

Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH)

Unleashing the Accessibility of Latina/o/x, Afro-Latina/o/x, and Mestiza/o/x Archival Documentation at the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Greg Adams, Interim Archives Director, CFCH

Project Overview:

The purpose of this year's LMSP fellowship is to research and recommend methods to unleash the accessibility of Latina/o/x, Afro-Latina/o/x, and Mestiza/o/x archival documentation in the [Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections](#) (Rinzler Archives) at the [Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#) (CFCH). The Rinzler Archives is home to some of the world's most important ethnographic documentary materials, including the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (which began in 1967 as the Festival of American Folklife), original field research and special projects conducted across the country and around the world by Center curators and staff, and dozens of collections acquired and curated by the Center's non-profit record label Smithsonian Folkways Recordings (SFR).

Building on the efforts of previous LMSP fellows, this year's fellow will work in collaboration with the interim director of the Rinzler Archives to contribute to the CFCH's commitments to stewarding more than 5,200+ cubic feet of papers, photographs, audiovisual media, and a rapidly expanding footprint of digitized and born-digital content. The project will also help to contextualize how collections care and accessibility intersect with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), records and collections management backlogs, digitization and digital asset management costs, and the vital need for increased programming and outreach to the source communities documented in CFCH collections.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Assess how (in)accessibility impacts Latina/o/x, Afro-Latina/o/x, and Mestiza/o/x archival documentation that is often 1) spread across backlogs in nearly all archival collections and 2) embedded within inactive, unprocessed departmental records that have not yet been transferred to the Rinzler Archives.
- Recommend opportunities for improving CFCH's commitment to culturally respectful collections management and enhanced community access as affirmed in the CFCH's [Shared Stewardship of Collections Policy](#) (SSCP), which was formally adopted in July 2019 and reflects more than half a century of consultation and collaboration between Center staff and source communities.
- Analyze how documentation born of the Center's departmental production work – Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Smithsonian Folkways, Research and Education, and Cultural Sustainability projects – impacts Latina/o/x, Afro-Latina/o/x, and Mestiza/o/x individuals and source communities.
- Author at least one multimedia article in English and Spanish for Folklife Magazine sharing the fellow's research methods and recommendations.
- Produce a project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- Identify and respond to opportunities to foreground Latina/o/x, Afro-Latina/o/x, and Mestiza/o/x archival content
- Contribute to web-based resources that will tell larger stories about the relationships between source communities, institutions, and the shared stewardship of archival documentation.
- Strengthen familiarity with archival collections care, practices, policies, and procedures.

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

- Library and Information Sciences, 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.

National Museum of African American History (NMAAHC)

Contextualizing Slavery Emancipation Celebrations and Commemorations in the Global South
Joanne Hyppolite, Ph.D., Supervisory Curator of the African Diaspora, NMAAHC

Project Overview:

In June 2021, The United States government formally made Juneteenth, a long-held commemoration of the 1865 date when enslaved Texans were informed that they were free, a national holiday. The news received great fanfare – re-awakening global public interest in the history of slavery and freedom in the United States—as well as around the globe. In preparation and as a response to interest, the NMAAHC developed a range of digital resources to educate and engage our public with the history of Juneteenth and other state specific emancipation dates. Building on these resources, the museum’s Center for the Study of the African Diaspora seeks to contextualize Juneteenth (and other state freedom dates) within the global and intersectional history of emancipation throughout the Global South. Specifically, we will develop resources that explore and compare the often-contested history, contemporary resonance and ongoing commemorations of emancipation from slavery in trans-Atlantic settings. We are particularly interested in exploring commemorations of Caribbean and Latin American emancipation dates by immigrant communities in the United States. The Center is conceptualizing a number of digital assets, including blog posts, collection stories, virtual roundtables, and a digital map and timeline, as end products for this project, which is expected to launch in summer 2024.

