LATINO MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

Graduate Summer Fellowship

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
2023
The National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL) was established by Congress in December 2020. In legislation establishing the museum within the Smithsonian, Congress stated the purposes of the museum “to illuminate the story of the United States for the benefit of all by featuring Latino contributions to the art, history and culture of the nation since its early history.” Since 1997, NMAL, formerly the Smithsonian Latino Center, has successfully ensured that the contributions of the Latino community are celebrated and represented throughout the Smithsonian.

NMAL works collaboratively with Smithsonian museums and research centers, ensuring that the contributions of the Latino community in the arts, history, national culture and scientific achievement are explored, presented, celebrated and preserved. NMAL also manages leadership and professional development programs for Latino youth, emerging scholars and museum professionals.

In 2022, NMAL opened the Molina Family Latino Gallery at the National Museum of American History, making the gallery the very first dedicated museum space on the National Mall celebrating the U.S. Latino experience.
The Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) is dedicated to fostering the development of emerging scholars and museum professionals in the fields of Latino history, art and culture. Created in 1994, the program focuses on developing museum practice within a framework of Latino cultural studies and is offered as a dual component experience including weekly seminars and a practicum.

**GOALS**

- Promotion and accessibility of Smithsonian Latino collections and resources.
- Contributions to current research and program development at the Smithsonian.
- Highlight Smithsonian museum practices and methodologies.
- Expansion of the number of Latino/a/x emerging scholars in the museum field.
- Develop new ways of thinking and broaden the understanding of fundamental museum issues.
- Create a network among participants, Smithsonian staff, guest faculty and program alumni.

"As someone who is trained as a literary scholar, I was taught to pay close attention to words. In these analyzations, culture was always taken into account in conjunction with the words; however, I had difficulty in understanding the importance of material culture. Material culture seemed peripheral as I was focusing predominately on race and different formations of identity. Yet, LMSP taught me how nothing exists in a vacuum. Material culture, objects, are more than visual aids to tell narratives of history. It is the inverse, material culture itself is a vessel that contains stories. LMSP provided me the opportunity to realize our role as museum professionals is to carefully and ethically assist these objects in telling their stories."

- Jazmine Janay Cuevas, 2023 LMSP Fellow

This program received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the National Museum of the American Latino.
Practicums

Archives of American Art
Fellow: Jeannette Martinez
University of New Mexico
Practicum: 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))
Leads: Dr. Josh T. Franco (AAA) and Dr. Arden Decker (ICAA)

Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Fellow: Chantal Jimenez-Gonzalez
American University
Practicum: Expanding the Accessibility and Metadata of Latina/o/x Archival Documentation at the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Lead: Greg Adams

National Museum of African American History and Culture
Fellow: Jazmine Janay Cuevas
University of Texas at El Paso
Practicum: Guiding Latinidad in the NMAAHC’s physical exhibitions
Lead: Dr. Ariana A. Curtis

National Museum of American History
Fellow: Lillian E. Agosto Maldonado
Howard University
Practicum: De Ultima Hora: Latinas Report History
Lead: Dr. Kathleen Franz
Practicums

National Museum of American History
Fellow: Diana López
University of Texas at El Paso
Practicum: Chronicling El Movimiento: An exploration into the Chicano Underground Press
Lead: Dr. Verónica A. Méndez

National Museum of American History
Fellow: Eva Maria Rey Pinto
American University
Practicum: War and Latina/o Philanthropy Collecting Initiative
Lead: Dr. Amanda B. Moniz

National Museum of American History
Fellow: Inmagela R. Abreu
University of Illinois at Chicago
Practicum: Latinx Health, History, and Sexuality
Lead: Dr. Katherine Ott

National Museum of the American Latino
Fellow: Adriana Morales-Díaz
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus
Practicum: Latinos in the 21st Century: A Digital Experience for All
Leads: José Ralat-Reyes, Melissa Carrillo
Practicums

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Fellow:
Alexandra Kader Herrera
The Art Institute of Chicago
Practicum:
Discovering the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives’ Latino Collections and Services
Lead:
Nilda López

2023 Summer Fellows
During the seminar portion of the program, students strengthen their leadership, research and creative skills through a series of panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and behind-the-scenes access of Smithsonian museums and collections. Below are highlights of the presentations for 2023:

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Experiencing Latinx Programming at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival
- AfroBoricua Geographies: Visibilizing Space by Demarcating Place
- Collections Care and Stewardship
- SITES & The Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia Indígena del Caribe ¡Taino Vive!
- From Accessibility to Inclusive Design: The work of Access Smithsonian and their contributions to the Molina Family Latino Gallery
- Latinidad through an African American Lens
- Curatorial Talk and Tour: Entertainment Nation/Nación del espectáculo
- A tool for Justice: Center for Restorative History
- Latinos in the 21st Century: A Digital Experience for All
- National Museum of the American Latino’s Office of Learning and Public Experience
- Conservation, Research, and Digitization at Smithsonian Libraries and Archives
- In and Beyond the Archive: Latino/x/e Art at the The International Center for the Arts of the Americas, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- Archives of American Art Overview and Tour
- Advocacy and Latinx Art History - From the US Latinx Art Forum to a PhD Program
- Revolutionary Graphics Foam Print Workshop
- Navigating Black Culture and Identity in Cultural Institutions
- Tour of 1898: U.S. Imperial Visions and Revisions
- National Museum of American History Political History collection tour
- National Museum of Natural History Libraries rare books tour
Seminar Highlights

Gabriela Martinez (’09) leading a print making workshop for the fellows.

