

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH)

Locating Latinidad: Activating Archival Access to Latino-related Collections

Cecilia Peterson, Digital Projects Archivist, CFCH

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.

Bilingual written and verbal ability is required (English/Spanish).

Smithsonian Folkways – Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH)

Smithsonian Year of Music: Latino Public Programs

Erin Dowdy, Production Manager, Smithsonian Year of Music, CFCH

Project Overview:

In April 2018, Secretary Skorton announced 2019 will be the Smithsonian Year of Music, an Institution-wide initiative to increase public engagement, advance understanding, and connect communities in Washington, D.C., across the nation, and around the globe. The Smithsonian Year of Music will highlight and share our vast musical holdings, bringing together our resources in history, art, culture, science, and education. It will feature a variety of music-related activities: performances, music releases, exhibitions, workshops, educational programs, lectures, films, and conferences.

At the core of this celebration will be the public program “365 Days of Music at the Smithsonian.” Every day in 2019 at least one musical event—lectures, music releases, concerts, workshops, exhibitions, and more—will be offered somewhere at the Smithsonian, in DC, and across the US at Smithsonian Affiliate museums and partner organizations.

As a fellow supporting this initiative, you would help with public programs focusing on Latino music taking place summer 2019.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Research of Latino musical content at the Smithsonian Institution
- Relationship building with musical artists and scholars
- Website content contributor
- Public Program event support
- Project final report and presentation

Practicum Goals:

- To ensure Latino music representation in the Smithsonian Year of Music calendar of events
- To document Latino music content at the Smithsonian Institution

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of:

Ethnomusicology, Music, History, American Studies, Anthropology, Latinx Studies, but all are encouraged to apply.

Spanish language skills preferred.

Digitization Program Office (DPO)

Telling Latino Stories through 3D Digitization

Megan Dattoria, 3D Digitization Specialist, DPO

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.

The Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) will open its first-ever physical gallery space, at the National Museum of American History in 2021. The Molina Family Latino Gallery will present bilingual stories for multigenerational and cross-cultural audiences that feature multimedia, physical objects, and first-person voices. Visitors will be invited to reexamine what they know about Latinos and U.S. history through public and educational programming, and immersive digital experiences designed to extend and enhance the museum visit beyond the walls of the Smithsonian.

The DPO, in partnership with SLC, will host a fellow that will assist with prototyping content for The Molina Family Latino Gallery.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Train in 3D digitization techniques and cultural heritage standards. Work with DPO staff to understand 3D technologies, workflows, outputs, and potential uses.
- Prepare to digitize 1 selected object from the Molina Family Latino Gallery, considering different available 3D technologies, technical limitations, and unit coordination.
- Shadow and assist in 3D capture of selected object inside museum collections space. Assist in documentation and process and lessons learned.
- Assist in post-processing collected data, resulting in an organized, archival data set.
- Curate and draft online annotations and tours for selected object, in both English and Spanish. Fellow will be trained on how to create online experiences using the Smithsonian 3D viewer, seen here: <https://3d.si.edu/apollo11cm/boxes/play-cm-2016-09-26/cm-exterior.html>.
- Final Report and Presentation

Practicum Goal:

- To digitize an object from the upcoming Molina Family Latino Gallery for view in 3D online, using the Voyager platform, and in the gallery.

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, 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://3d.si.edu>

https://twitter.com/3D_Digi_SI

National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

Afro-Latino Music at the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Dr. Dwandalyn R. Reece, Curator of Music and Performing Arts, NMAAHC

Project Overview:

The National Museum of African American History and Culture's music and performing arts collection documents the history, meaning, and impact of music and performing arts through the lens of the African American experience. The stories that these collections provide a comprehensive overview of the breadth, diversity, and lasting impact these artistic traditions have had in African American life and on American culture.

