

Archives of American Art (AAA)

The Latina Papers: Primary Sources for *Documents of Latin American and Latino Art*
(In partnership with the International Center for the Arts of the Americas (ICAA))

Joshua T. Franco, Ph.D., National Collector, AAA

Project Overview:

With over thirty 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 particularly in south Florida and Texas, 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 AAA's mission is to acquire primary sources—letters, diaries, journals, notes, and other unpublished writings, financial records, photographs, sketchbooks, scrapbooks, audio and video recordings, rare printed material, and the like—from artists, critics,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.

As part of the [International Center for the Arts of the Americas'](#) (ICAA) landmark *Documents of Latin American and Latino Art* digital archive project, *The Latinx Papers* seeks to identify and make accessible key documents related to the history of Latinx art as well as the trajectory of key artists and cultural figures. During this multi-year initiative, the ICAA will build upon its existing holdings with a new selection of primary documents focused on individual artists and groups as well as on critics, curators and cultural representatives.

As part of the first phase of this project, the ICAA is partnering with the AAA on the “Latina Papers.” This collaboration aims to locate in the AAA's collections documents pertaining to pioneering Latina artists, critics and curators such as, Elsa Flores Almaraz, Yolanda M. López, Amalia Mesa-Bains, María Luisa Pacheco, Patssi Valdez and Kathy Vargas, among others.

For the practicum, the fellow will work under the supervision of the Archives of American Art's National Collector to research and finalize a selection of materials that will enter the ICAA's digital archive. In addition to the National Collector, the fellow will work closely with the ICAA Director and Associate Director to select documents that fulfill the curatorial criteria set forth by the ICAA. The fellow will also focus on the history of Latina American art world figures, in accordance with Smithsonian's Women's History Initiative.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Research and finalize a selection of AAA materials that will enter the ICAA's digital archive.
- Assist ICAA with selection of documents that fulfill the curatorial criteria set forth by the ICAA in consultation with AAA Latino Collections Specialist.

Practicum Goals:

- To encourage research skills in archival collections. To identify information-rich primary source documents that succinctly document the contributions of Latinas to American art.
- To focus on the history of Latina American art world figures.

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

Art History, Library & Information Science, Latinx Studies, Women's Studies, History, American Studies, Art, Ethnic Studies, English, and Comparative Literature, but all encouraged to apply.

Spanish language skills preferred.

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH)

Transcribing Latinidad: Activating Archival Access to Latinx-related Collections

Cecilia Peterson, Digital Projects Archivist, CFCH

Dave Walker, Audiovisual 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 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, and active participation in feedback sessions with web, archival, and curatorial staff. Specifically, we would like the Fellow to focus on preparing a Smithsonian Transcription Center project, drawing from Latinx- and Mestizx-related narrative sessions from the 1980s Festival of American Folklife. The [Smithsonian Transcription Center](#) seeks to engage the public in making Smithsonian collections more accessible. This crowdsourcing project was developed as a collaborative way to digitally enable and increase public engagement with Smithsonian materials, increase access and use of our digitized content, and create pathways of learning and new knowledge between the public and Smithsonian staff.

Responsibilities for this project include:

- Identify Latinx- and Mestizx-related narrative sessions in recently digitized 1980s open reel tape recorded at the Festival of American Folklife.
- Propose a theme or topic that groups a selection of the tapes in preparation for a future Smithsonian Transcription Center project.
- Prepare project spreadsheets to be used to import recordings into Smithsonian Transcription Center.
- Produce one multimedia article in English and Spanish for Folklife Magazine featuring selected recordings and related photographs from Archives, contextualizing and promoting the Transcription Center projects.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goal:

- To contribute to web-based resources that will tell larger stories and provide context around Latinx-related content through an interface that will be available in English and Spanish.
- Strengthen their familiarity with archival collections care, practices, and procedures.

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

Library and Information Science, American Studies, Curatorial Studies, Latino/a/x Studies, Public History, and Digital Humanities, but all encouraged to apply.

Bilingual skills (Spanish) required, background in library sciences preferred.

Archives Center, National Museum of American History (NMAH)

¡Escúchame!: Spanish-Language Broadcast History in the Archives

Daniela Jiménez, Archivist, NMAH

Project Overview:

The [Archives Center](#) was created in the early 1980s to serve as a repository for archival collections from the National Museum of American History and to acquire additional collections in support of the museum's research, exhibitions, 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 generate contemporary documentation, gives it a unique capacity to record the complexity and richness of the American experience.