As part of this practicum, the fellow will be assisting primarily with the preliminary research and identification of resources for content development related to Latin(x), Anglophone, Spanish and English Caribbean commemorations of slavery. Time permitting, the fellow may work on collaborative drafts and the completion of one of the afore-mentioned components.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Researching and creating a summary and timeline of the emancipation history of the Spanish and English Caribbean using online, scholarly and museum resources.
- Researching contemporary commemorations and celebrations of emancipation among Latin(x) and English Caribbean populations in the United States and in the Spanish and English Caribbean.
- Creating a selective research bibliography.
- Identifying visual images for use as digital assets.
- Identifying quotes from major leaders, activists and artists for use as digital assets.
- Identifying speakers for potential public programs

Practicum Goals:

- Developing skills to identify and analyze visual culture materials to tell stories that have broad resonance with the history and culture of the Global South.
- Understanding the scholarly literature on global emancipation movements.
- Placing contemporary emancipation commemorations in broader, national and international, contexts.
- Cultivating critical thinking skills about visual and material culture related to this history.
- Developing new research resources related to contemporary global emancipation celebrations.
- Appreciating the work of public historians in a national museum.

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

Latin American Studies, African Diaspora Studies and History, American and Caribbean History, Latina/o/x Studies, American Studies, and Anthropology, but all encouraged to apply. Spanish language skills required.

Related Project Links

[Juneteenth | National Museum of African American History and Culture \(si.edu\)](#)

[Celebrating Juneteenth | National Museum of African American History and Culture \(si.edu\)](#)

National Museum of American History

Entertainment Nation – Reaching a Wider Audience

Krystal Klingenberg, Music Curator, National Museum of American History

Ashley Oliva Mayor, Curatorial Assistant, National Museum of American History

Project Overview:

The National Museum of American History's Division of Cultural and Community Life is gearing up for the highly anticipated opening of *Entertainment Nation* in December of 2022. Visitors will be surrounded by graphics, multimedia, stories, and iconic objects. At 7, 200 square feet, the exhibition will anchor the third floor of the Museum's west wing. This bilingual 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.

American entertainment has the power to captivate, inspire and transform us. It brings us together. We share it when we spontaneously recite lines from a favorite movie, dance to the same groove or recreate a national sports moment on a neighborhood street. It can spur critical conversations and foster important historical change. Through the National Museum of American History's extraordinary collection of theater, music, sports, movie and television objects, the new exhibition *Entertainment Nation* will examine how entertainment brings Americans together, shapes us and provides a forum for important conversations.

The exhibition team is currently developing programming plans, digital/media content, and educational resources that will coincide with the physical exhibition.

Working with the curatorial team of *Entertainment Nation*, the fellow will contribute to efforts that increase accessibility and outreach by producing Learning Labs and digital content such as blog posts and social media proposals. Smithsonian Learning Labs put the treasures of the world's largest museum, education, and research complex within reach. It is a free, interactive platform for discovering millions of authentic digital resources, creating content with online tools, and sharing in the Smithsonian's expansive community of knowledge and learning.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Conduct research relating to Afro-Latinx and Latinx content from *Entertainment Nation* to produce educational content for Smithsonian Learning Labs complementing the upcoming exhibition.
- Develop educational modules geared towards K-12 students exploring themes of the exhibition.
- Contribute to website content creation, producing research-based blog posts and social media proposals on exhibition objects and themes, linking to broader Smithsonian initiatives when possible.
- Project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goals:

- To provide an overview of the digital content and exhibition resource development at the National Museum of American History
- To support accessibility and outreach of music content in the *Entertainment Nation* exhibition opening 2022

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

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

Fellow must be bilingual in English and Spanish.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Chronicling El Movimiento: An exploration into the Chicano Underground Press
Verónica Méndez, PhD., Curator, Division of Political and Military History

Project Overview:

The National Museum of American History's Division of Military and Political history is developing a project that seeks to document the important contributions of the Chicano movement in the long struggle for Latinx Civil Rights and their imprint on U.S. politics, history, and culture.

