



Archives of American Art (AAA)

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

Dr. Josh T. Franco, Latino Collections Specialist, AAA

Project Overview:

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, Florida, the Midwest, and the West Coast including: Paul Ramirez Jonas, Andres Serrano, Kathy Vargas, Victor Zamudio-Taylor, and Tony Ortega. AAA's mission is to acquire primary sources—letters, diaries, journals, notes, and other unpublished writings, financial records, photographs, sketchbooks, scrapbooks, audio and video recordings, rare printed material, and the like—from artists, critics,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. Through research within and outside of AAA's existing collections and communications with artists and arts professionals, 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. The Pacific Northwest is a targeted area, though other areas will be considered depending on the applicant's expertise. These might include: the Rust Belt, 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/collections/topic/latino-and-latin-american-36>



National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

Research on Black and Latino Designers

Michelle Joan Wilkinson, Museum Curator, NMAAHC

Project Overview:

The fellow will work with a curator at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on tasks involving researching and communicating with Black and Latino designers – especially product designers and graphic designers. The fellow will examine the existing scholarship and online resources related to Black and Latino practitioners in various design fields, and identify designers for further research and dissemination.

The fellow will assist with organizing existing curatorial research material, creating new digital files, and coordinating correspondence with the design community.

Working with the curator, the fellow may have an opportunity to draft background text about for objects proposed for acquisition or interpretive text about items in the museum's collection. This practicum is well-suited for fellows interested in curatorial work, design history, and scholarly research. This fellowship opportunity draws upon the fields of design studies, visual art, African American studies, Latino Studies, and African Diaspora studies.

The fellow's work will yield an online digital storyboard that features Black and Latino designers and their work. The goal of this practicum is for the fellow to gain research experience that aids in the development and cataloguing of a museum collection.

Responsibilities Include:

- Researching online resources featuring Black and Latino designers
- Organizing existing NMAAHC curatorial research on designers
- Identifying Black and Latino designers for potential acquisitions
- Initiating and responding to correspondence related to the project goals
- Working with the curator to compose text about design objects
- Creating digital folders on Black and Latino designers

Products:

- A digital storyboard featuring the work of Black and Latino designers that can be shared online



Archives Center, Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Documenting Spanish Language Television through Archives

Alison Oswald, Archivist, NMAH

Project Overview:

The Archives Center was created in the early 1980s to serve as a repository for archival collections from throughout the National Museum of American History and to acquire additional collections in support of the museum's research, exhibition, and collecting programs.

With few exceptions, Archives Center collections are acquired by donation, often in conjunction with the acquisition of related artifacts and in collaboration with the Museum's curatorial staff. Documentation projects -- including oral and video histories -- actively create new research collections. The Museum's ability to acquire and care for artifacts and archival materials in all physical formats and to generate contemporary documentation gives it a unique capacity to record the complexity and richness of the American experience.

In support of the Spanish-language Television collecting initiative at NMAH, the Archives Center seeks to support in the processing of materials collected by Curators Mireya Loza and Kathleen Franz. The fellow will carry out essential tasks that will enable the archival material to be publicly accessible. Bilingual skills required, background in library sciences preferred.

Responsibilities for this project include:

- Process identified collection(s): organize and arrange for physical access, describe for intellectual access, and properly house archival materials according to established national standards and best practices.
- Describe archival collection (s) using the Archivist's Toolkit system and the resulting finding aid (s) will be ingested into the central finding aid database repository, indexed and made available on SOVA (Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives),.

Useful links:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>



Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Documenting and Collecting Spanish-language Television

Mireya Loza, Curator, Division of Political History, NMAH

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

Project Overview:

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 2000s. The curatorial team has spent the last year collecting archival materials, objects, and oral histories. Now they need help processing these collections and making them available to researchers and the public. The fellow will gain hands on experience with object handling and object processing. They will also be involved in helping frame the national narrative on the rise of Spanish language television by contributing web labels and blogs.

Responsibilities for this project include:

- Photographing objects to museum standards.
- Completing collection records with measurements, condition report, location information and brief descriptions.
- Writing interpretive Web labels for objects that explain their historical and cultural significance.
- Present the findings as part of a colloquium talk at the NMAH.
- Fellow must be organized, self-motivated, and enjoy collections-based work.



Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Health Modalities and History in Latinx Communities

Dr. Katherine Ott, Curator, NMAH

Project Overview:

This practicum is in the division of the History of Medicine and Science at the National Museum of American History. The Division manages the largest and most significant collection of health-related artifacts in the Western Hemisphere. The Collections in medical science seek to capture the historical experiences of researchers, physicians, communities, patients, and their families. The project supports the on-going documentation and collecting related to the history of health, medicine, and the body in Latino communities. There are two components: a general introduction to the daily workings of the museums (including such things as discussions about the politics and ethics of history, museums as sites of social justice, and attending meetings and navigating topics of potential controversy); an object-based research dive into a topic in the history of Latinx health.