In support of the “[¡Escúchame!: the History of Spanish-language Broadcasting in the U.S.](#)” collecting initiative at NMAH, the Archives Center is processing archival material addenda collected by curators, Dr. Kathleen Franz and Dr. Mireya Loza. The addenda include material recently acquired from prominent Latinas in broadcasting. The fellow will carry out essential tasks that will enable the archival material to be publicly accessible.

Responsibilities for this project include:

- 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 the Archivist's Toolkit system 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).

Practicum Goal:

- To carry out essential tasks that will enable the archival material to be publicly accessible in support of the “¡Escúchame!: the History of Spanish-language Broadcasting in the U.S.” initiative.

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

Library and Information Science, History, American Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Media Studies, Cultural Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

Bilingual skills (Spanish) required, background in library sciences preferred.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Latino Political History Initiative

Nancy Bercaw, Ph.D., Curator, Division of Political and Military History, NMAH

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
- 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)

Latinx Music Collection in the upcoming *Entertaining America* exhibition

John Troutman, Ph.D., 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.

The exhibition team is currently developing object information and digital content that will coincide with the physical exhibition and reach vastly more audiences through digital platforms. Working with the curatorial team of *Entertaining America*, the fellow will contribute to exhibition development through producing media content such as blog posts and social media proposals, web label, image, research, and other content support.

In addition, the fellow will assist with the division's efforts in continuing to collect, document, exhibiting and develop online content for historical Latinx cultural objects, focusing on Latinas.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Production of online content related to Latinx musical and other entertainment-related content to complement 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
- Research supporting division efforts to collect, document, exhibiting and develop online content for historical Latinx cultural objects, focusing on Latinas.
- Project final report and presentation

Practicum Goals:

- To provide an overview of the production of online object information and interpretive content at the National Museum of American History
- To support the continued development of Latinx music content in the *Entertaining America* exhibition opening 2021

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

- Ethnomusicology, Music, Exhibition Design, History, American Studies, Anthropology, Latina/o/x Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Latina Philanthropy Collecting Initiative

Amanda B. Moniz, Ph.D., David M. Rubenstein Curator of Philanthropy, NMAH

Project Overview:

The [War and Latina/o Philanthropy Collecting Initiative](#) is a focused effort, supported by the Smithsonian's Latino Center, to build Latina/o-related holdings in the philanthropy collection at the National Museum of American History. Launched in 2015, the Smithsonian's Philanthropy Initiative is a long-term project to collect, research, document, and display materials relating to the history and impact of American giving, broadly defined--from gifts of time and expertise to social activism and funding. Through onsite and online exhibitions, digital resources, and public programs, the Initiative engages audiences in conversations about the role philanthropy has played and continues to play in the formation and re-formation of our country.

This project is the first component of the Philanthropy Initiative dedication to researching, collecting, and sharing the experiences of Latina/o gifts of time, talent, and treasure to aid others. Throughout American history, wars have catalyzed changes in philanthropy. Yet there is little historical scholarship on Latina/o philanthropy in the context of wars, and the Museum's holdings reflect this lacuna.

The Smithsonian has launched the [Because of Her Story](#), the American Women's History Initiative. It aims to create, disseminate, and amplify the historical record of the accomplishments of American women. This practicum will focus on exploring Latina philanthropy during and in the aftermath of wars the United States joined formally. It would also consider the impact of wars, such as the Mexican Revolution, Colombian civil war, and Central American conflicts, on Latina giving.

Latinas have a strong and distinct tradition of philanthropy. Informal aid through family and kin networks is an especially important facet of Latina giving, although Latinas have also supported one another through organizations, including *mutualistas* and churches, and the initiative encompasses these diverse types of giving.

The temporal focus is the period from the 1910s to present, and the geographic focus is on Florida; Texas; and Washington, DC.

In support of this project, the curator of philanthropy seeks a fellow to help make resources on Latina philanthropy more accessible to the public in general and to Latina/o/x communities and schoolchildren in particular.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Editing Latina oral histories conducted as part of the War and Latina/o Philanthropy Collecting Initiative.

- Researching one or more objects in the Museum's collection supporting the War and Latina/o Philanthropy Collecting Initiative.
- Creating one or more [Smithsonian Learning Lab](#) modules on Latina philanthropists.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- To carry out essential tasks that will enable Latina philanthropy objects and oral histories to be publicly accessible in support of the Smithsonian's Philanthropy Initiative; Latino Center; and strategic goal of reaching schoolchildren.

