

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Project 1: Developing a Symposium on Cross-Cultural Perceptions of Revolution for the Program in Latino History and Culture

Background

The Mexican Revolution (1910-17) was one of the major and most influential social upheavals of the twentieth century. Its centennial commemoration is an ideal opportunity to address cross-cultural views of the Revolution, specifically those of Mexico and the United States, given the fact that Mexican and North-American cultures, economies, and societies are more interconnected than ever before. The Museum, in partnership with local universities, will present a one-day symposium on the impact of this historical event in aesthetic, political, and cultural productions of the United States. The symposium will bring about a reflection on today's troublesome political arena. Re-thinking the 1910 Revolution is a way to evaluate the current Mexican and North American scenarios as well. In addition to the symposium the Museum will present two days of public programs for general audiences including music performances, artist presentations, book signings, and films.

Project Description

The individual will conduct research to identify the themes and presenters for the symposium, compile short description for each, and make recommendations. Other programming in development includes 2 days of films, music and performances. Research and recommendations will be sought on these programs as well.

Additionally, a small showcase exhibition will be organized, and research on specific objects might be required. More details will be available at a later date.

Project 2: Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero History Program, 1942-1964

The National Museum of American History is developing a collecting and exhibit initiative which draws from the Smithsonian's collection of 1700 photos taken in 1956 by Leonard Nadel and from more than 600 original Bracero oral histories. LMSP participants will have a number of responsibilities related to the Bracero History Program but will focus on several key areas; finalizing entries for the braceroarchive.org website and finalizing some audience interactive –comment areas for the exhibition.

Past projects included analyzing images in the NMAH Leonard Nadel collection, researching the history of the Bracero program, listening to original oral histories, soliciting donations of objects, developing the project website, and coordinating activities with our collaborators. Participants may also be asked to participate in discussions and readings about border history more generally.

SMITHSONIAN LATINO CENTER

Project 1: *Argentina at the Smithsonian – Connecting to the U.S.-based Argentine Community*

This project requires research into the U.S.-based Argentine community in order to explore the feasibility of developing Smithsonian-led programming that incorporates Argentine writers, artists, musicians, scientists, historians, and others who work and live in the United States.

Project 2: *Development of Latino History and Culture Slide Show on PowerPoint or DVD*

This project requires research in Smithsonian Institution archives, libraries, and databases to identify images of people, places, and objects that can be digitally assembled and interpreted to make a contemplative statement or to formulate questions about Latino history and cultures. *All images must be identified and properly credited.

ARCHIVES CENTER, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Director's Assistant at the Archives Center of the National Museum of American History

Background

The National Museum of American History's Archives Center is a manuscripts and special collections repository with more than 12,000 feet of holdings in a wide range of subject areas and a full time staff of nine.

Project Description

Individual will have the opportunity to observe the director's activities and to acquire some knowledge of the workings of the Archives Center and the Museum. Under the supervision of the Chief Archivist, the intern will begin to work with projects that support the Archives Center's functions of administration, outreach, collections management, reference and processing.

Qualifications

Participant should have familiarity with research and have an interest in working in libraries or archives. Students working toward graduate degrees and have done a fair amount of administrative research, or those who have demonstrated through previous experience an affinity for managing people and workflow, problem solving, and customer service. Prior archival experience is helpful, but not necessary.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Project 1: Andean Community Outreach and Marketing Strategy in the DC Metropolitan Area

Background

The National Museum of the American Indian is currently developing an exhibition on the Inka Road. This exhibition, tentatively scheduled for a 2013 opening, will be the museum's first major project on Latin America. The project includes the exhibition, a publication, educational products, and a symposium. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is home to a large Andean population, some of them Aymara and Quechua speakers; The Inka Road exhibition is a perfect opportunity for the Museum to develop stronger ties with the Andean and larger Latino community.

Project Description

The LMSP fellow will develop a database and marketing plan for the exhibition, related public programs, and products. The database should include area Latino businesses, organizations, and individuals for whom the exhibition would be particularly relevant. The marketing plan should contain recommendations on how to engage the local Latino population; identify specific outlets for information dissemination, and a budget for the marketing plan. If time allows, the fellow will make a presentation of the marketing plan and database content to the Inka Road project team.

The LMSP fellow should be prepared to work independently but will have access to the Inka Road project team for general direction and guidance. Background materials on the project will be provided to the fellow. The NMAI can provide work space for the two-week period at the National Mall.

Project 2: Cultural Program Research across the hemisphere, with an emphasis on United States Latino population.

