YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Fostering the next generation of community-conscious Latino Leaders.

2024 APPLICANT GUIDE
The National Museum of the American Latino gratefully acknowledges major and continued program support from Ford Motor Company Fund.
About The Program
The **Young Ambassadors Program (YAP)** is a national college preparatory and leadership program for graduating high school seniors that fosters the next generation of community-conscious Latino leaders in the arts, sciences, and humanities via the Smithsonian Institution and its resources.
Summer Program Overview

- Participate in a weeklong pre-professional and pre-collegiate seminar in Washington, D.C. at the Smithsonian focusing on Latino perspectives with peers from all over the nation.
- **Complete a four-week interdisciplinary internship program at a museum or other cultural institution** in one of 18 cities in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- Explore careers in the arts, sciences and humanities and meet Latino Leaders.
- Enhance networking skills and knowledge.
Expenses and Program Stipend

- Participation in the Young Ambassadors Program includes meals and accommodations for the duration of the one-week training seminar, and round-trip travel costs to Washington, D.C.
- Students selected are responsible for all expenses during the four-week internship, including transportation, accommodations, and meals.
  - The National Museum of the American Latino encourages applicants to select internship sites in their local regions or in regions where applicants may be able to stay with family or friends in the area.
- Upon completion of the five-week program, participants will receive a $2,350 program stipend.
- Students that do not complete the training seminar and four-week internship will not receive the program stipend.
Eligibility

- Up to 24 participants are selected through a competitive process, guided by a selection committee.
- **To be eligible for the program, you must:**
  - Be a high school senior graduating in 2023;
  - Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States with a valid Social Security Number at the time of application;
  - Have a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale;
  - Be fluent in English;
  - Be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking program at an accredited college of university (2 or 4 year institution) (enrollment will be verified for Fall 2023);
  - Commit to participate in the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution and complete a four-week paid summer internship.
Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee is comprised of museum and education professionals. The selection committee evaluates all application materials and submissions based on the following criteria:

1. Excellence in the:
   1. Arts (e.g., film, visual, performing, design);
   2. Sciences (e.g., natural, biological, chemical, planetary);
   3. Humanities (e.g., language, literature, social sciences, business).
2. Academic record
3. Leadership experience
4. Commitment to education
5. Service learning and engagement with the Latino community

2017 Young Ambassador and Alumni leading a Story Time at a Miami Public Library
How To Apply
Accessing the Application

1. Create a Smithsonian Online Academic Appointment System (SOLAA) account by following this link https://solaa.si.edu.
2. Register a username and password; please be sure to save this information.
3. Once registered in SOLAA, search for the National Museum of the American Latino 2024 Young Ambassadors Program.
4. Complete and submit your application for the 2024 YAP with all its materials. These application materials include your three short statements, one resume, one video, one picture, and one letter of recommendation.
   1. Please upload your statements and resume as PDF files, if possible. If submitting Microsoft Word documents, ensure they are .doc files NOT .docx. Please ask your recommenders to do the same.
   2. Photos can be uploaded as .jpg or .pdf.
   3. Follow the instructions for video upload on the application.

Please note: The application does not recognize special characters or accent marks. Please do not use when filling out the application.

For technical assistance with the application (i.e. lost password, trouble uploading documents, etc.), please contact the Smithsonian OCIO Help Desk at 202.633.4000 or OCIOHelpDesk@si.edu.
Application Contents

A complete Young Ambassadors Program online application (via SOLAA) includes:

• Three short statements (up to 350 words each)
• One short video (2 minutes or less)
• One photo for Program Participant Booklet
• Resume
• One (1) letter of recommendation that has been completed by an instructor, mentor or advisor
Sending Letters of Recommendation and Additional Materials

The letter of recommendation must be submitted by the recommender directly to the Smithsonian Latino Center via the SOLAA system or by email to NMALYAP@si.edu. The letter should address the applicant's academic (discipline) excellence, leadership qualities, intellectual curiosity, community service, and goal setting abilities.

Send any materials that cannot be uploaded to the online application to the National Museum of the American Latino:

Young Ambassadors Program
Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of the American Latino
600 Maryland Avenue SW
Suite 7042 MRC 512
Washington, DC 20024
All application materials must be submitted by April 8, 2024.

These must be submitted electronically and those that cannot be uploaded online for submission must be sent to the National Museum of the American Latino by the deadline date by FedEx or UPS (please do not use regular mail).
Program Calendar

Young Ambassadors 2017 Program Debrief
Important Dates

February 2024
Application Available

April 8, 2024
Application Deadline

Early May 2024
Applications processed and selection committee convenes

Mid May 2024
Selection process finalized; all applicants notified of status via SOLAA account

June 23–29, 2024
YAP Washington Week Training Seminar

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July 8–August 2, 2024
Internship Experience

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Internship Experience
2024 Internship Regions

**Arizona, Phoenix**
Arizona State University Art Museum

**California, Fresno (Central Valley)**
Arte Américas

**California, Los Angeles**
California Science Center
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (TBC)

**California, San Diego**
San Diego History Center

**Colorado, Denver**
History Colorado

**Florida, Miami**
History Miami (TBC)
Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science

**Illinois, Chicago**
Museum of Science and Industry
National Museum of Mexican Art

**Missouri, Kansas City**
Kansas City Museum

**North Carolina, Charlotte**
Levine Museum of the New South

**New Mexico, Albuquerque**
National Hispanic Cultural Center

**New York, New York**
Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

**Puerto Rico, San Juan**
Museo de Historia, Antropología y Arte Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus

**Tennessee, Memphis**
Dixon Gallery and Gardens

**Texas, El Paso**
El Paso History Museum

**Texas, Houston**
Holocaust Museum Houston

**Texas, McAllen**
International Museum of Art and Science

**Texas, San Antonio**
The Witte Museum

**Oregon, Portland**
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (TBC)

**Washington, D.C.**
National Museum of American History
Apply Today

If you have any questions, e-mail NMALYAP@si.edu.