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

Women and Gender Studies, Latina/o/x Studies, History, American Studies, but all are encouraged to apply.

Bilingual skills (Spanish/English) required and a background in history preferred.

Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)

¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En Los Barrios y las Grandes Ligas

Margaret Salazar-Porzio, Ph.D., Curator of Latina/o History & Culture, Cultural and Community Life, NMAH
Robin Morey, Curatorial Assistant, Cultural and Community Life, NMAH

Project Overview:

[*¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En Los Barrios y las Grandes Ligas*](#) is a 1200 square foot, fully-bilingual exhibition opening at the NMAH in October 2020. The [Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service](#) (SITES) will simultaneously travel the exhibition to 15 U.S. cities through 2025.

¡Pleibol! demonstrates how, over the 20th century, baseball has provided a field for Latinas/os to push and eventually breakdown cultural, social, and economic barriers in the United States. This collaborative research and exhibition project presents previously untold stories about how Latina/o ball players in U.S. cities and rural areas in the 20th century have brought about new understandings of community, race, ethnicity, gender, American national identity, inter-group cooperation, civil rights, and immigration, while also transforming America's pastime.

As part of this exhibition project, and in order to increase accessibility and outreach, NMAH is collaborating with the [Smithsonian Digitization Program Office](#) (DPO) and the [Smithsonian Latino Center](#) (SLC) in a 3D digitization project featuring 16-18 selected objects that highlight Latino baseball history. The digitized objects will make up a “virtual gallery” which will be featured on the *¡Pleibol!* website, the SLC web and mobile app, and will be made available to SITES venues hosting the exhibition. 3D scanning will also provide opportunities for other uses such as 3D printing and AR/VR applications. The fellow will primarily be assisting in this aspect of the exhibition.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Working with National Museum of American History conservation’s efforts to survey, treat and mount objects; working with NMAH staff and the DPO team to find and prepare a space for the imaging to take place; and coordinating object transfers between collections storage and imaging location (if the DPO scanning is not complete before the time of the practicum).
- Assisting in curating “virtual tours” of digitized objects; including conducting background research, writing object labels and supporting script, choosing accompanying images, maps, and/or figures, and developing the flow of the tour.
- Considering potential educational applications for DPO data including digital 3D models, 3D printing, and AR/VR capabilities, in the context of the NMAH and traveling exhibitions and in collaboration with the SLC as part of their forthcoming app/Latino Digital Gallery.
- Communicating with local DC-based partners at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and DCPS to prototype and beta-test virtual tours.
- Assisting the Smithsonian Latino Center Mobile Web and Mobile App team and the National Museum of American History new media team to integrate virtual tours into web applications.
- Supporting exhibition development when necessary.

Practicum Goals:

- Developing skills to identify and analyze visual culture materials to tell stories that have broad and deep significance to American history and culture.
- Understanding the scholarly literature on the history of Latina/o baseball.
- Placing the history of Latina/o baseball in broader, national and international, contexts.
- Cultivating critical thinking skills about visual and material culture related to this history.
- Working with collections on object documentation to develop new research resources related to the history Latinas/os and baseball.
- Learning curatorial acquisitions and processing best practices, and how the Smithsonian has acquired material culture related to the history of Latina/o baseball.
- Appreciating the work of public historians in a national museum.

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

Digital Humanities, Latina/o/x Studies, Physical Culture and Sports Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Labor Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Latinx Health, History, and Sexuality

[Katherine Ott, Ph.D.](#), Curator, NMAH

Project Overview:

Supporting the division of [History of Medicine and Science](#) at the National Museum of American History, this project builds upon the division's on-going collecting and documentation related to the history of health, the body, and sexuality in Latinx communities. The Smithsonian has launched the [Because of Her Story](#), the American Women's History Initiative. It aims to create, disseminate, and amplify the historical record of the accomplishments of American women. This practicum will have a particular focus on the dynamics of sexual orientation/gender identity (SOGI) among women.

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. Because our materials related to sexuality, health, and Latinas is rudimentary, this practicum is designed to create both a base and rationale for collecting.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Research on one or more of the following related topics:
 - the queer identities of Latina's starting in the mid-1800s;
 - the intersectionality of disability and SOGI (including diagnosis, treatment, physical impairment, madness, neuro-diversity, and “invisible” disabilities);
 - HIV and AIDS and Latinas.
- Identify and evaluate resources at NMAH and elsewhere including:
 - objects
 - suggested primary and secondary materials
 - archives and other existing collections
 - key historical people and events
 - media, and similar
- Create annotated collecting guide that includes collecting sources and bibliographic references where appropriate.
- Project final report and presentation

Practicum Goals:

- Enhance the museum's standing collections and guide future collecting related to sexuality, health, and Latinas.