Ashley Mayor leading a tour of the National Museum of American History's Entertainment Nation/Nación del Espectáculo.

Maria del Carmen Cossu from the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibitions Services presenting to the fellows on Latino/x touring exhibits.

Jenarae Bautista (L) and Sarah Elston (R) presenting on museum collections.

Adriana Morales-Díaz participating in a workshop.

Alexandra Kader Herrera visiting a Smithsonian Library Rare Book Collection.

Jazmin Janay Cuevas at the National Museum of Natural History Anthropology Library.

Dr. Nancy Bercaw (L), Patty Arteaga (C), and Dr. José Centeno-Meléndez (’16) presenting to the fellows.

Gabriela Martinez (’09) leading a print making workshop for the fellows.

Visiting the National Portrait Gallery’s 1898: US Imperial Visions and Revisions.
Seminar Highlights

Dr. Arden Decker ('08), Associate Director at Museum of Fine Arts, Houston presenting on the International Center for the Arts of the Americas at MFAH.

Ranald Woodaman ('04), Exhibitions Director, National Museum of the American Latino, leading a tour of the Molina Family Latino Gallery.

Chantal Jimenez (L) and Eva Rey Pinto (R) participating in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Dr. Ariana Curtis, Curator of Latinx Studies at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, leading a presentation.

William Bennett, Smithsonian Institution Archives leading a tour.

Fellows visiting an exhibit.

Fellow visiting an exhibit.

Ranald Woodaman ('04), Exhibitions Director, National Museum of the American Latino, leading a tour of the Molina Family Latino Gallery.

Chantal Jimenez (L) and Eva Rey Pinto (R) participating in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.
As part of the program, the fellows had the opportunity to visit to New York City museums and organizations where some of our program alumni work. They also visited other museums that had Latino/a/x exhibitions. These include the following:

Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum
The Clemente Soto Vélez Cultural & Educational Center
El Museo del Barrio
The Ford Foundation
The Newark Museum of Art
The New Museum

Many thanks to the LMSP Alumni who met with and supported the fellows throughout the duration of the program:

Rocío Aranda-Alvarado
Melissa Carrillo
Andreina Castillo
José Centeno-Meléndez
Amalia Córdova
Arden Decker
Oriana Gonzales
Tey Marianna Nunn

Gabriela Martínez
Verónica A. Méndez
José Ralat-Reyes
Yasmin Ramirez
Elena Muñoz-Rodríguez
Natalie Solis
Ranald Woodaman
NYC Highlights

Jazmin J. Cuevas with Elena Muñoz-Rodríguez ('14) and Andreina Castillo ('08) at the Newark Museum of Art.

Dr. Yasmin Ramirez ('94) at The Clemente Soto Vélez Cultural & Educational Center.

LMSP Fellows visiting The Clemente Soto Vélez Cultural & Educational Center with Executive Director Libertad Guerrera.

Christina De León, Curator of Latino Design and Sophia Gebara, Curatorial Assistant of Latino Design, presenting at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum.

Fellows in the Cooper Hewitt Immersion Room.

Fellows visiting The New Museum.

Fellows at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum.

Jazmin J. Cuevas with Elena Muñoz-Rodríguez ('14) and Andreina Castillo ('08) at the Newark Museum of Art.

Fellows with artist Miguel Luciano and his Pimp My Piragua installation at the Museum of the City of NY.

Fellows at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum.

Dr. Yasmin Ramirez ('94) at The Clemente Soto Vélez Cultural & Educational Center.
NYC Highlights

Curator Susanna Temkin of El Museo del Barrio presenting on the exhibition *Something Beautiful: Reframing La Colección*.

Fellows at The Newark Museum of Art.

Fellows at The Ford Foundation with 1994 alumni Dr. Rocío Aranda-Alvarado (Ford Foundation) and Dr. Yasmin Ramirez (Independent Curator).

LMSP Undergraduate Internship coordinator Robin Morey ('16) and fellow Diana Lopez at El Museo del Barrio.

Marcela Guerrero, DeMartini Family Curator, ('06) and Angelica Arbelaez, Rubio Butterfield Family Fellow, following tour of Ilana Savdie: Radical Contractions at the Whitney Museum of Art.

Fellows at El Museo del Barrio presenting on the exhibition *Something Beautiful: Reframing La Colección*.

Fellows at The Newark Museum of Art.