LATINO MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM 2015
The Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) is dedicated to fostering the development of scholars and emerging leaders in the fields of Latino history, art and culture. Created in 1994, the program focuses on developing museum practice within a framework of Latino cultural studies and is offered as a dual component experience: a one-week seminar and a four-week practicum.

GOALS

• Share and promote Smithsonian Latino collections and resources
• Contribute to current research and program development at the Smithsonian
• Highlight Smithsonian museum practices and methodologies
• Discuss, explore and expand the methodologies of interpreting visual and material culture in the context of the Latino experience and narrative
• Develop new ways of thinking and broaden the understanding of fundamental museum issues
• Create a network among participants, Smithsonian staff, guest faculty and program alumni

LMSP provides a national forum for postgraduate students to share, explore and discuss the representation and interpretation of Latino cultures in the context of the American experience.

Program administration:
Laura Zamarripa, LMSP Manager
Lola Ramírez, LMSP Coordinator
The seminar enhances leadership, research and creative skills through a series of panel discussions, hands-on workshops, interactive discussions and behind-the-scenes tours of Smithsonian museums and collections.

This year’s program included:
• Panel discussion with the site coordinators for “NUEVOlution: The Latino New South”;
• Gallery tour of The Great Inka Road: Engineering of an Empire;
• Conversation with the implementation group for the Latino Virtual Museum (LVM);
• Visit to the Folklife Festival; and
• Conversation with photographer Camilo José Vergara.

“I think the first week program was a success. I greatly enjoyed visiting many of the Smithsonian units and speaking with curators, collectors, artists, and scholars on the functions of a large museum but also the latino presence within these institutions.” 2015 LMSP Fellow

The fellows had the opportunity to visit Perú: Pachamama, the 2015 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Photo by Michelle Tovar
Fellows Marissa del Toro and José Ralat-Reyes view photographs by artist Camilo José Vergara during a visit to Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Fellows listen to curator Táína Caragol during gallery tour at National Portrait Gallery.

Fellows examine 3-D skulls at Office of Exhibits Central.

Fellow Ana Perry examines model during a visit to Office of Exhibits Central.
The practicum is an immersive experience at a Smithsonian museum or research center where the fellow works on a new or ongoing initiative. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has also served as a practicum site since 2012. Fellows are assigned to a practicum based on their skills, interests, experience and area of study.

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“Carmen was such an incredible mentor and my dream is to be an art curator so it was a perfect fit for my interests.” Alex Santana, 2015 LMSP fellow
2015 LATINO MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

2015 LMSP Fellows

Sergio González
Madison, WI
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Jorge Moraga
Pullman, WA
Washington State University

Daniel Castro Pantoja
Riverside, California
University of California, Riverside

Rubén Pantoja
Temecula, CA
University of California, Irvine

Marco Antonio Flores
San Francisco, CA
University of California, Berkeley

Michelle Tovar
Houston, TX
University of St. Thomas

Marissa del Toro
San Antonio, TX
University of Texas, San Antonio

Pablo Rangel
Chicago, IL
University of Chicago

Amanda Moreno
Forest Hills, NY
Long Island University/ New York University

Ana Perry
New York, NY
City University of New York Graduate Center

José Guzmán
Brooklyn, NY
John Hopkins University

José Ralat-Reyes
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
Universidad Autonóma de Madrid

Alex Santana
New Orleans, LA
Tulane University

Claudia Ley
El Paso, TX
University of Texas, El Paso
Meet The Fellows

Marissa de Toro, Master in Art History and Criticism
University of Texas, San Antonio
“My career goals involve the promotion and advocacy of indigenous and Latino influences within contemporary art.”

Daniel Castro Pantoja, Ph.D. student, Musicology
University of California, Riverside
“I am interested in the representation of the national in music and the role of music in the formation of nation-states in Latin America.”

Marco Flores, Ph.D. Student, Comparative Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley
“I am pursuing an interdisciplinary scholarship that strives to bridge research, activism and pedagogy.”

Sergio González, Ph.D. student, History
University of Wisconsin, Madison
“My research interests include the development of Mexican-American communities in urban areas in the American Midwest in the twentieth century.”

