



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Latino



YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

2024
APPLICANT
GUIDE

Fostering the next generation
of community-conscious
Latino Leaders.

The National Museum of the American Latino gratefully
acknowledges major and continued program support from
Ford Motor Company Fund.



About The Program



Young Ambassadors 2019 Cohort

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.



2022 Young Ambassadors and Alumni

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.



*2018 Young Ambassadors at the Smithsonian
Conservation Biology Institute*

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.



*2023 Young Ambassadors at the Smithsonian
Environmental Research Center*

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 2024;
 - 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 2024);
 - Commit to participate in the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution and complete a four-week paid summer internship.



*2017 Young Ambassadors Program Workshop with
Circa '95*

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



Young Ambassadors 2015 Workshop

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



2017 Young Ambassadors at a Smithsonian Latino Center Workshop

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



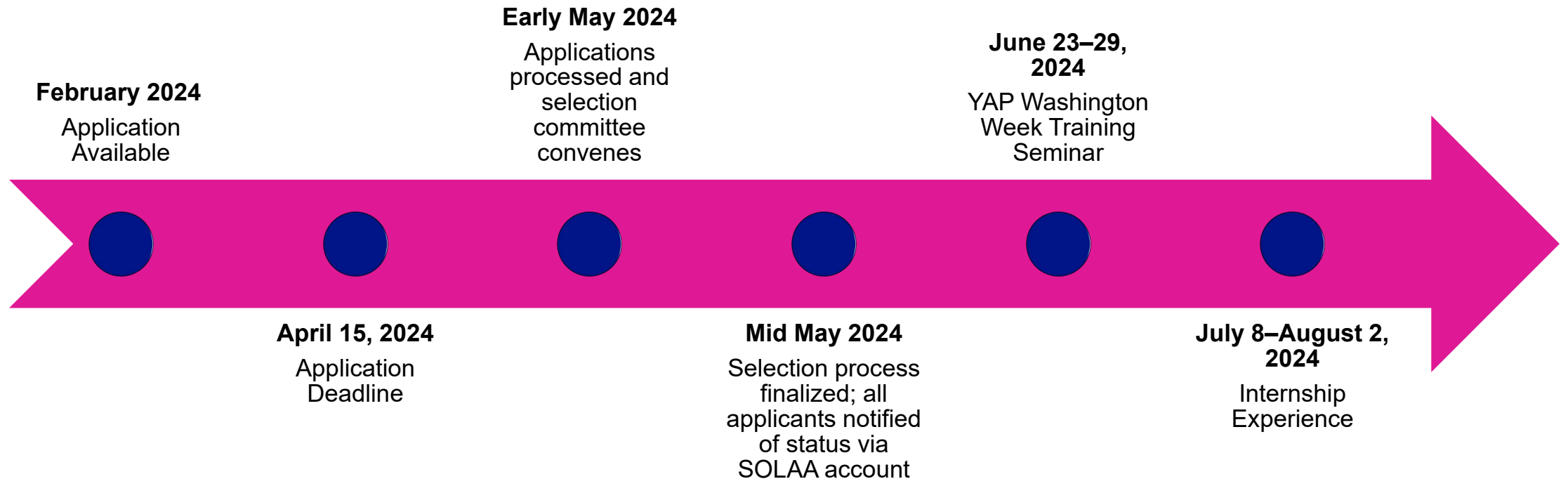
**All application materials must be submitted by
April 15, 2024.**

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



Important Dates



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

California, San Diego

San Diego History Center

Colorado, Denver

History Colorado

Florida, Miami

HistoryMiami

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

New Mexico, Albuquerque

National Hispanic Cultural Center

New York, New York

Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design

Museum

North Carolina, Charlotte

Levine Museum of the New South

Oregon, Portland

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

Puerto Rico, San Juan

Museo de Historia, Antropología y Arte

Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río 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

Washington, D.C.

National Museum of the American Latino



Apply
Today

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