The division houses a number of Chicano periodicals covering the years from 1970 to 1972. For social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, underground newspapers were crucial for disseminating information, giving a voice to the community, and building the movement. In support of this project, the LMSP fellow will conduct historical research on the division's Chicano periodical collection.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Conduct historical research on individual periodicals.
- Maintain and update Chicano newspaper database with historical references and, if available, information on contributors and organizers.
- Produce a bibliography with relevant primary and secondary sources.
- Research coalition-building and solidarity efforts between the Chicano movement and social movements of the era fighting for civil and human rights along the intersection of race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and gender.
- Identify key themes and topics for potential public programming, social media, and digital outreach.

Practicum Goals:

- Virtual "hands-on" experience working with material culture in a museum setting
- Enhance internal and public-facing records on Latinx political history.
- Make accessible Latinx political material.

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

History, Chicanx Studies, American Studies, Latinx Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies, Comparative Literature, and Library and Information Studies, but all encouraged to apply.

Strong organizational skills required. Fluency in Spanish preferred.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

War and Latina/o Philanthropy Collecting Initiative

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

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 dedicated 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. This project explores Latina/o philanthropy during and in the aftermath of wars the United States joined formally. It also considers the impact of wars, such as the Mexican Revolution, Colombian civil war, and Central American conflicts, on Latina/o giving. Latinos have a strong and distinct tradition of philanthropy. Informal aid through family and kin networks is an especially important facet of Latinx giving, although Latinos have also supported one another through organizations, including *mutualistas* and churches. The temporal focus will be the period from the 1910s to present, and the geographic focus will be Florida; Texas; and Washington, DC.

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

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Researching the history of Latina/o philanthropy to help shape collecting plans, with Afro-Latino stories a particular area of interest;
- Assisting with collecting objects as opportunities allow;
- Researching one or more object in the Museum's collection for display in *Giving in America*;
- Drafting one or more objects labels for *Giving in America*;
- Creating project final report and presentation.

Practicum Goal:

To carry out essential tasks that will enable Latina/o philanthropy objects and oral histories to be publicly accessible in support of the Smithsonian's Philanthropy Initiative, National Museum of American History, and Latino Center missions.

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

History, American Studies, Latino Studies, African American Studies, but all are encouraged to apply.

Bilingual skills required and a background in history preferred.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Collective Care: Responses to Natural and Human-Made Disasters in Puerto Rico

Manuel R. Rodríguez, PhD., Curator, NMAH

Katherine Ott, Curator, PhD., NMAH

Margaret Salazar-Porzio, Ph.D, Curator, NMAH

Project Overview:

This project uses participatory methods to hear and learn from communities on the frontlines of climate change in Puerto Rico. It is a partnership between the National Museum of American History, the University of Puerto Rico-Cayey, and a number of community-based organizations working in the areas of gender equality, sustainable development, mental health, community health, science and technology, environmental justice, and popular education.

Our oral history documentation, digital preservation, collecting, and digital-first plan highlights how communities survive compounding disasters, including Hurricanes Irma and María in 2017, the 2020 earthquakes, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the underlying debt crisis, as agents who shape their own history. The project is working to develop a bilingual traveling exhibition and related web resources. The fellow will conduct research and produce web content in support of the project.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Conduct historical research on the environmental history of Afro-Puerto Rican communities in Puerto Rico. Research will be based on library and museum databases, starting with the holdings of the Smithsonian.
- Produce a bibliography on the environmental history of Afro-Puerto Rican communities as it is relevant to understanding contemporary disasters, using primary and secondary sources.
- Work with the project team, NMAH education team, and colleagues from SCLDA on a Learning Lab based on the growing collection of artifacts related to this history.
- Work with the project team and NMAH New Media team to develop digital content for a new project web page on the NMAH site.

Practicum Goals:

- Gain experience reviewing and analyzing scholarly literature for a public history project.
- Understand the environmental history of Afro-Puerto Rican communities, and their relevance to contemporary disasters.
- Learn how to develop web and educational resources for a community-based project.
- Learn how a large museum works: from acquiring new collections, to exhibition development, developing a public-facing project, and creating a web presence, this fellow will discover the many phases of work that go into public history projects and will gain an understanding of co-curation and community engagement.