- Provide understanding of the basics of museum collecting, object-based research, and interpretation.

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

Women and Gender Studies, Latina/o/x Studies, History, Creative Arts, American Studies, Anthropology, Medicine, Psychology, Sociology, but all are encouraged to apply.

Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)

Researching Contextual History of Chicanx and Latinx Graphics

E. Carmen Ramos, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Curator & Curator of Latinx Art, SAAM

Project Overview:

SAAM holds the largest collection of Latinx art of any nationally specific museum in the United States. Begun in the late 1970s, our collection of nearly 1000 works of art across media features important milestones in the field and boasts strengths in Chicanx 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 Latinx art and artists by preserving, presenting and interpreting Latinx art as a fundamental part of U.S. art and culture.

In 1995, scholar Tomás Ybarra-Frausto donated 60 Chicanx posters to SAAM making Chicano graphics an important strength of our collection. SAAM has dramatically expanded this collection with new acquisitions that include iconic works from the 1960s and 1970s, to works produced by a new generation of Chicanx and Latinx 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*](#) opening in September 2020.

The LMSP fellow will conduct historical and art historical research into specific Chicanx and related Latinx posters/graphics in SAAM's collection, with a focus on works that may be featured in future permanent collection displays at SAAM. Chicanx/Latinx 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. This project will emphasize the contribution of Chicanx and Latina women of color artists and the researcher will support the equitable representation of these artists in a broader graphics history.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Research contextual history of specific Chicanx and Latinx 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 Chicanx and Latinx graphic collection that will enable SAAM curators to plan for their use in future permanent collection displays.
- 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 Libraries (SIL)

Evaluating the Smithsonian Libraries' Latino Collections and Services

Kristen Bullard, Librarian, SIL

Project Overview:

The collections and staff of the [Smithsonian Libraries](#) play a key role in helping the Smithsonian's research and curatorial staff make sense of the museums' almost innumerable, often unique, objects and their cultural and historical contexts. The network of 21 specialized research libraries that make up the Smithsonian Libraries provide the Institution's museums and research centers with resources and services that are as diverse and deep as the collections, exhibits, and scholarship they support. They truly span the range of scientific and cultural pursuits of humanity from aerospace, anthropology, and art history to business history and botany, cultural history, design, philately, zoology, and much, much more.

While sharing the values, methods, and efficiencies of a unified network, each library in the system supports the work of its own community of interest comprising specialized researchers and museum curators, as well as visiting scholars, educators, students, and others pursuing or advancing knowledge in their fields. Individually each of these libraries is among the world's greatest repositories of knowledge for the specialized fields they support.

Via this practicum, the Libraries is seeking to better understand the research and scholarship needs of the [Smithsonian Latino Center](#) (SLC), its upcoming Molina Family Latino Gallery (MFLG), and online presence. The SLC, ensures "that the contributions of the Latino community in the arts, history, national culture and scientific achievement are explored, presented, celebrated and preserved. [They] support research, exhibitions, public and educational programs, web-based content and virtual platforms, collections and archives, and publications. [They] also manage leadership and professional development programs for Latino youth, emerging scholars and museum professionals."

The SLC is one of many units of the Smithsonian which are not directly served by the traditional model of the existing 21 library branches. By learning from SLC staff about their needs and evaluating the Libraries collections and services based on these needs, the practicum student(s) will make recommendations to SLC and SIL for future collections and services collaborations.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Based on best practices and environmental scans:
 - Develop a method (user interviews, focus groups, etc.) to learn about the current research and strategic initiatives of specialized units at the Smithsonian.
 - Develop a method for conducting a collections analysis of the Smithsonian Libraries materials focused on the scope of work being done by specialized units at the Smithsonian.

- Apply these methods to evaluate and identify the needs of the SLC and create a report of recommendations about collection development and service needs to the Libraries about how to expand on Latino-focused library resources and services for the Smithsonian. Service needs could include recommendations on staffing to support these needs.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goal:

- To conduct a collections and services analysis of the Smithsonian Libraries to make recommendations about how they can better support the work of the Smithsonian Latino Center and Latino studies across the Smithsonian.

