



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Latino

2024 YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM Program Description

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Young Ambassadors Program (YAP) is a national program for graduating high school seniors aimed at fostering the next generation of community-conscious Latino leaders in the arts, sciences, and humanities via the Smithsonian Institution and its resources. YAP is a college preparatory and leadership program encouraging participants to explore various academic and career opportunities through the lens of the Latino experience. For the past fifteen years, this program has received major and continued support from Ford Motor Company Fund.

Students with an interest in and commitment to the arts, sciences, and humanities as it pertains to Latino communities and cultures are selected to travel to Washington, D.C. for a week-long seminar at the Smithsonian. This enrichment opportunity is a leadership development and skill-building training that exposes youth to a wide array of academic disciplines promoting higher education and encouraging the exploration and understanding of Latino history and identity. The seminar, known as Washington Week, includes visits to the Smithsonian's Latino collections and one-on-one interaction with renowned experts from various fields as well as museum professionals. Following the training seminar, students participate in a four-week interdisciplinary internship in museums and other cultural institutions in 19 cities across the United States and Puerto Rico, including Smithsonian-affiliated organizations. This hands-on component allows students to gain transferable knowledge and apply the skills acquired during the training seminar to their internship assignments.

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, 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

Oregon, Portland

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (TBC)

Washington, D.C.

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FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

EXPENSES AND PROGRAM STIPEND

Participation in the Young Ambassadors Program includes meals and accommodations for the duration of the one-week training seminar, round-trip travel costs to Washington, D.C. and a program stipend. **Students selected are responsible for all expenses during the four-week internship, including transportation, accommodations, and meals.** Upon completion of the five-week program, participants will receive \$2,350 to contribute to their higher education. Students that do not complete the training seminar and four-week internship will not receive the program stipend.

ELIGIBILITY

Admission is competitive. 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. For all other cases, please contact the email below
- 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 or university (community college is eligible; enrollment will be verified for the fall 2024)
- Commit to participate in the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution and complete a four-week paid summer internship

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Up to 24 participants are selected through a competitive process, guided by a selection committee comprised of museum and education professionals. The selection committee evaluates all application materials and submissions based on the following criteria:

1. Excellence in the:
 - a. **Arts** (e.g., film, visual, performing, design);
 - b. **Sciences** (e.g., natural, biological, chemical, planetary); or
 - c. **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

For more information and to apply, please visit the National Museum of the American Latino online at <http://latino.si.edu/yap> or email NMALYAP@si.edu.