Responsibilities will include:

- Depending upon the background and interests of the applicant, research will be on one of the following subject areas: disability (including diagnosis, treatment, and understanding of physical impairment, insanity, neuro-diversity, and “invisible” disabilities); curanderismo and herbal medicine in the Southwest; LGBTQ and sexuality.
- Participating in museum and division meetings and activities as directed, to gain deeper understanding of the workings of a large and complex museum.
- Identifying and evaluating resources (including primary and secondary materials, archives and other existing collections, key historical people and events, media, and similar) related to selected health topic.
- Creating annotated object descriptions and identifying potential acquisitions



National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Latinos and Baseball: In the Barrios and the Big Leagues

Dr. Margaret Salazar-Porzio, Curator, NMAH

Project Overview:

This practicum is in the division of the Division of Home and Community Life, which uses scholarship and collections to educate and inspire a broad audience about domestic and social environments and the intersections between public and private life in our nation's past. The division cares for its collections and develops them to represent the country's many peoples in the areas of home life, racial and gender identity, family structure, work, consumer culture, standards of cleanliness and health, diverse forms of housing, modernization and the role of technology, invention, leisure, community institutions, religion and religious affiliation, and education.

Latinos and Baseball: In the Barrios and the Big Leagues is a multi-year community collecting initiative at the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the Smithsonian Latino Center, focusing on the historic role baseball has played as a social and cultural force within Latino communities across the nation. Baseball has been and continues to be an important means for celebrating national and ethnic identities, building communities, and negotiating race and class relations in our increasingly globalized world.

This project builds on a growing body of original research, oral histories, and collections by and with our partners to document the impact Latina/o communities have had on American history and culture through the lens of baseball. Tracing histories of people, places, and objects that reflect the complex interplay of racial identities and sports across the nation allows us to tell diverse and unexpected stories within our communities. This project enriches local and national collections, includes plans for future exhibitions, and supports public programs and community engagement across the nation. Fellows working on this project will gain hands-on experience working with objects and donors, developing exhibitions, and completing research and writing for the web as well as internal databases.

Now that we have a growing set of collections we would like to:

- 1) Build out our online presence
- 2) Research and document the objects in our internal NMAH database
- 3) Begin developing a set of History Highlights cases at the NMAH to be installed in 2018.



With these three goals in mind, this project can accommodate two fellows. Depending on the interests and skills of each fellow, shared responsibilities and activities for this practicum include research and documentation of new acquisitions' importance to Latino history and culture as well as American history more broadly. This research will enable the fellows to work on the three important pieces of the practicum:

1. Fellows with web skills will be asked to survey the existing website for the Latinos and Baseball project and propose ways to build out the online presence and make the content more dynamic, while working within the constraints of the NMAH template. They will spend the subsequent weeks working to expand and deepen the project's online presence with new collections, research and existing assets. Fellows will also be invited to write a blog or object group featuring new acquisitions;
2. Fellows will work directly with objects: measuring, photographing, and documenting objects in the NMAH Mimsy XG database. As part of this practicum, the National Museum of American History will provide training in Mimsy XG, the museum's internal database.
3. Fellows will also propose presentation strategies for History Highlights cases to display some of the most compelling new objects. This kind of curatorial work may lead to real display cases at the National Museum of American History.

We will spend some time introducing certain concepts around creating digital records (including camera and lighting for photography), handling delicate objects, different kinds of materials, storage, and display strategies. Fellows will meet other museum staff from conservation, photography, public relations, registrar, and objects processing units. Within the first week the fellows will determine a timeline and weekly objectives in order to complete this particular project. Fellows will also be invited to participate in museum, division, and exhibit meetings and activities as directed to gain deeper understanding of the workings of a large and complex museum and the development of nationally relevant history exhibitions.

Useful links:

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

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/about/departments/home-and-community-life>

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/profile/1114>

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/latinos-and-baseball>



National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)

Contextualizing Museum Archaeological Collections: The Case of Pre-Columbian Mirrors

Dr. Antonio Curet, Curator, NMAI

Dr. María Martínez, Program Specialist, Collections Management, NMAI

Project Overview:

Museums hold valuable and useful collections for archaeological investigations, particularly as the archaeological community continues to grapple with the international curation crisis, and the lack of funding opportunities for large-scale excavation projects. However, too readily museum collections are underutilized. This mostly stems from the misconception that provenance and quantitative control are inaccessible. The proposed project is an attempt to counter these general misperceptions among archaeologists. Specifically, it will include bibliographic, archival, and collection-based research dealing with archaeological mirrors of the Americas. Ancient mirrors have been found in many Pre-Columbian cultures since Formative times. In many cases they are found in ritual or elite contexts.

