic/latino-and-latin-american-36>

## **PRACTICUM #10**

### **Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)**

Project: American Indian and Latino Civil Rights at a Crossroads

Lead: Dr. Mireya Loza, Curator, Division of Political History.

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The Division of Political History is dedicated to the study of American democracy and the material culture that has shaped its history. The division gives particular attention to the political principles, practices, and institutions that have shaped the political culture of the United States. The division focuses on political relationships between groups and interests; institutions of government; and changing practices of representative and participatory democracy in a nation of diverse people and cultures.

Latino Civil Rights activists have strategically deployed discourses of indigeneity in struggles for educational equity, labor, and land rights. The fellow will be asked to look beyond these areas and identify collaborative moments of American Indian and Latino struggles for equality. In addition the fellow will be asked to carry out archival research on histories of indigenous Latino migration in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The NMAH will work with a fellow to help shape how this research develops. Possibilities include online exhibits, teaching materials, and/or productions in digital humanities. The Museum collection includes artifacts and archival materials related to the topic, which will need to be researched and made accessible.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Identifying and researching items in the NMAH collections database and Archives Center with attention to intersections of indigeneity and civil rights.
- Suggesting public programming and scholarly blogs, articles and web presence based on findings.
- Writing at least one blog about experiences and interesting findings.

Useful links:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/about/departments/office-programs-and-strategic-initiatives>

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/about/departments/political-history>

Dr. Mireya Loza's bio:

<http://www.history.illinois.edu/people/mloza>

## PRACTICUM # 11

### Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

Project: Unlocking the Smithsonian's Latino Digital Treasures

Lead: Isabel Meyer, DAMS Branch Manager

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The Smithsonian's Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) is an Enterprise Digital Repository for the storage, management, and preservation of images, audio, video and digital art files. Currently holding over seven million files from more than 40 SI units and rapidly growing, the DAMS houses a vast wealth of digital content and resources including digital surrogates of collection objects, oral histories, lectures, historical archives, event and exhibit photography, performance videos, etc. Within this treasure chest is a multitude of Latino-related assets waiting to be identified and shared with the public.

The museums and other holding units manage their own digital assets and make them available through web sites, interactive displays, publications, social media, virtual museum sites, etc. Significant progress is being made in highlighting particular Latino collections (artworks, etc.). However, there is presently no unified method for grouping, classifying or describing Latino specific assets within the DAMS. This makes it difficult for SI staff members who might wish to discover and showcase the full range of assets the Institution has related to a particular topic to do so using available online search tools.

This practicum presents an **actively pan-Smithsonian** opportunity to research an array of SI digital collections containing Latino resources and to define a set of common Latino topics and terms. Ultimately we want an easy, flexible method to facilitate discovery of our rich Latino content by the public, and the LMSP fellow will help us lay the groundwork by defining a common method of classifying these important digital materials.

#### Useful Links

<http://collections.si.edu/search/>

<http://latino.si.edu/>

<http://amhistory.si.edu/vidal/>

<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/?id=945>

## **PRACTICUM # 12**

### **Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)**

Project: Research on Black and Latino Architects and Designers

Lead: Michelle Joan Wilkinson, Museum Curator, NMAAHC

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Over a four week period, the fellow will work with a curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on research related to Black and Latino architects and designers, historical and contemporary. The fellow will conduct research in the fields of architectural and design history, examine the existing scholarship related to Black and Latino practitioners in these fields, identify opportunities for further research and dissemination, and assess the strength of collections at institutions with artifacts or archives related to the topic. The fellow will be responsible for organizing existing curatorial research materials and integrating these with new research conducted during the practicum. Working with the curator, the fellow may have an opportunity to assist in drafting an exhibition proposal, a collections plan, or interpretive text about items in the museum's collection. This practicum is well-suited for fellows interested in curatorial work and archives-based research. This fellowship opportunity draws upon the fields of Africana Studies, Latino Studies, architecture, design, cultural geography, and visual art.

#### Responsibilities Include:

- Researching Black and Latino designers in Smithsonian Institution and other collections
- Organizing existing NMAAHC research on architects and designers
- Identifying Black and Latino architects and designers for potential acquisitions
- Initiating and responding to correspondence related to the research goals
- Working with the curator on draft materials for a collections plan, exhibition proposal, or other museum-produced documents
- Working with the curator to identify potential collaborations for the museum