Practicum Summary

LMSP applicants have the opportunity to apply for one of seventeen, 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 two-week 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 questions.

Please note, two practicums will be offered by National Trust for Historic Preservation under the same name.
PRACTICUM 1

Anacostia Community Museum (ACM)

Project: Black Mosaic: Image Archiving
Leads: Ariana Curtis, Curator and Jennifer Morris, Archivist
Duration: Four Weeks

The Anacostia Community Museum (ACM) explores issues in contemporary urban communities and is dedicated to a community-focused approach to research, documentation, and educational and cultural programming. BLACK MOSAIC: Community, Race, and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D.C., an exhibition at the ACM in 1994, explored the international diversity of Black community life in the Washington Metropolitan area. It examined how the perceptions and the realities of race, color, and ethnicity shaped the experiences of immigrant peoples of African descent from Central and South America and the Caribbean. The originality and importance of this exhibition continues to make an impact today.

As such, the museum will celebrate the 20th anniversary of BLACK MOSAIC in 2014 by hosting a symposium with invited scholars and other guests. The LMSP fellow will work with the archivist to amplify the discoverability of these significant community reflections and images and will work with the curator to include these elements into the proposed 20th anniversary celebrations.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Conducting research in order to contextualize archived images of people, places, events both in the U.S. and abroad
- Working closely with the archivist to catalogue images, including adding metadata for discoverability in search databases
- Working with curator to incorporate the context and imagery into the proposed event
- Blogging about the project and findings (in English and Spanish where possible) as well as presenting to museum staff

Useful links:
http://anacostia.si.edu
http://anacostia.si.edu/RC/Archives2.htm
http://anacostia.si.edu/exhibits/past_exhibtions/black_mosaic/mosaic.htm
http://si-siris.blogspot.com/2012/10/exhibition-records-source-for.html
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is the non-profit record label of the Smithsonian. The mission is the legacy of Moses Asch, who founded Folkways Records in 1948 in order to document sounds from around the world.

As part of the sales/marketing team with Smithsonian Folkways, the LMSP fellow will work on a range of short-term and long-term projects, all supporting the mission of increasing the awareness and utilization of the collection.

Specifically, the fellow will work to promote the award-winning Smithsonian Folkways Tradiciones/Traditions Series, a collection of new releases that showcases the diverse musical heritage of the more than 50 million Latinos living in the USA. The series is sponsored by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:
- Researching and updating digital outlets
- Writing new content
- Conducting online marketing research
- Maintaining social media web sites
- Promoting new releases and artist events

Smithsonian Folkways also participates in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The festival runs for 10 days during the last week of June and first week of July. LMSP fellows are invited to assist Smithsonian Folkways during the festival.

Responsibilities for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival may include:
- Assisting with Smithsonian Folkways-related Smithsonian Folklife Festival concerts
- Assisting with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival Marketplace (Smithsonian Folkways section)

Useful links:
http://www.folkways.si.edu/
http://www.folkways.si.edu/find_recordings/Latino.aspx
http://www.folkways.si.edu/search/genre/latin
SIMI: The Smithsonian Immigration/Migration Initiative is a multi-year, interdisciplinary Smithsonian effort. It is the umbrella for a research, collections and public interpretation endeavor that will analyze, document and present the cultural history and geography of the U.S. as seen through the lenses of immigration, migration, ethnicity and cultural identity.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Researching material that relates to the study and interpretation of immigration and migration in the Americas by the Smithsonian in the past and present which may include biographical research
- Presenting an annotated report of findings to the project team at conclusion of practicum
- The fellow will be encouraged to use many of the Institution’s archival centers, with particular concentration at the Smithsonian Institutions’.

Useful links:
http://americanhistory.si.edu/
http://americanhistory.si.edu/simi/
PRACTICUM 4

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Project: Health Modalities and History in Latino Communities
Lead: Dr. Katherine Ott, Curator
Duration: Four weeks

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 practicum supports the on-going documentation and collecting related to the history of health, medicine, and the body in Latino communities.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Depending upon the background and interests of the fellow, 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), public health, herbal medicine and curanderismo, HIV and AIDS, 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 an annotated collecting guide that includes collecting sources and bibliographic references where appropriate

Useful links:
http://americanhistory.si.edu/
http://americanhistory.si.edu/about/departments/medicine-and-science
PRACTICUM 5

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Project: Stories of Immigration: Politics, Collections, Comunidad
Lead: Steve Velasquez, Curator
Duration: Four weeks

This practicum is in 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. Through collecting and research, staff in the division produce and contribute to publications, exhibitions, and other forms of public history. They also collect, research, and disseminate information in the areas of home life, gender identity, life cycles, lifestyles and family structure, work, patterns of domestic production and consumption, standards of cleanliness and health, diverse forms of housing, modernization and the role of technology, invention, leisure, community institutions, religion, and education.

