



Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Latino*

# LATINO MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

Graduate Summer  
Fellowship

PROGRAM OVERVIEW  
2023



# About



**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.



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# Program



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.

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

*"As someone who is trained as a literary scholar, I was taught to pay close attention to words. In these analyzations, culture was always took into account in conjunction with the words; however, I had difficulty in understanding the importance of material culture. Material culture seemed periphery 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

# 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





# Seminar Highlights



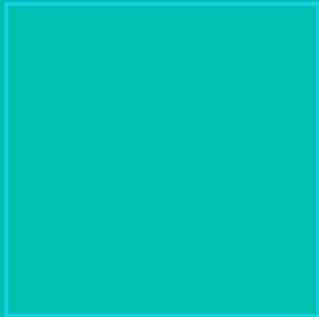
During the seminar portion of the program, students strengthen their leadership, research and creative skills through a series of panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and behind-the-scenes access of Smithsonian museums and collections. Below are highlights of the presentations for 2023:

## 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 ¡Taíno 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



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



Alexandra Kader Herrera visiting a Smithsonian Library Rare Book Collection.



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



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



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



visiting the National Portrait Gallery's *1898: US Imperial Visions and Revisions*.



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



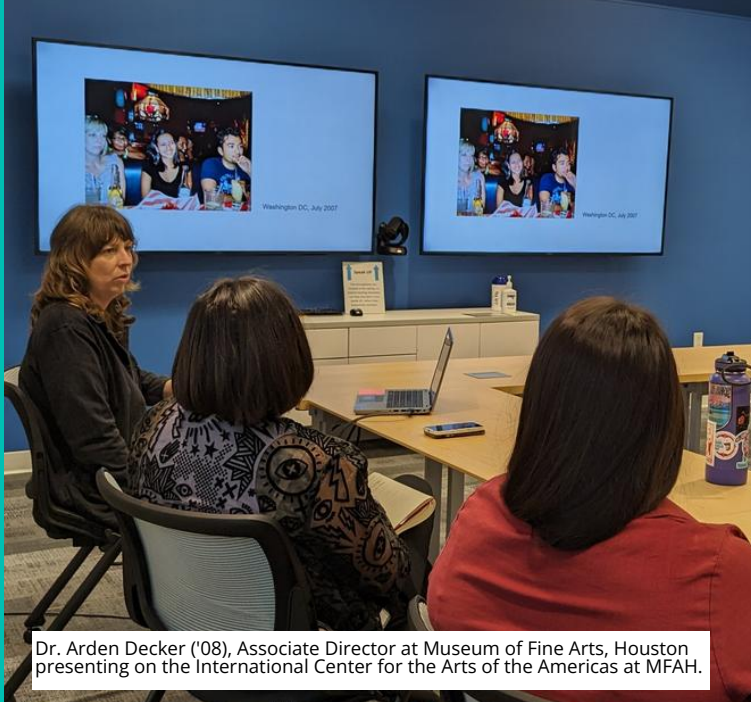
Jenarae Bautista (L) and Sarah Elston (R) presenting on museum collections.



Adriana Morales-Díaz participating in a workshop.



# 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.



Fellows visiting an exhibit.



William Bennett, Smithsonian Institution Archives leading a tour.



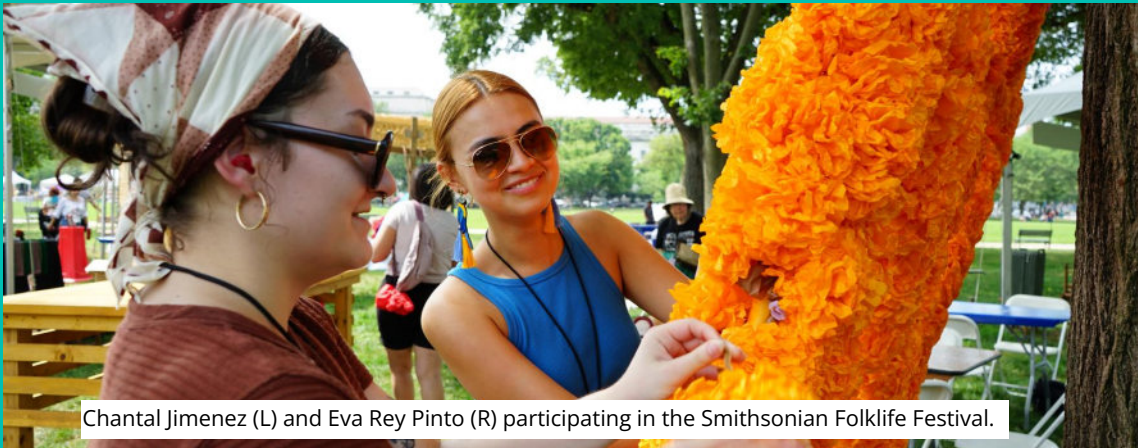
Fellow visiting an exhibit.



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



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



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



# NYC Highlights



LMSP Fellows with Elena Muñoz-Rodríguez ('14) and Andreina Castillo ('08) at the Newark Museum of Art (Newark, NJ).

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 Vélaz Cultural & Educational Center  
El Museo del Barrio  
The Ford Foundation  
The Newark Museum of Art  
The New Museum

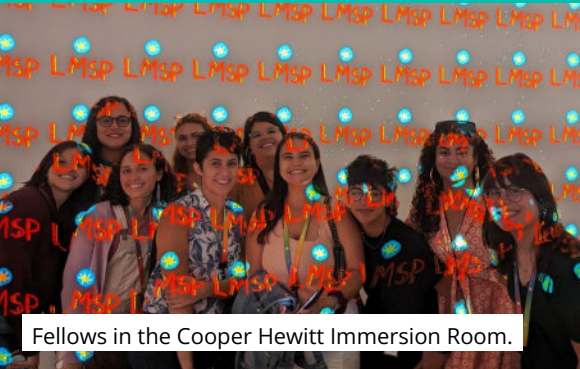
Many thanks to the LMSP Alumni who met with and supported the fellows throughout the duration of the program:

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



Fellows in the Cooper Hewitt Immersion Room.



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



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.



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



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



# NYC Highlights



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



Fellow 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.



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).