Under the direction of the Curator of Music and Performing Arts, the fellow will examine the existing music and performing arts collection and identify Afro-Latino musical artists and themes for further research and objects for potential acquisition. Working with the curator, the fellow may have an opportunity to assist in drafting a collections plan, or interpretive text about items in the museum's collection.

This practicum is well-suited for fellows interested in music, curatorial work and archives-based research.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Conduct a comprehensive survey of the music and performing arts collections looking for representation of Afro-Latinos
- Develop a curatorial research plan on the history of Afro-Latino contributions to American music
- Develop a collecting plan focused on Afro-Latino musicians for potential acquisitions
- Project final report and presentation

Practicum Goals:

- To gain research experience that aids in the acquisition, cataloguing, and documentation of a museum collection.
- Assist in framing a narrative of American music history that includes the representation Afro-Latino musicians.

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of:

African American Studies, American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Ethnomusicology, Musicology, Museum Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

Spanish language skills preferred.

National Museum of American History

Latino Political History Initiative

Dr. Nancy Bercaw, Curator, Division of Political and Military History

Project Overview:

The Division of Political and Military History works to document Latinos' political impact on mainstream democratic practices. Building upon the strengths of the National Museum of American History's Political History Collections, the Initiative focuses on innovative political organizing strategies developed and employed by undocumented youth to affect national policy. Much like antislavery advocates, women's suffragists, and Civil Rights workers, undocumented Americans have influenced government policy without the right to vote. Through interviews, oral histories, and fieldwork, the Initiative seeks to listen, synthesize, and record how Latinos impact democratic practices.

The Division of Political and Military History is looking for a bilingual fellow to assist with oral histories and collaborate with the curatorial team to answer some of the following questions:

- How have Latinos impacted American political practice?
- How have Latinos challenged and transformed American understandings of rights and democracy throughout our history?
- How are these politics practiced today?
- How have at-risk undocumented Americans formed a powerful national coalition?
- How did such an unprecedented movement emerge?
- How have these movements built upon a cultural citizenship to push for human rights?
- How are these actions transforming American understanding of citizenship?

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Analyzing oral histories collected by the team and identifying dominant themes
- Writing abstracts for each oral history
- Pairing oral histories with objects collected by the project and writing content that can be shared online
- Identifying Latinx political leaders with corresponding objects in the collection and write content that can be shared online
- Present final report and presentation to the team

Practicum Goals:

- Gain experience working with objects and oral histories
- Learn how to develop public history content for a national museum
- Help innovate ways to reach new audiences
- Assist in framing a political history narrative that resonates with Latino audiences

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of:
American Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Public Humanities, but all encouraged to apply.

Fellow must be organized, self-motivated, creative, and collaborative

Spanish language skills preferred.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)
Coloring *Girlhood (It's Complicated)*

Dr. Kathleen Franz, Chair and Curator, Division of Work & Industry, NMAH

Project Overview:

The exhibition “Girlhood (It’s Complicated)” is a collaboration with the Smithsonian’s American Women’s History Initiative. The NMAH chose the history of girlhood to commemorate the centennial of Women’s Suffrage because girls, like the women who advocated for political equity, have had a voice but no vote. Yet, girls wielded political and social influence, and they changed history. Girls have come into sharp focus recently as a new wave of young leaders has stepped onto the front lines of change. Girls’ stories are our stories; they provide new ways of understanding American history and ourselves. Through their lives we can see how what it means to be a girl—and a woman— has been both debated and negotiated, but always part of the American conversation.

The exhibition will open in June of 2020 and run at the NMAH for 18 months. Then it will travel the US for five years with the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Develop a coloring book based on the content and artwork featured in the exhibition
- Work with curators to choose objects and images
- Work with curators to write and edit text for the book
- Test activities on museum audiences
- Project final report and presentation

Practicum Goals:

- Gain experience working on an exhibition, with objects and with oral histories
- Learn about the history of young Latinas in the United States
- Help frame a national narrative about Latinas and bring that history to a wide audience of families

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of:

Women’s Studies, American Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Public Humanities, but all encouraged to apply.