Background

The National Museum of the American Indian is currently developing and expanding its Latino outreach and Programming. Current Programs, including Dia de los Muertos, the Power of Chocolate, and Food-ways are tentatively scheduled for a 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. These programs include: traditional and contemporary artists, cultural experts, cultural presentation groups, lecturers, etc.

The LMSP Fellow would also work to identify other cultural themes that could be adapted to programs for the NMAI.

Project Description

The LMSP fellow will work to identify and research potential traditional and contemporary artists, cultural practitioners, music and performance groups for the related public programs. Where possible, assemble photos and bios, samples of work (photos, DVD, etc).

The LMSP fellow should be prepared to work independently but will have access to the NMAI Cultural Arts team for general direction and guidance. Background materials on the project will be provided to the fellow. The NMAI can provide work space for the two-week period at the National Mall.

SMITHSONIAN EARLY ENRICHMENT CENTER (SEEC)

Panamanian Passages Exhibition Education Programs and Resources

Background

The Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center is currently developing education programs to support the exhibition Panamanian Passages being developed in partnership between the *Smithsonian Latino Center*, *Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute* and the *Museo del Canal*, Panama. This exhibition, scheduled for an opening: October 2009, will be the SI Latino Center project focusing on Panama's critical and strategic location in the hemisphere as an isthmus, and to highlight the importance of Panama as a global crossroads. Another important aspect of the exhibition content will focus on the impact external forces have had on various aspects of Panamanian Society. The education program will include several resources: an education cart with hand-on explorations; an education cart script; field trip activities for families; middle and high school students. All of the education activities will be based on the object-based learning methodology.

The Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center will develop English language worksheets that will include two components: 1) a scavenger hunt self-guide of the exhibit with questions for each targeted age range and theme and 2) critical thinking questions that are based on the education cart/station experience. These resources will be: 1 worksheet for middle school students; 1 worksheet for high school students; 1 family worksheet; 1 Instructional Teacher's worksheet (the worksheet will be based on National Teaching Standards.) This includes the following resources: basic facts; overview of the exhibition; references related to the exhibition and its offerings.

The educational resources will provide opportunities for school students, families visiting the exhibition with a better understanding of Panama, its culture, its essential role as a global crossroads.

Project Description

The LMSP fellow will conduct research for the exhibition's related education resources, and products. The research will be conducted in the area of the importance of Panama as a global crossroads: importance and impact of the Panamanian routes; evolution of the Panamanian routes from the 16th century to the 21st century. Other possible themes for research if time allows: The Panama Canal in Panamanian Hands; and the Panama Canal Expansion. The research should contain recommendations on how to engage school audiences through these themes; identify specific information for dissemination, and

identification of objects and methodology for teaching these subjects. If time allows, the fellow will make a presentation of the research content and identification of education resources to the education team working on the Panamanian Passages exhibition.

The LMSP fellow should be prepared to work independently but will have access to the exhibition's script and resources and the team for general direction and guidance. Background materials on the project will be provided to the fellow. The Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center can provide work space for the two-week period at the National Mall. It is recommended that the LMSP fellow, Ms. Doyle brings a laptop during the two-week period of the fellowship.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE

Challenges of Successful Exhibitions: Exhibition Conceptualization and Development Process

The best exhibitions are those that convey responsibility to public education and enjoyment, engage the visitors and provide diverse learning experiences, represent diverse human perspectives, create a relationship between the exhibition topic and the audiences, are both intellectually and physically accessible, pose questions, ask the visitors to question their own perspectives, and enable visitors to create new connections between themselves and the information and materials before them. The challenge is: How do we achieve these goals?

Through hands-on experiences, exhibition visits, critiques, group discussions, personal and group analysis, and by sharing ideas and knowledge with Smithsonian museum professionals, this practicum focuses on learning and understanding the exhibition development process and all the elements that need to be considered in order to produce a successful exhibition that can positively impact on the museum audiences.

Anabelle Rodríguez from Temple University and Diana Rivera from Michigan State University, will team up to learn the basic process of developing exhibitions, from the conceptualization of the exhibition idea to the implementation of the project. Through a schedule of activities and (lectures, brainstorming sessions, exhibition visits, exhibition design critics and analysis, budget development, script writing and object labels, conceptualization of educational components, etc.) the fellows will examine the elements that must be considered, the processes that should be followed, and the behind-the-scenes challenges involved in the development successful exhibitions. The practicum culminates with a final project in which the fellows will conceptualize an exhibition and will develop the appropriate process to achieve its success and positive impact on the audience.