What does the immigration experience, specifically immigration from Latin America, mean to home and community life and the American experience? How has immigration been reported about in the popular press? What objects in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution help tell the story of immigration from Latin America?

Responsibilities for the practicum include:

- Searching popular press and magazine covers from Life, Newsweek, US News and World Report, etc for information dealing with immigration and writing short summaries of the articles.
- Searching large newspapers such as the NY Times, LA Times, as well as other Latino/Chicano newspapers from 1924, 1965, and 1986; years which mark major changes in immigration policy, to determine what the popular press reported about immigration. Additionally or alternatively, search newspapers from 1960-62 and 1980 about Operation Peter Pan/Cuban migration, and 1994 and 2010 surrounding State initiatives on cracking down of undocumented immigrants.
- Assisting with collections assessment of Home and Community Life and other divisions within the museum to identify relevant objects and stories that are related to Latino immigration.

Useful links:
http://americanhistory.si.edu/
http://www.facebook.com/#!/SIMI
PRACTICUM 6

National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)

Project: Consciousness of Taíno: Caribbean Indigeneity.
Leads: Jose Barreiro, Assistant Director for Research
        Cynthia Vidaurri, Research Specialist for Latin America
Duration: Four Weeks

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is dedicated to the living cultures of indigenous peoples of the Americas. The NMAI holds a large collection of nearly one million archeological and ethnographic objects from indigenous cultures of the Western Hemisphere. The exhibition research project, *Consciousness of Taíno: Caribbean Indigeneity*, explores and challenges the concept of “extinction” as applied to the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean. A multi-disciplinary team of scholars is engaged in research on a wide variety of subjects that examine indigeneity in personal identity, community practices, iconography, art and other thematics.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Conducting research in order to contextualize and organize archived images of people and objects
- Working with curator and archivist to organize and annotate bibliographic and other materials

Useful links:
http://nmai.si.edu/home
http://blog.nmai.si.edu/main/hemispheric-travel-journal
PRACTICUM 7

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)

Project: Language Collections, Access and Revitalization Research
(Part of Recovering Voices Initiative)
Lead: Gabriela Perez-Baez, Research Anthropologist
Duration: Four weeks

Recovering Voices is an initiative led by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in partnership with other Smithsonian units, the National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, that promotes the documentation and revitalization of the world’s endangered languages and knowledge.

This practicum is intended to facilitate research on language collections by (1) improving on cataloguing and metadata related to language materials in the archives and (2) improving on access to these materials for the purposes of research and revitalization. The focus of this project is on materials on Mexican indigenous languages and related families (notably Mayan, Uto-Aztecan and Algonquian) with the goal of developing a detailed inventory of such materials.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:
- Researching the SIRIS catalog of the National Anthropological Archives
- Researching a variety of sources to document culture and language names
- Reviewing archival materials in order to improve metadata
- Maintaining an Excel spreadsheet with collected data
- Presenting project research to NMNH and SLC staff

Useful links:
http://www.mnh.si.edu/
http://anthropology.si.edu/recovering_voices/
The Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History includes vast mineral, biological, and cultural collections. With a deep commitment to exploring human-environmental interactions, the Museum is currently developing a small project to document the perceptions and use of plants in the Afro-Cuban religious tradition commonly known as *Santería*. Within the tradition, plants play an important role in both ritual activities and pharmacology. A fellow will work with botanists at the National Museum of Natural History—Havana and an NMNH anthropologist to develop a small online exhibition of *yerbas*.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:
- Organizing a collection of images of plants, preparation, and ritual contexts of plant use
- Translating and organizing field reports from the Cuban botanists
- Adding metadata about these images to the website
- Writing short descriptions about the use of herbs based on extensive materials supplied by the research team
- Uploading images, text and other assets to the website
- Fellow should be proficient in reading and writing Spanish

Useful links:
http://www.mnh.si.edu/
http://botany.si.edu/
The National Portrait Gallery is hiring its first associate curator for Latino art and culture in 2013, and expects that scholar to be in residence by April. We must choose artists and portraits by August 1 for a 2014 exhibition in NPG’s *Portraiture Now* series which will focus on contemporary Latino portraiture and issues of identity. The new curator will also be starting the process of assessing NPG’s collections to identify major gaps and suggest subjects from Latino history and culture whose portraits should be acquired for NPG if possible, and existing objects which might be available for acquisition or loan.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Working closely with the new curator and the Chief Curator to research contemporary Latino artists who are using portraiture in their work and to finalize the script for the exhibition.
- Contacting scholars and artists
- Conducting research on historical and contemporary Latino subjects for portraits to be acquired by the NPG

Useful links:

http://npgportraits.si.edu/eMuseumNPG/code/emuseum.asp
http://www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/drawing/index.html
PRACTICUM 10

National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)

Project:  Comienzo: Emerging Conversations about the Collections and Affiliations of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
Lead:  Katherine Malone-France, Director of Outreach, Education and Support
Duration:  Four weeks

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the National Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story. Staff at the Washington, DC, headquarters, field offices and 27 historic sites work with the Trust’s 200,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states.