The Fellow must be organized, creative, self-motivated, and enjoy collaborative work.

Spanish language skills preferred.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)
Documenting *Girlhood (It's Complicated)*

Dr. Kathleen Franz, Chair and Curator, Division of Work & Industry, NMAH

Project Overview:

The exhibition “Girlhood (It’s Complicated)” is a collaboration with the Smithsonian’s American Women’s History Initiative. The NMAH chose the history of girlhood to commemorate the centennial of Women’s Suffrage because girls, like the women who advocated for political equity, have had a voice but no vote. Yet, girls wielded political and social influence, and they changed history. Girls have come into sharp focus recently as a new wave of young leaders has stepped onto the front lines of change. Girls’ stories are our stories; they provide new ways of understanding American history and ourselves. Through their lives we can see how what it means to be a girl—and a woman— has been both debated and negotiated, but always part of the American conversation.

The exhibition will open in June of 2020 and run at the NMAH for 18 months. It will then travel the US for five years with the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Develop oral histories related to the history of girlhood
- Transcribe and translate oral histories
- Write abstracts for each oral history
- Pair the oral histories with images and develop context that can be shared online

Practicum Goals:

- Gain experience working on an exhibition, with objects and with oral histories
- Learn about the history of young Latinas in the United States
- Help frame a national narrative about Latinas and bring that history to a wide audience of families

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of:

Women’s Studies, American Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Public Humanities, but all encouraged to apply.

The Fellow must be organized, creative, self-motivated, and enjoy collaborative work.

Spanish language skills preferred.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Latinx Music Collection in the upcoming *Entertaining America* exhibition at the National Museum of American History

Dr. John Troutman, Curator of American Music, NMAH

Project Overview:

The National Museum of American History's Division of Culture and the Arts is gearing up for the opening of *Entertaining America* in 2021. This exhibition, slated to run for 20 years with new objects and stories rotating in every year, explores how entertainment has served as a primary platform for national conversations on politics, society, and what it means to be American.

Working with the curatorial team of *Entertaining America*, the fellow will contribute to exhibition development including media content, label, image, research, and other content support.

In addition, the fellow will assist with the division's efforts in collecting, documenting, exhibiting and developing online content for historical Latinx cultural objects.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Research of Latino musical content for the upcoming exhibition *Entertaining America*
- Support curatorial team with exhibition logistics such as research, photography, and media content
- Website content contributor, producing blog posts on Latinx-related objects and developing web labels for Latinx collections for online access
- Project final report and presentation

Practicum Goals:

- To provide an overview of exhibition development at the National Museum of American History
- To support document Latino music content in the *Entertaining America* exhibition opening 2021

Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of:

Ethnomusicology, Music, History, American Studies, Anthropology, Latinx Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

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

Not Lost in Translation: Processing the Clothide Arias Papers

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 Smithsonian's Year of Music (2019) and the American Women's History Initiative the Archives Center seeks to support the processing of the Clothide Arias Papers, documenting a Peruvian immigrant who came to New York City in 1923 at age twenty-two to study music. Decades later she translated the national anthem into the official Spanish version at the request of the U.S. government. Arias died in 1959 in Manhattan at age fifty-eight. Through the lens of Ms. Arias's own possessions—personal and professional documents, journals, objects, photographs—we can better understand important events in the past because they allow us to walk through an individual's story and view the processes of change.

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 the Smithsonian's Year of Music (2019) and the American Women's History 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.

Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)
Researching Contextual History of Chicana and Latina Graphics

Dr. E. Carmen Ramos, Deputy Chief Curator & Curator of Latina Art, SAAM

Project Overview:

SAAM holds the largest collection of Latina art of any nationally specific museum in the United States. Begun in the late 1970s, our collection of nearly 800 works of art across media features important milestones in the field and boasts strengths in Chicana graphic arts, Puerto Rican colonial paintings and sculpture, and works by artists who came of age during and after the civil rights era of the 1960s and 1970s. At SAAM, we challenge the historic exclusion of Latina art and artists by preserving, presenting and interpreting Latina art as a fundamental part of U.S. art and culture.

