Archives of American Art (AAA)
“Do you even want to be?” exhibition and publication research

Dr. Josh T. Franco, National Collector, AAA

Project Overview:

With over twenty million items and counting, the Archives of American Art (AAA) 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 made further acquisitions from New York, Denver, Florida, the Midwest, and the West Coast including: Cheech Marin (Oral History), 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 AAA’s mission is to acquire primary sources—letters, diaries, journals, notes, and other unpublished writings, financial records, photographs, sketchbooks, scrapbooks, audio and video recordings, rare printed material, and the like—from artists, critics,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.

Among these materials a trend became evident: whether in correspondence, notes to self, or other writings and documents, many of these donors expressed uneasiness about identifying as “Latina/o” (and the related various labels specific to countries of origin) in an art context. One standout document is a letter from Andres Serrano to artist and scholar Luis Camnitzer in which Serrano praises a recent article by Camnitzer, while also pointing out the inaccuracy of his cited birthplace and pointing to this as an example of implicit bias of origin in scholarship on artists of Latin American origin. Camnitzer stated that Serrano was born in Puerto Rico. Serrano was born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and has never resided outside of New York City, as he points out. In his letter, Serrano calls this misstated biographical detail an example of “Hispanic hoopla.”

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Conduct a comprehensive survey of collections with potential related material identified by the National Collector. S/he will develop a database for relevant documents, once identified.
- Review interviews from AAA’s Oral History program for relevant examples as well.
- Researching AAA’s collections for examples of Latinx identity in crisis.
- Communicate with donors to gain further context for documents of interest.
- Assisting National Collector in further conceiving details of a proposed exhibition.
- Researching prior exhibitions and publications with similar conceptual frameworks.
Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goal:

- To identify enough material to constitute an exhibition in AAA’s Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery. The outcome will be assessed by the National Collector and Mary Savig, Curator of Manuscripts.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: Art History, Library & Information Science, Latinx Studies, History, American Studies, Art, Ethnic Studies, English, and Comparative Literature.

Useful Links:
www.aaa.si.edu
http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/topic/latino-and-latin-american-36
Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH)
Locating Latinidad: Activating Archival Access to Latino-related Collections

Dr. Amalia Córdova, Latino Digital Curator of New and Emerging Media
Cecilia Peterson, Digital Projects Archivist
Dave Walker, Audio Preservation Specialist

Project Overview:

The Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage is home to some of the world’s most important ethnographic documentary materials from the second half of the twentieth century. This includes video documentation of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (which began in 1967 as the Festival of American Folklife) as well as video of original field research and special projects conducted across the country and around the world by Center curators and staff. The Rinzler Archives is also home more than a dozen collections of record labels acquired and curated by the Center’s non-profit record label Smithsonian Folkways Records (SFR). The collections are strong in American, and more specifically Euro-American, African-American, Caribbean, and Native American musical, performance, and material culture traditions.

Based on our collections, we intend the Fellow’s activities to range from on-site archival research, English/Spanish translation and transcription, and active participation in feedback sessions with web, archival, and curatorial staff.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Develop a familiarity with archival collections care, practices, and procedures.
- Co-develop a method for creating enhanced access points (e.g., a subject guide) for Latino-related content in archival collections.
- Produce one public-facing, web-based resource informed by research interests and feasibility.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goal:

- To create web-based resources that will tell larger stories and provide context around Latino-related content through an interface that will be available in English and Spanish.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: Library and Archival Science, American Studies, Curatorial Studies, Latino Studies, Public History, and Digital Humanities, but all encouraged to apply.
Project Overview:

In 2018, the National Museum of African American History and Culture is recognizing the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s death with a special exhibition to honor the civil rights leader’s final and most ambitious dream, the Poor People’s Campaign (PPC). The campaign was a multiethnic movement in which protesters from across the country came to Washington, D.C. to demand equal access to economic mobility and social justice. Titled *City of Hope: Resurrection City & the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign (City of Hope)*, the exhibition opened December 15, 2017, and will run through January 5, 2019.

Central to the exhibition are oral histories with movement organizers and participants. Excerpts from select interviews are currently available in the exhibit, with additional extended excerpts planned for online experiences, including a web exhibit and social media campaigns. As part of the practicum, the fellow will work with the exhibition’s curator and oral historian to help shape these experiences.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Conducting research on select oral history candidates, civil rights organizations, and any related social movements.
- Transcribing select oral histories.
- Identifying additional oral history candidates.
- Assisting in processing oral histories.
- Working with the exhibit’s curator and oral historian, as well as the museum’s web and social media teams, to develop features on select activists and oral histories online.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- To gain practical experience in methods for oral history and life history research.
- To gain experience in 21st century curatorial practices and curating for online audiences.
Latino Museum Studies Program Practicum

- To gain experience in making historical research relevant to contemporary issues and audiences.

The practicum is best suited for students in the areas of: History and Cultural Studies, including Ethnic Studies, Women’s Studies, American Studies, and Policy Studies. However, we encourage everyone to apply. Fellows must be organized, self-motivated, and enjoy working in a fast-paced environment. Spanish language skills preferred.

