



## 2025 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 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. For the past sixteen years, this program has received major and continued support from Ford Philanthropy.

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 culture. 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 community practicum 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 practicum assignments.

### 2025 COMMUNITY PRACTICUM 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

## EXPENSES AND PROGRAM STIPEND

Participation in the Young Ambassadors Program includes meals and accommodation 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 practicum experience, 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 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 or university (community college is eligible; enrollment will be verified for the fall 2025)
- Commit to participate in the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution and complete a four-week paid community practicum experience

## 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, equally weighted on a 5- point scale:

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](mailto:NMALYAP@si.edu).