In 1995, scholar Tomás Ybarra-Frausto donated 60 Chicana posters to SAAM making Chicano graphics an important strength of our collection. SAAM is dramatically expanding this collection with new acquisitions that include iconic works from the 1960s and 1970s, to works produced by a new generation of Chicana and Latina artists. Selections from this expanded collection will be featured in the upcoming exhibition *¡Printing the Revolution! Chicano Graphics from the Civil Rights Era to the Present*.

The LMSP fellow selected for this practicum will conduct historical and art historical research into specific Chicana and related Latina posters/graphics in SAAM's collection. Chicana/Latina graphic production often invokes specific local and regional references that may not be as evident now due to the passage of time. Research will focus on illuminating the particular visual and textual references made in graphic works that invoke local, state and federal issues, as well as regional cultures and history.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Research contextual history of specific Chicana and Latina posters and graphics in SAAM's collection; this will entail academic research and may require engaging with artists and other related cultural producers.
- Produce succinct research report for each assigned object that describes historical and artistic references and lists relevant bibliographic sources.
- Final report and presentation.

Practicum Goal:

To conduct research into SAAM's Chicana and Latina graphic collection that will enable the curators and essayists to write accurate catalogue essays and interpretive text as it relates to the exhibition *¡Printing the Revolution!*. At the end of the practicum, research will be placed in the curatorial file of each artist and will assist future researchers of these works.



Practicum may be best suited to students in the areas of:

Art History, Chicana/o/x Studies, Latina/o/x Studies, History, American Studies and Visual Culture Studies; other fields with relevant experience to the topic are encouraged to apply.

Bilingual skills required.

Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

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

Melissa Carrillo, Director of New Media & Technology, SLC

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 2014-18 supported by five 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 2017-18, 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 audiences. 2019 will be instrumental in the implementation of key immersion strategies and working with an array of SI digital content partners both internal and external to ensure our experiential model for online and in-gallery experiences are successfully met.

Join SLC and other SI experts in the process of implementing the new digital strategy to support the upcoming inaugural exhibition launching of a National Latino Gallery at the National Museum of American History (NMAH), slated to open in 2021. Participate and learn more about digital asset management, digital curation, and digitization strategic planning/implementation 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, the Digital Media Manager, 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.). In 2019, SLC will lead a Gallery New Media team in collaborate with the Gallery Exhibition team to further interpret the exhibition narrative into an engaging, experiential visitor experience. This will include collaboration with 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 will also include external collaboration with partners like Google's Art and Culture platform to help create a Smithsonian-wide Latino digital interface or portal for exploring and experiencing Latinidad at the Smithsonian, an online, mobile and in-gallery experience.

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 2016-18 Practicum participants.
- Provide recommendations to content themes and 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?
- Why is Taxonomy crucial in the discoverability of SI-Latino content and collections online?
- 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, but all encouraged to apply.

Spanish language skills preferred.

Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

Latino DC History Project: Recovering the Legacies of Corina Smith and Casilda Luna

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 interviews with local Latinx researchers, community members, and cultural workers about the lives of Corina Smith and Casilda Luna, two women with legacies of community building within DC's early Afro-Latino community.

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 and community builders.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Acquiring a basic understanding of the history of DC's local Latinx community
- Exploring and documenting local Afro-Latinx community and family networks
- Interviews & conversations with researchers and community members
- 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
- Weekly one-page report and check-in
- Project final report and presentation

Practicum Goals:

- 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
- Inform the creation of a possible future mural featuring Latinx community icons



Practicum may be best suited for students in the areas of:

History, American Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Latinx Studies, African American Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

Spanish language skills preferred.