For more information on the exhibit, *City of Hope*, please visit the following:
- [https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/city-of-hope](https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/city-of-hope)
- [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/this-was-martin-luther-king-jrs-most-ambitious-dream/2018/01/14/46a0c9a2-f7a3-11e7-beb6-c8d48830c54d_story.html?utm_term=.a4d4aaf28715](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/this-was-martin-luther-king-jrs-most-ambitious-dream/2018/01/14/46a0c9a2-f7a3-11e7-beb6-c8d48830c54d_story.html?utm_term=.a4d4aaf28715)
- [https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/%E2%80%9Chis-camera-guided-his-heart%E2%80%9D-robert-houston%E2%80%99s-photographs-poor-people%E2%80%99s-campaign](https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/%E2%80%9Chis-camera-guided-his-heart%E2%80%9D-robert-houston%E2%80%99s-photographs-poor-people%E2%80%99s-campaign)
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 practicum will include the following activities:

- Photographing objects to museum standards.
- Completing collection records with measurements, condition report, location information and brief descriptions.
- Assisting in processing oral histories.
- 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.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- To gain hands on experience with object handling and object processing.
- To be involved in helping frame the national narrative on the rise of Spanish language television by contributing web labels and blogs.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: History, American Studies, Ethnic Studies, but all encouraged to apply. Fellow must be organized, self-motivated, and enjoy collections-based work. Spanish language skills preferred.

For a perspective on this practicum, read the following blog from recent program participants:

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 (NMAH) 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 the processing of archival materials collected by Curators Mireya Loza and Kathleen Franz.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- 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 ArchivesSpace 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).

- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goal:

- To carry out essential tasks that will enable the archival material to be publicly accessible in support of NMAH’s Spanish-language Television collecting initiative.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: History, American Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Central American Studies, Labor Studies, but all encouraged to apply. Bilingual skills required and a background in library sciences preferred.

For a perspective on this practicum, read the following blog from a recent program participant: http://smithsonianlvm.tumblr.com/post/166297206287/lmsp2017-fellow-taking-over-maria-daniela-jiménez
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.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- 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.

- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- To have 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).

- To conduct an object-based research dive into a topic in the history of Latinx health.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: History, American Studies, Queer Studies, and Medical History, but all encouraged to apply.

For a perspective on this practicum, read the following blog from a recent program participant: http://smithsonianlvm.tumblr.com/post/163378257757/lmsp2017-fellow-takeover-shakti-castro
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 such recent acquisition, by the photographer Alexis Rodríguez-Duarte and the stylist Tico Torres, is a selection from the series *Cuba out of Cuba*, on which they have worked for more than two decades. This selection grants an ongoing record of Cuban culture outside the island and the contributions made by Cuban Americans in the fields of film, literature, fashion, music, business, and the visual arts.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Identify potential ways of making the portfolio accessible to the public, whether through public programming, social media, or other means.
- Draft blog posts for “evergreen” content, to be utilized on the NPG’s website at a later date.
- Complete the cataloguing of the portfolio, to the NPG’s cataloging standards.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- To conduct in-depth research about each of the sitters, at the specific moment in which they were depicted.
- To research comparative material regarding the Cuban diaspora and its representation in photographic images.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: Art History, Caribbean Studies, but all are encouraged to apply.
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
Telling Latino Stories through 3D Digitization

Megan Dattoria, 3D Digitization Specialist, Digitization Program Office, OCIO

Project Overview:

The Smithsonian’s Digitization Program Office (DPO) is a central resource that works with all 19 Smithsonian museums and 9 research centers. With less than 1% of the collections on display in our Museums, Archives and Libraries at any given time, there are many treasures and stories that have yet to be shared. The Smithsonian has an amazing opportunity to leverage 3D scanning technology to make more of this collection available to anyone in the world who has an internet connection (via the 3D explorer at 3d.si.edu). Our digital collections are the raw materials which let educators and curators reach new audiences, and allow scientists to engage the world in new discoveries. Even more importantly, digital collections allow our audiences to go on their own journeys of learning, discovery and appreciation, and teach us something about the Smithsonian collections along the way.

3D digitization of museum collection objects has traditionally been a boutique operation with lengthy capture and processing times. As such, the DPO is looking for ways to improve these methods and go from scanning individual objects to scanning entire collections. Through a series of Collections Capture Pilot Projects (CCPP), we are streamlining processes and working towards further automation. These projects also provide the opportunity to create online experiences for key small collections throughout all of our museums.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Research collections for potential digitization based on story-telling potential, visual interest, and scanning feasibility using Smithsonian’s online collections database and working with collections experts at the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC).

- Prepare for a weeklong Pilot Project based on identified Latino collections, chosen technology throughput, and technical limitations. Fellow will work with DPO staff to understand 3D technologies, workflows and outputs.

- Curate and draft online annotations and tours for 1-5 objects in collection. Fellow will be trained on how to create online experiences using the Autodesk Play 3D model viewer, seen here: https://3d.si.edu/apollo11cm/boxes/play-cm-2016-09-26/cm-exterior.html.