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

History, Afro-Latino Studies, Latino Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Caribbean Studies, Sociology, Media Studies, Health Sciences, Cultural Studies, Digital Humanities, but all encouraged to apply.

Bilingual skills (Spanish) and background in library sciences preferred.

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

First 100: 50 Years of Chicanas Changing Knowledge

Margaret Salazar-Porzio, PhD., Curator of Latinx History and Culture, NMAH

Project Overview:

The National Museum of American History (NMAH) at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. is one of 19 Smithsonian Institution museums in the United States. Located on the Mall in Washington, DC, the NMAH hosts around five million visitors a year to its exhibitions, research library and archives, gift shops, cafés, and gardens. The NMAH is home to a number of public history, archive-building, and community engagement projects. The “First 100: 50 Years of Chicanas Changing Knowledge” project combines all three as it builds on the first phase of research and relationship building with partner institutions and individuals to document the state of the field of Chicana history through in-depth oral history interviews with the very women who have lived it and shaped it.

Of the 36.6 million Americans of Mexican descent in the United States, only 104 – a dismal .00000284 percent – of Mexican American women hold a doctorate in History. The “First 100” studies the gap between the rhetoric of diversity, equality, and inclusion in the academy and the organizational culture that systematically excludes Chicanas’ leadership in the fields of History and Chicano Studies, subjecting these women to chauvinism, discrimination, and sexual harassment. Therefore, the project records in-depth oral histories to build an archive of how Chicanas have transformed the way we *do* and *understand* history, as well as *who is included* in United States history. In this next phase of work, the project will be collecting objects, conducting written surveys; filming broadcast-quality interviews; creating a website and digital opportunities for access to objects and archival materials; and creating a Learning Lab oral history toolkit. An LMSP fellow working on this project could tap into any of these activities, but would focus on creating a strategic plan for the project’s digital presence, reviewing transcripts of the interviews, and developing the oral history toolkit. The fellow would also be working closely with Dr. Lorena Chambers, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Michigan, and project partner.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Develop a strategic plan for the project’s digital presence that would integrate the website, Learning Lab, partner sites, toolkit, and any upcoming new content or social media;
- Review transcripts of the interviews for accuracy and make edits as needed;
- Work with project team, NMAH education team, colleagues from partner institutions and from SCLDA to begin developing the oral history toolkit based on the overall digital strategy for the project.

Practicum Goals:

- Gain experience reviewing and editing transcripts from interviews with Chicana scholars.
- Understand the impact of Chicana historians on the broader field of U.S. history.
- Learn how to develop web and educational resources for a public history, archive-building project.
- Learn how a large museum works: from acquiring new collections, to building an archive, developing a public-facing project with multiple institutional partners, and creating a digital presence, this fellow will discover the many phases of work that go into public history projects and will gain an understanding of what it means to create an archive.
- Understand the importance and power of archives in confronting the wrongs of the past and the crises of today. In other words, confronting the crises of today means actively creating inclusion in the records of the past.

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

U.S. History, Chicana/o Studies, Latino Studies, American Studies, Archives and Bibliographies, Historiography, Libraries, Museums, Digital Humanities, Public History, U.S.-Mexico borderlands, but all encouraged to apply.

Background in digital humanities projects and/or library sciences preferred.

National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL)

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

Melissa Carrillo, Chief Digital Officer (Acting), NMAL

José Ralat-Reyes, Digital Media Specialist, NMAL

Lola Ramirez, Digital Media Exhibition Specialist, NMAL

Audrey Maier, Ph.D., Digital Media Exhibition and Outreach, NMAL

Project Overview:

The National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL) is embarking on a momentous effort to open the Molina Family Latino Gallery at the National Museum of American History. This 4,500 s.f. space will be the first Smithsonian space on the National Mall dedicated to the experience of Latinos and Latinas in the United States, and is currently intended for a ten-year run, opening in 2022.

NMAL celebrates the artistic and scientific achievements of Latinos and Latinas 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, NMAL offers diverse cultural programs ranging from exhibits and family activities on the National Mall to symposia and cultural celebrations in its digital online initiatives.

Previously as the [Smithsonian Latino Center](#) (SLC), we pioneered 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.

