



**NATIONAL
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AMERICAN
LATINO**

 Smithsonian



YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

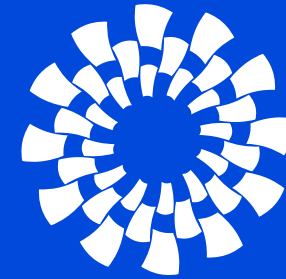
Fostering the next generation
of community-conscious leaders

2025 APPLICANT GUIDE

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

Ford Philanthropy

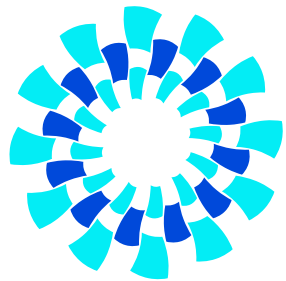




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About the Program





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What is the Young Ambassadors Program?

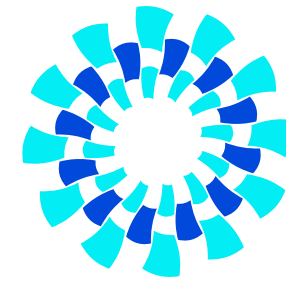
The Young Ambassadors Program (YAP) is a nationally recognized program for graduating high school seniors that fosters the next generation of community-conscious leaders in the arts, sciences, and humanities via the Smithsonian Institution and its resources.





Summer Program Overview

- Participate in a **weeklong pre-professional seminar** with pre-collegiate peers from all over the nation in **Washington, D.C.**, at the Smithsonian.
- Complete a **four-week community practicum** at a museum or other cultural center in **one of 19 cities** across the United States and Puerto Rico.
- Explore careers in the arts, sciences and humanities and meet professionals in various disciplines.
- Enhance networking skills and knowledge.



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Expenses and Program Stipend

- Participation in YAP includes meals and accommodations for the duration of the one-week seminar and round-trip travel costs to Washington.
- Students selected are responsible for all expenses during the four-week community practicum experience, including transportation, accommodations, and meals.
 - The museum encourages applicants to select 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 community practicum will not receive the program stipend.



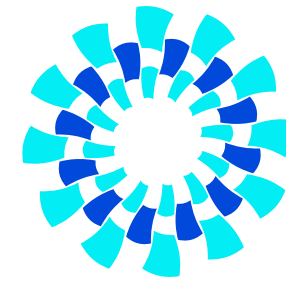
Eligibility

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 2025;
- Be authorized to work in the United States;
- 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 2025);
- Commit to participate in the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution and complete a four-week paid community practicum experience.

YAP is equally open to students of all races and ethnicities, without preference or restriction based on race or ethnicity. The Museum does not use racial or ethnic classifications or preferences in selecting awardees for YAP. Applicants need not identify as Latino or Hispanic to apply.

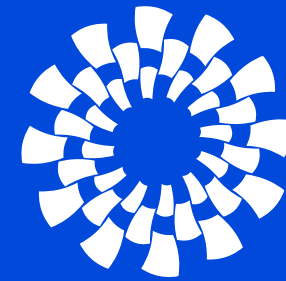


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Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee is comprised of museum and education professionals. They evaluate all application materials and submissions based on the following criteria, equally weighted on a 5-point scale:

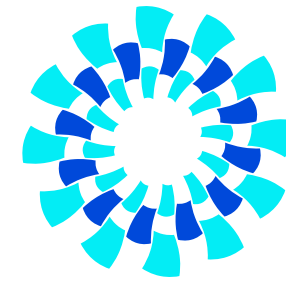
- Excellence in the:
 - **Arts** (e.g., film, visual, performing, design);
 - **Sciences** (e.g., natural, biological, chemical, planetary);
 - **Humanities** (e.g., language, literature, social sciences, business).
- Academic record
- Leadership experience
- Commitment to education
- Service learning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



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How to Apply

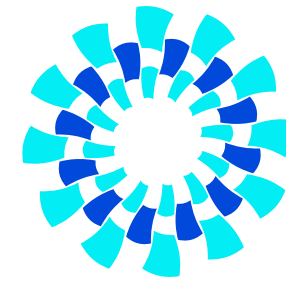




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Accessing the Application

- **Create a Smithsonian Online Academic Appointment System (SOLAA) account** by following this link <https://solaa.si.edu>.
- **Register a username and password**; please be sure to save this information.
- Once registered in SOLAA, **search for the National Museum of the American Latino 2025 Young Ambassadors Program**.
- **Complete and submit your application for the 2025 YAP with all its materials.** These application materials include your three short statements, one resume, one video, one picture, and one letter of recommendation.
 - **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.
 - Photos can be uploaded as .jpg or .pdf.
 - Follow the instructions for video upload on the application.

