

Latino Museum Studies Program – Predoctoral Fellows 2022-2023



Alex Nuñez is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Arizona, studying 19th/20th Century U.S. History and Mexican American Studies. His dissertation, “Field of Dreamers: Becoming Mexican American through the National Pastime,” focuses on Mexican American identity formation with relation to race, gender, community, and citizenship, through participation in baseball. His research interests are inspired by his own family’s history with sports, and he wants to use sport history as a vehicle to make Mexican American history accessible to young students and the general public.

His work has appeared in the Journal of American Ethnic History, Journal of Arizona History, Journal of Sport History, and Smithsonian Voices. With an eye for equity, inclusivity, and access, he has also worked in college admissions and as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service.

Narcisa Núñez is an interdisciplinary scholar whose research focuses on the memory and legacies of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. Her dissertation research examines the cultural productions of the Dominican diaspora such as visual art, literature, and performance art that reflects and resists the legacies of the dictatorship.

By using a multi-method approach that consists of artist interviews, public observations, archival research, and critical analysis, her research uncovers how the Dominican diaspora’s articulations of memory complicate the established history of the dictatorship, unearthing the traumatic past and its enduring legacies of erasure which dominate the island’s cultural and political landscape today. Núñez is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University at Albany in the Department of Latin American, Caribbean and US Latino Studies.





Allison Sáenz is a public historian whose research centers the Central American diaspora. Her dissertation, “Being a U.S. Central American: Immigration, Culture, and Ethnicity in Houston, Post-1965,” examines the history of Central Americans in one of the nation’s largest urban centers. Set against the backdrop of late twentieth century immigration policy, her research examines the effects of policy, but ultimately shows that policy did not define the lives of U.S. Central Americans as they settled, adapted, and built a flourishing community in the city.

Allison holds a B.A. in History with a minor in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at San

Antonio. She is currently a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Houston where her research spans Latina/o/x, immigration, and public history.