Now, transitioning into a national museum, we have been scaling-up our digital strategic plan for engaging audiences, both in-gallery and online, by connecting to in-gallery immersion strategies and leveraging existing infrastructure and resources into a larger Smithsonian-wide digital framework targeting diverse Latino audiences and the general audiences.

Join the NMAL Digital Initiatives Team and other SI experts in the process of implementing innovative digital storytelling strategies to support the second exhibition, ***Latinx Youth Movements***, in the *Molina Family Latino Gallery* of NMAL in the National Museum of American History (NMAH), slated to open in Spring 2025.

Participate, learn, and contribute within a dynamic team environment implementing digital humanities skill sets that support multiple workflows in various overlapping categories/departments such as digital asset management, digital curation, audience engagement studies, inclusive design, marketing and communications, advancement, and digitization strategic planning/implementation as it relates to Smithsonian's goal and objectives for a digital first strategy to reach a billion visitors per year. This endeavor includes digital activities such as digitizing collections; ensuring thoughtful stewardship of digital assets and defining long-term management to enable preservation of and access to our digital collections well into the future.

Project Scope:

The LMSP Fellow will work with the NMAL Digital Initiatives team to research and provide digital media support in a select project area (digital collections, online exhibitions, collections search, collection digitization, audience engagement, wayfinding, inclusive design audience testing, etc.).

The practicum will include the following activities to select from:

- Learn firsthand our process and methodologies for digital curation of physical and digital content to develop relevant, engaging digital stories for multiple contexts.
- Meet our project partners, work collaboratively with our team to gain first hand access to digital media workflows with multiple partners and teams.
- Provide recommendations concerning the ways in which NMAL 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 practicum alum participants that served on the Gallery research teams.
- Review digital media scripts; provide recommendations for benchmarking content themes and content bridges on signature Gallery digital media elements.
- Provide feedback to concept ideas for NMAL 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; Contribute to the concept and design of a newly defined Museum hub portal.
- Gain key insights into digital media script development workflows, be an active participant in curatorial research and content interpretation integration into a UI/UX script perspective.
- Work with us and learn how to benchmark content themes and content bridges on signature Gallery digital media elements.
- Participate with us in a physical walkthrough of in-Gallery media elements to review UI/UX script implementation, content organization and navigation; help us develop an assessment survey using online web tools.
- Provide key assistance in the accessibility and assessment review process for the Gallery's signature media elements and review of other key multimedia content slated for the Gallery digital interactives.

This includes:

- Tactile experiences that further encourage content exploration
 - Use of keypad that allows visitors who are blind, partially sighted or have limited mobility to navigate the digital media experiences
 - Inclusion of visual descriptions on gallery key elements
- Work in the Latino Digital Hub custom database for the Latino Gallery: Work within the larger SI database to identify relevant material and digital objects that exist in collections that are not currently classified as Latino, Hispanic, or other culturally specific labels that maybe linked within the Latino Digital Hub and serve as key metadata content bridge

points. Part of this process could include determining what collection objects don't have digital surrogates available in keyword-searchable databases. Identifying these materials is crucial for future curatorial, exhibition, scholarly, and educational efforts.

- Participate in NMAL Digital Collections Metadata Working Group to better understand categories such as digital asset management and best practices building and improving taxonomy lists for database implementation.
- Work with us and our education, marketing and advancement partners to develop a framework for a Latino Digital Hub eGuide to the collections, exhibits, and resources.
- Develop Internship 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 and Latinas while others do not?
- How do we approach storytelling multiple *Latinidades*? What are the top line criteria items we should consider in ensuring radical inclusivity?
- 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 NMAL to increase the accessibility to and incorporation of Latino related content in physical and virtual Smithsonian exhibitions?
- How does post-Covid play into thinking about how our physical engagement with people and places has now impacted the types of in-person and online experiences we initially planned for?
- What role should R&D play in the larger digital strategic planning process?

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.