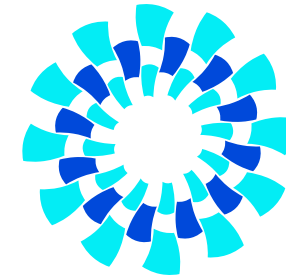


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Accessing the Application

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.

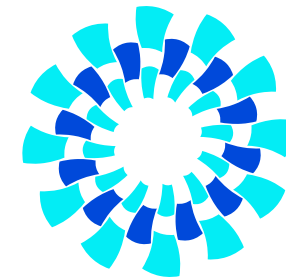


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Application Contents

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
- One Resume
- One (1) letter of recommendation that has been completed by an instructor, mentor or advisor



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Letters of Recommendation and Additional Materials

The letter of recommendation must be submitted by the recommender directly to the National Museum of the American Latino 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:

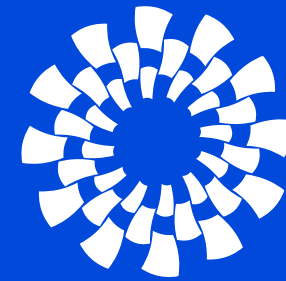
Young Ambassadors Program
Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of the American Latino
600 Maryland Avenue SW
Suite 7042 MRC 512
Washington, DC 20024



Deadlines

All application materials must be submitted by April 11, 2025.

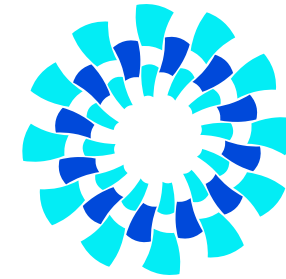
Materials must be submitted electronically. Those that cannot be uploaded online for submission must be sent to the National Museum of the American Latino by the deadline date by FedEx or UPS (please do not use regular mail).



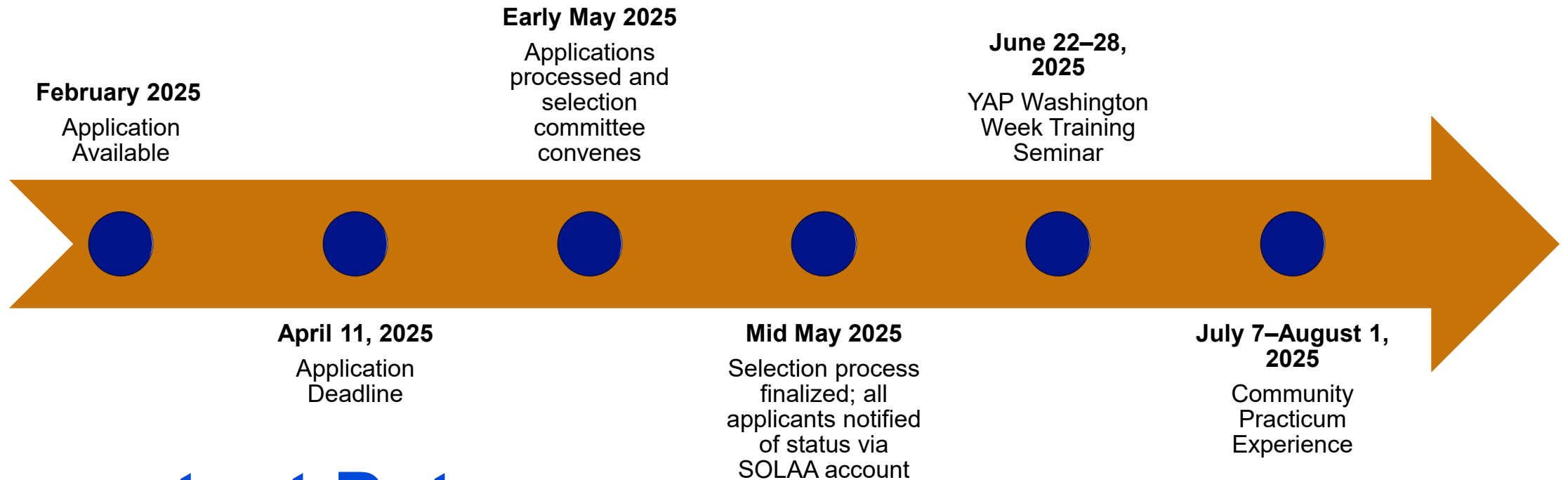
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Important Dates





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Important Dates

2025 Regions



Arizona, Phoenix

Arizona State University Art Museum

California, Fresno (Central Valley)

Arte Américas

California, Los Angeles

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (TBC)
Los Angeles County Museum of Art

California, San Diego

San Diego History Center

Colorado, Denver

History Colorado

Florida, Miami

Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum
of Science

Illinois, Chicago

Griffin 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

Smithsonian Institution

North Carolina, Charlotte

Levine Museum of the New South (TBC)

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.