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University of Wisconsin, Madison
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Meet the Fellows

Claudia Ley, Master in Sociology
University of Texas, El Paso
“I am interested in Latino Studies not only because I am Latina/Hispanic, but I am also as a result of my deep roots in the U.S.-Mexico border and upbringing in its unique sociopolitical landscape.”

José Guzmán, Master in Museum Studies
John Hopkins University
“I am particularly interested in how digital tools can facilitate the spread of knowledge about Latino contributions to the arts.”

Amanda Moreno, Master in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Long Island University/New York University
“Latino Studies represents my history and culture as an American of Cuban descent.”

Jorge Moraga, Ph.D student, American Studies
Washington State University
“My passion and commitment in Latino Studies is a direct result of growing up in a first-generation Salvadoran family, yet attending a predominant white public education system.”
MEET THE FELLOWS

Rubén Pantoja, Master in History
University of California, Irvine
"I truly believe that the history of the United States is a transnational immigrant history and all cultures and peoples should not be ignored."

José Ralat-Reyes, Master in Archaeology and Museum Studies
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
"I want to be a curator. In such position I could join my passion for history with the responsibility to work within a team in the conceptualization and creation of educational-museum projects."

Ana Perry, Ph.D. student, Art History
CUNY Graduate Center
"I want to expand upon what is already known about Latino artists and speak to the diversity of Latinos and their work from Dominican-American performance artists to print-making in Puerto Rico."

Pablo Rangel, Ph.D. student, History
University of Chicago
"I feel a deep desire and sense of responsibility to activate my education, knowledge, and opportunities to add a meaningful contribution to the rich literature concerning Latino studies scholarship."
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MEET THE FELLOWS

Alex Santana, Master in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Tulane University
“Latin@xs in the U.S. so often get subsumed into one giant, monolithic identity. It is important to dismantle this narrative and to explore the rich variety of cultural production that emerges from multitudes of diasporas that have influenced U.S. culture at large.”

Michelle Tovar, Master in History
University of St. Thomas, Houston
“My focus is on educating underprivileged communities through a nonprofit organizations, schools, or other community outreach centers about the cultural significance of Mexican American history in the United States.”
Lunch with Museum Directors

The fellows attended a lunch with directors **Dr. Lonnie Bunch** (Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture), **John Gray** (National Museum of American History), **Kim Sajet** (National Portrait Gallery) and **Eduardo Díaz** (Smithsonian Latino Center). The fellows had the opportunity to discuss several issues including Latino representation in museums and the role of Latino curators. **Dr. Richard Kurin** (Smithsonian Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture) facilitated the conversation.
Discussion with Cecilia Garibay and Verónica E. Betancourt

The fellows attended a talk “Listening to Latina/os: Visitor and Non-Visitor Values, Perceptions, and Experiences in Museum Contexts” with Cecilia Garibay, a respected museum audience consultant, and Verónica E. Betancourt, former Latino Museum Studies Program fellow and Doctoral candidate at Ohio State University. Eduardo Díaz, Director of the Smithsonian Latino Center, moderated the conversation.

From left to right: Verónica Betancourt (Doctoral candidate at the Ohio State University), Cecilia Garibay (Garibay Group) and Eduardo Díaz (Director of the Smithsonian Latino Center).
Colloquium at National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Jorge Moraga presented an overview of his dissertation project titled “Striking Out Legacies, Stealing Home Memories: The Cultural Politics of Remembering Peloteros in Major League Baseball”, as part of a weekly Colloquium at NMAH.
2015 LMSP Closing Luncheon

To mark the end of the 2015 Latino Museum Studies Program the Smithsonian Latino Center hosted a luncheon at the Smithsonian Castle Library. Dr. David J. Skorton, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, gave the opening remarks and joined the fellows for lunch. The event was generously sponsored by Inter-University Program for Latino Research headquartered at the University of Illinois, Chicago.
LATINO MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM 2015

Back row: Jorge Moraga, Alex Santana, Sergio González, Pablo Rangel, Ana Perry, Rubén Pantoja, and Marissa del Toro.
Front row: Michelle Tovar, Marco Flores, Amanda Moreno, Claudia Ley, José Guzmán, José Ralat-Reyes and Daniel Castro Pantoja.