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

Library and Information Science, Museum Studies, Latino/a/x Studies, Education and Outreach, but all are encouraged to apply.

Bilingual skills required and a background in library sciences preferred.

Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

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

Melissa Carrillo, Director of Digital Media & Technology, SLC-MFLG

Jose Ralat-Reyes, Digital Manager, SLC-MFLG

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 2017-19, 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 was 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. This success includes the 2019 LMSP practicum projects under digi as well as previous practicum participants who now serve as key scholarly research advisors to the [Molina Family Latino Gallery](#) (MFLG).

Join SLC and other SI experts in the process of implementing innovative digital storytelling strategies 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, audience engagement studies, inclusive design, 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(s) will work directly with the Director of New Media and Technology, and the Digital Media Manager, as well as 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, audience engagement, wayfinding, inclusive design audience testing, etc.).

In 2020, SLC will lead a Gallery Digital Media team in collaboration with the Gallery Exhibition team to further interpret the exhibition narrative into an engaging, experiential visitor experience. Practicum fellows will be part of this collaboration. Other unit partnerships will include the Smithsonian Digitization Program (object 360 capture), Smithsonian Studios (oral history capture), Smithsonian Office of Audience Engagement and Accessibility (inclusive design, tactiles, soundscapes, audio descriptions), and the Office of Information and Technology for exploring and experiencing Latinidad at the Smithsonian via a mobile/online and in-gallery digital experience (QR and AR).

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 2019 Practicum alum 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 3D technology, 3D online viewer for representing the Latino Gallery collection objects digitally; and 3D virtual walkthrough technology for visitor 360-degree experience; Can this be a newly defined Latino Virtual Gallery or Museum hub portal?
- Provide feedback to in-Gallery media elements' proposed UI/UX, content organization and navigation.
- Propose featured online collections leveraging already digitally available objects that align with the Gallery's first exhibit: *¡Presente!*
- Select a museum collection: identify relevant material and digital objects that exist in collections that are not currently classified as Latino, Hispanic, or other culturally specific 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 at MFLG design charrettes and advisory council summits/meeting.

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 and Information Science, Latino/a/x Studies, Cultural Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Digital Arts, Emerging Media, Audience Engagement and Accessibility, Marketing and Design, but all are encouraged to apply.

An interdisciplinary lens is required.

Spanish language skills preferred.

Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC)

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

Melissa Carrillo, Director of Digital Media & Technology, SLC-MFLG

Jose Ralat-Reyes, Digital Manager, SLC-MFLG

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 2017-19, 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 was 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. This success includes the 2019 LMSP practicum projects under digi as well as previous practicum participants who now serve as key scholarly research advisors to the [Molina Family Latino Gallery](#) (MFLG).

Join SLC and other SI experts in the process of implementing innovative digital storytelling strategies 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, audience engagement studies, inclusive design, 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(s) will work directly with the Director of New Media and Technology, and the Digital Media Manager, as well as 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, audience engagement, wayfinding, inclusive design audience testing, etc.).

In 2020, SLC will lead a Gallery Digital Media team in collaboration with the Gallery Exhibition team to further interpret the exhibition narrative into an engaging, experiential visitor experience. Practicum fellows will be part of this collaboration. Other unit partnerships will include the Smithsonian Digitization Program (object 360 capture), Smithsonian Studios (oral history capture), Smithsonian Office of Audience Engagement and Accessibility (inclusive design, tactiles, soundscapes, audio descriptions), and the Office of Information and Technology for exploring and experiencing Latinidad at the Smithsonian via a mobile/online and in-gallery digital experience (QR and AR).

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 2019 Practicum alum 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 3D technology, 3D online viewer for representing the Latino Gallery collection objects digitally; and 3D virtual walkthrough technology for visitor 360-degree experience; Can this be a newly defined Latino Virtual Gallery or Museum hub portal?
- Provide feedback to in-Gallery media elements' proposed UI/UX, content organization and navigation.
- Propose featured online collections leveraging already digitally available objects that align with the Gallery's first exhibit: *¡Presente!*
- Select a museum collection: identify relevant material and digital objects that exist in collections that are not currently classified as Latino, Hispanic, or other culturally specific 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 at MFLG design charrettes and advisory council summits/meeting.

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 and Information Science, Latino/a/x Studies, Cultural Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Digital Arts, Emerging Media, Audience Engagement and Accessibility, Marketing and Design, but all are encouraged to apply.

An interdisciplinary lens is required.

Spanish language skills preferred.