The Historic Sites Department of the National Trust works closely with the 27 historic sites owned by or affiliated with the organization to utilize historic places and collections to tell richer and more diverse stories of the history of the United States.

Responsibilities for the practicum include:
- Identifying and researching items related to the Latino history and culture in the National Trust’s collection of 60,000 items spread over 21 historic sites across the country. This may include travel to one or more National Trust Historic Sites.
- Identifying connections and themes related to Latino history and culture that emerge from viewing the National Trust collection as a whole.
- Making recommendations about the development of collections-based programming and outreach related to Latino history and culture.
- Making recommendations about historic sites related to Latino heritage and culture for inclusion in broader National Trust initiatives.

Useful links:
http://www.preservationnation.org/

NBC Latino’s coverage of the work of 2012 LMSP fellow, Christian Larsen:

NOTE: The National Trust for Historic Preservation will offer this practicum to two LMSP fellows.
PRACTICUM 11

Smithsonian Affiliations (SA)

Project: National Forum on Latino Partnerships Research
Lead: Jennifer Brundage, National Outreach Manager
Duration: Four Weeks

The Smithsonian’s unparalleled collections, scholarship, and exhibitions document the world in all of its beauty, diversity, and complexity. The mission of Smithsonian Affiliations is to share these resources with Americans in their own communities by developing collaborative partnerships with museums, cultural and educational organizations. Together, we bring the Smithsonian, in all of its breadth and scope, to local communities and create lasting experiences that broaden perspectives on science, history, world cultures and the arts.

In preparation for the National Forum on Latino Partnerships and the Smithsonian, this practicum involves creating a comprehensive guide to Latino resources at the Smithsonian, including online and archived exhibits, books and catalogs, collection references, past (archived) symposia and more.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Assisting in the development of a recruitment plan to attract Latino-focused Affiliates
- Researching and profiling appropriate organizations to consider and detailing particular strengths in collections or programming that complements Smithsonian priorities
- Researching into prospective partners that provide particular attention to geographic diversity
- Researching and enumerating specific benefits of Affiliations that might be particularly appealing to Latino organizations
- Interviewing select museum directors (both current Latino Affiliates, and prospective ones) to gauge interest, feedback, criticism, concerns, etc. regarding a formal partnership with the Smithsonian
- Reporting on a variety of recruitment strategies to reach these organizations, including promotional materials, conferences, site visits, etc.

Useful links:
https://affiliations.si.edu
The Smithsonian American Art Museum, the nation's first collection of American art, is 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 the 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.

At the Lunder Conservation Center, visitors have the unique opportunity to see conservators at work in five different laboratories and studios. The Center features floor-to-ceiling glass walls that allow the public to view all aspects of conservation work—work that is traditionally done behind the scenes at other museums and conservation centers. Interactive kiosks and special displays make it easy for visitors to learn about the importance of conservation and show how to take an active role in caring for public art and monuments, as well as how to care for personal treasures at home.

The conservation center is in need of establishing files for a significant number of Latin-American works in its conservation department.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Organizing curatorial records and making copies of relevant information
- Working alongside conservators to generate materials for files
- Assisting with research for the upcoming exhibition *Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art* opening in October 2013
- Creation of photography and related information for conservation reports
- Assisting conservators with research into artist’s materials and methods
- Assisting with preventive conservation treatments for works of art in exhibition
- Assisting to document plans for exhibit installation

Useful links:
http://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/archive/2013/our_america/
http://www.conservation-us.org/
PRACTICUM 13

Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

Project: Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum—Smithsonian Latino, Hispanic and Latin American Art Collections Research and Publication Project
Lead: Melissa Carrillo, New Media and Technology Director
Duration: Four Weeks

The Smithsonian Latino Center 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 Latino Center offers diverse cultural programs ranging from exhibits and family activities on the National Mall to symposia and cultural celebrations in its virtual museum and galleries.

The Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum (LVM) is an offering of bilingual, mixed-media experiences and educational online resources of the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC). Its mission is to highlight and make known the vast and rich collections, research and scholarship, exhibitions and educational activities of the Smithsonian Institution as they relate to U.S. Latinos and Latin America.