- The purpose of this project is two-fold (1) to use archival and bibliographic research to contextualize the objects and (2) to determine the possible origin of the raw materials used to produce these mirrors (e.g., obsidian, pyrite).
- Working together with archaeologists from the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), the fellow will be conducting research using of museum archives, archaeological collections, and trained in the use of instruments for elemental analysis (i.e., handheld XRF spectrometer).
- The final goal for the summer is to produce a technical report that can be used as the foundation for a peer-reviewed journal article, contribute to the contextualization of museum archaeological collections at NMAI, in this case ancient mirrors. Additionally, your work may contribute to a future exhibit (Ancestors) focusing on the use of archaeological material under the stewardship of NMAI.



National Portrait Gallery (NPG)

Piecing Together” Latinx Art and History in the 19th Century

Dr. Taína Caragol, Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture and Curator of Latino Art and History, NPG

Leslie Ureña, Assistant Curator of Photographs, NPG

Project Overview:

The National Portrait Gallery was authorized and founded by Congress in 1962 with the mission to acquire and display portraits of "men and women who have made significant contributions to the history, development, and culture of the people of the United States." Today, the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery continues to narrate the multi-faceted and ever-changing story of America through the individuals who have shaped its culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts, and new media, the Portrait Gallery presents poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists whose lives form our national identity.

Since the hiring of the Curator of Latino Art and History in the spring of 2013, the National Portrait Gallery has been actively working at improving Latino representation in its collection and exhibitions. One of the concrete initiatives in this area includes the organization of exhibitions that incorporate a Latino artist/sitter component.

The Latino Museum Studies Fellow will assist on two projects:

1. Working with the Associate Curator of Latino Art and History and Kate Lemay, Historian, the Fellow will help conduct historical research on the Spanish-American War and identify artworks and objects of interest for the exhibition 1898: The American Imperium.
2. Working with the Assistant Curator of Photographs, the Fellow will conduct preliminary historical research related to the photographer José María Mora.

The Fellow will gain a deeper understanding of Latinx art and history of the 19th century and develop/hone skills related to museum exhibition research and organization.



Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)

Traveling Exhibition Development - Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields / Revolución en los Campos

María del Carmen Cossu, SITES Project Director for Latino Initiatives, SITES

Katherine Krile, SITES Assistant Director of Exhibits, SITES

Project Overview:

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.

To support SITES' Latino initiatives program, the LMSP fellow will assist SITES in the review and assessment of education and community engagement resources and contribute to the development of the bilingual audio tour for the traveling exhibition Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields / Revolución en los Campos. The bilingual traveling exhibition is based on the One Life: Dolores Huerta exhibition developed by the National Portrait Gallery (NPG). The traveling exhibition will highlight the significant role of Dolores Huerta in the California farm workers movement of the 1960s and 1970s. It will illuminate Huerta as the co-founder, with César Chávez, of the United Farm Workers (UFW), and her position as the union's lobbyist and contract negotiator. Dr. Taína Caragol, NPG Curator for Latino Art & History, is the curator for this exhibition. SITES is working with NPG to adapt the existing exhibition, adding content to expand the multicultural aspects of the story (e.g., Filipinos and African Americans participated in the farm workers movement) and adding to Dolores Huerta's biography and the improvement of environmental conditions in agriculture due to the farm workers movement. The exhibition's tour is scheduled to begin March 2018 and extend to 2022.

The practicum will provide a unique opportunity to further SITES' work by contributing ideas and skills to support the traveling exhibition program while researching and contributing to innovative educational resources for the exhibition and providing SITES with the young professional perspective to the exhibition development team.



Working with SITES' project director for Latino initiatives, the fellow will

- 1) Learn about the exhibition development process
- 2) Review the exhibition script and its Spanish translation
- 3) Assess all education materials for the exhibition including the community engagement resource
- 4) Contribute to the audio tour development
- 5) Participate in the exhibition development process and exhibition team meetings
- 7) Share experiences and recommendations in a presentation for SITES staff

Useful links:

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

<http://www.sites.si.edu/about/whatsnew.htm>

<http://npg.si.edu/exhibition/one-life-dolores-huerta>



Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

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

Melissa Carrillo, Director of New Media & Technology

Project Overview:

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 2014-16 supported by three 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 2017, SLC will continue digital strategic planning to also add Latino Gallery component. This will include expansion of its online presence and connecting to in-Gallery immersion strategies 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.). As well as to participate in opportunities supporting 'rapid prototyping' of ideas and technology in the form of mini workshops or digi sessions with key collaborators. 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 outcomes from 2016 Practicum participant;
- 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?
- What role should R&D play in the larger digital strategic planning process?



Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

Latino DC History Project: Interpreting Central American Women's Work

Ranald Woodaman, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs, SLC

Samir Meghelli, Curator, Anacostia Community Museum

Project Overview:

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 local Salvadoran and other Central American female immigrant workers and entrepreneurs. The goal of this practicum is to help the Smithsonian Latino Center develop a methodology and approach for documenting and interpreting women's experiences and perspectives as migrants, mothers, and community builders.

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

- An overview of the history and sociology of Salvadoran and Central American women migrants to the Washington, DC region.
- 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.