- Schedule permitting, shadow an active 3D Collections Capture Pilot Project and assist in documenting the processes and lessons learned.

- Project final report and presentation.
Latino Museum Studies Program Practicum

Practicum Goal:

- To design a 3D Pilot Project to digitize a small collection (~20-50) of Smithsonian objects that tell a story of Latino culture.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: Digital Humanities, Cultural Studies, History, American Studies, Anthropology, Latino Studies, Caribbean Studies, but all are encouraged to apply.

Interest in collections research, Project planning and management (Confluence, SmartSheets, MS Project, MS Excel), 3D digitization techniques (Photogrammetry, Structured Light Scanning, Laser Arm Scanning, etc.), Digital educational content creation (i.e. online tours, articles, etc.) is desired. Bilingual written and verbal ability is required (English/Spanish).

Useful links:

https://dpo.si.edu
https://twitter.com/3D_Digi_SI
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 research, collections and expertise, we tell stories that define America in all its diverse voices and cultural expressions. 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 of exhibition research; script development; image research; and education and community engagement resources for several traveling exhibitions. SITES is currently working with the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery (NPG) on the development of the exhibition *Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields/Revolución en Los Campos*, scheduled to tour from March 2019 through 2023. Projects currently under consideration for inclusion in SITES’ program of traveling exhibitions include *Latinos and Baseball: In the Barrios and the Big Leagues*, in development at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH), and *Lowriders and Lowrider Culture in the United States*, an exhibition developed by a New Mexico museum that explores lowriders as an expression of art and community.

The practicum will provide a unique opportunity to contribute ideas to further develop SITES’ Latino Initiatives traveling exhibition program, while contributing to the development of several specific exhibitions and their related resources. It will also give SITES’ exhibition development teams the benefit of a younger Latino perspective.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Review of exhibition scripts and research; suggestion of educational, audio-visual and community engagement resources to support exhibitions.

- Review and assessment of script, education materials for the *Dolores Huerta* exhibition including AV and community engagement resources.

- Support with content and image research for the development of the Latinos and Baseball exhibition in collaboration with the National Museum of American History.
• Support with content and image research for the Lowriders exhibition project when appropriate.

• Provide insights and recommendations about SITES Latino-themed exhibitions content and educational, audio-visual and community engagement resources, in a presentation for SITES staff.

• Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

• Expand LMSP fellow knowledge of the traveling exhibition development process.

• Contribute to the SITES Latino Initiatives Program with a young professional’s perspective and knowledge.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: History, American Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Latino Studies, Labor Studies, but all are encouraged to apply. Bilingual written and verbal ability is required (English/Spanish).

For a perspective on this practicum, read the following blog from a recent program participant: http://smithsonianlvm.tumblr.com/post/164301424357/lmsp2017-fellow-taking-over-christina-azahar

Useful links:

• http://www.sites.si.edu

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

• https://www.sites.si.edu/s/topic/0TO36000000L5OBGA0/dolores-huerta-revolution-in-the-fields-revoluci-n-en-los-campos

• http://americanhistory.si.edu/latinos-and-baseball
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 2014-17 supported by four 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 continued digital strategic planning adding the Latino Gallery initiative component. This included expansion of its online presence, connecting to in-Gallery immersion strategies and leveraging its existing infrastructure and resources into a larger Smithsonian-wide digital framework targeting diverse Latino audiences and the general public. 2018 will be instrumental in testing key immersion strategies and working with an array of SI digital content partners to develop solid prototypes that will help inform SLC’s digital research and audience outreach.

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, collection digitization, 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. In 2018, SLC looks to collaborate with a mix of SI units including the Smithsonian Digitization Program, to explore new ways of digital capture and curation (example 360-degree digital object capture for use in interpretive digital immersive storytelling).
The practicum will include the following activities:

- 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 2016-17 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; Can this be a newly defined Latino Virtual Gallery or Museum hub portal?

- 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.

- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals: 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?
- Contribute to the framework for curating a digital wall at NMAH leveraging themes on identity (Who are we as Latinos? Who are we as Americans?)

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: Digital humanities, library science, Latino studies, cultural studies, interdisciplinary studies, digital arts, emerging media.

For a perspective on this practicum, read the following blog from a recent program participant – http://smithsonianlvm.tumblr.com/post/164529693272/lmsp2017-fellow-taking-over-ismael-illescas
Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)
Latino DC History Project: Interpreting Central American Women’s Work

Ranald Woodaman, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs, SLC

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 work of the fellow will 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.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- 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.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- To develop a bibliography for Washington, DC as nationally-relevant site of Latinx history.
- To contextualize DC’s Latinx stories within local history, national policy, and transnational history frameworks.
- To formulate new insights and questions around public history strategies serving Latinx audiences.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of: History, American Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Central American Studies, Labor Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

For a perspective on this practicum, read the following blog from a recent program participant – http://smithsonianlvm.tumblr.com/post/163915368152/lmsp2017-fellow-takeover-stephanie-huezo