The LMSP fellow will work directly with the Director of New Media and Technology and a LVM curatorial advisor to research and provide editorial support for an eBook publication on the Latino Virtual Museum and its initiative on Smithsonian Latino and Latin American art collections and exhibitions.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:
- Working with the LVM team on the preparation of the electronic publication following an iBook format and template
- Conducting research which includes archival research at the Smithsonian Archives on Latin America/Latino exhibitions held at the Smithsonian Institution since the 1880s
- Updating existing lists and suggesting images for entries
- Identifying images of artwork in Smithsonian collections via the web
- Writing introductory text for the publication

Useful links:
http://latino.si.edu/virtualgallery/lvghome.html
PRACTICUM 14

Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

Project: Latino DC History Project – Latin/Latino music scene in Washington DC
Lead: Ranald Woodaman, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs
Duration: Four weeks

The Smithsonian Latino Center 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 Latino Center offers diverse cultural programs ranging from exhibits and family activities on the National Mall to symposia and cultural celebrations in its virtual museum and galleries.

The Latino DC History Project is an initiative of the SLC to document the Latino presence in the DC metro area, telling the unheard stories of Latinos in the institutions, culture, economy and daily life of the nation’s capital. These diverse stories, which include the experiences of Salvadoran refugees, Aymara-speaking Bolivians and Puerto Rican federal workers, just to name a few, offer opportunities for understanding the connections between local and global history. In 2015, the SLC plans to open an exhibition on the National Mall that connects to local, neighborhood-based exhibits and displays that feature the new collections and scholarship that will result from this project.

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Working with SLC Exhibitions and Public Programs Director to investigate collections and files from the Black Mosaic exhibition at Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum related to the Escuela de Rumba and the Latin music performance in Washington, D.C.
- Developing a list of individuals, spaces, and organizations cited in the exhibition
- Conducting follow-up interviews with individuals selected in collaboration with the SLC’s Exhibition and Public Programs Director
- Researching local organizations, institutions and businesses that play a role in D.C.’s Latin/Latino music scene.
- Facilitating institutional connections between the SLC and key organizations and individuals
- Reviewing, documenting, researching and photographing relevant archival materials as appropriate
- Generating a report outlining 1) this history of Latin music production and consumption in Washington, DC (people, spaces, and places), 2) the stories of some prominent Latino musicians, 3) describing the interview process and content and 4) reflecting on representing music and music culture experience within an exhibition about the Latino presence in Washington, D.C.

Useful links:
http://latino.si.edu/
PRACTICUM 15

Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

Project: Taino Amulets Mini-Exhibition Exhibition Design
Lead: Ranald Woodaman, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs
Duration: Four weeks

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The Caribbean Indigenous Legacies Project explores the complex history and cultural imprint of the Native peoples of the Caribbean. In particular, this project focuses on the Taino, the inhabitants of Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas, who both greeted—then resisted—Columbus and his men during the first decades of Spanish colonization in the Americas.

This project tells the story of one of the most important cultural encounters in world history. It provides perspectives on indigenous civilization prior to European/African contact using the Smithsonian's rarely-displayed archeological collections, while it demonstrates the enduring indigenous presence on the region—from domestic architecture, agriculture and spirituality to art, language and biology. This is a collaborative project with the Smithsonian Latino Center, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Museum of Natural History. A future exhibition on indigenous legacy (to be accompanied by a publication and public program series) is being planned for the George Gustav-Heye Center in New York City (National Museum of the American Indian).

Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Working with SLC Exhibitions and Public Programs Director to review the parameters for a tentative, small exhibition with the Smithsonian Castle
- Researching Caribbean archeological collections of the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of Natural History
- Photographing Taino amulets and other indigenous pendants from the Caribbean archeological collections and creating preliminary drawing of exhibition cases, including case furniture
- Generating a basic exhibition design plan accompanied by a report that outlines the process for exhibition design, special considerations for displaying the artifacts selected, and any problems or opportunities associated with this kind of display

Useful links:
http://latino.si.edu/
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Responsibilities for this practicum include:

- Working with SLC Exhibitions and Public Programs Director to develop a list of individuals, spaces, and local organizations to investigate the history of solidarity movements in the 1970s & 1980s in which politically left-leaning individuals and organizations from the U.S. supported Latin American refugees and opposed U.S. military involvement in the region
- Conducting interviews with individuals selected in collaboration with the SLC’s Exhibition and Public Programs Director
- Researching relevant organizations such as CISPES and CARECEN
- Facilitating institutional connections between the SLC and the organizations and individuals above
- Reviewing, documenting, researching and photographing relevant archival materials as appropriate
- Generating a report that outlines 1) this history Latin American solidarity movements in Washington, DC in the 1970s and 1980s 2) the stories of local community members, Latino and non-Latino who participated in these movements 3) describes the interview process and content and 4) reflects on representing solidarity movements and non-Latino allies within an exhibition about the Latino presence in Washington, D.C.

Useful links:  
http://latino.si.edu/