Other skill sets may include but not limited to:

- Knowledge and experience with digital media editing software for images and video
- Knowledge and applied scholarly experience in Latino American history, art or culture
- Knowledge and experience with (digital) collections management protocols
- Demonstrated/advanced organizational and multitasking skills

National Postal Museum (NPM)

Arte y Música: Latinx and AfroLatinx Music on United States Postage Stamps

Jessie Aucoin, Director of the Department of Education & Visitor Services, NPM

Maureen Leary, Youth & Family Programs Manager, NPM

Project Overview:

Throughout the summer of 2022, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum (NPM) will host the first Guest Artist in the museum's history. Rafael López, a noted artist and children's book illustrator, has been commissioned by the United States Postal Service to design numerous postage stamps depicting Latinx history and culture. As the inaugural Guest Artist for NPM, López will design and facilitate multiple educational programs detailing his artistic processes and influences. Coincidentally, during his time with NPM, López's most recent stamp designs featuring mariachi musicians will be issued to the public.

As part of this exciting period, and in our continued efforts to increase accessibility and outreach to a wide variety of audiences, NPM will produce a research article for the museum's webpage on López's contributions. The Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) fellow will focus on researching the many styles of Latinx and AfroLatinx music featured on postage stamps, identifying connections to other Smithsonian collections, and drafting the digital content needed to publish a research article for NPM's website.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Collaborate with the National Postal Museum's educational programming, visitor services, and internet affairs staff to research, publish, and promote a research article for the museum's website on the topic of Latinx/AfroLatinx music depicted on United States postage stamps.
- Work alongside NPM's Guest Artist, Rafael López, to incorporate his work on stamp designs featuring Latinx/AfroLatinx music and musicians into a research article to be published on NPM's website.
- Serve as a representative of NPM with partner Smithsonian units to identify connections between the units' collections.
- Support museum's educational program development and facilitation with related programming.

Practicum Goals:

- Gain research skills and knowledge related to how topics are selected for and represented on United States postage stamps and how Latinx/AfroLatinx music fits into this larger context.
- Develop an understanding of how to incorporate museum objects into resources and programming in a way that makes them accessible and interesting to a broad cross-section of the public.
- Strengthen relationship building and collaboration with museum staff, and across the Smithsonian community at large, as well as external professionals and/or organizations in the creation of museum resources and programming.

- Develop an understanding of the interrelated roles museum staff members have when producing resources and programming, and an appreciation for the value in creating resources and programming that reflect the varied and nuanced experiences of Americans.

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

American History, American Studies, Cultural Studies, Digital Arts, Digital Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies, Latina/o/x Studies, Latin American History, or Latin American Studies, but all encouraged to apply. Spanish language skills preferred, but not required.

Project Links:

Sample Research Articles: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/research-articles>

Rafael López website: <https://rafaellopez.com>

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA)

Evaluating the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives Latino Collections

Nilda Lopez, Reference Librarian CHM Library, SLA

Project Overview:

The collections and staff of the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives 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. A network of 21 specialized research libraries and an archival repository creates the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives which 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. We 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 now new areas of research.

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

Via this practicum, we are seeking to better understand the research and scholarship needs of the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) now known as the National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL). We intend to grow our print and e-resource materials for Latino scholarship. The SLC's original mission is "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 research library centers. By learning from SLC, now the future NMAL staff, about their needs and evaluating our collections and services based on these needs, the practicum student(s) will make recommendations to SLC and SLA for future collections growth.

The practicum will include the following activities:

- Based on best practices and environmental scans:
 - Connect with scholarship groups to learn about the current research and strategic initiatives of specialized units at the Smithsonian focused on American Latino scholarship.
 - Create a collections profile after analyzing the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives materials focused on the scope of work being done by specialized units at the Smithsonian.
- Identify the needs of the SLC and create a report of recommendations for collection development about how to expand on Latino-focused library resources and services for the Smithsonian.

- Project final report and presentation to SLA staff.
- Creation of Research Guide on website for SI Staff reference.

Practicum Goal:

To conduct a collections analysis of the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives to make recommendations about how they can better support the work of the Smithsonian Latino Center, the future National Museum of the American Latino 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.