The Smithsonian Latino Center was created in 1997 to enable and promote Latino presence within the Smithsonian. Twenty years later, the Center continues with its core mission, collaborating with the institution’s museums and research centers to ensure that the contributions of the Latino Community in the arts, history, national culture and scientific achievement are explored, presented, celebrated and preserved. We support research, exhibitions, public and educational programs, web-based content and virtual platforms, collections and archives, and publications. We also manage leadership and professional development programs for Latino youth, emerging scholars and museum professionals.
The Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) is dedicated to fostering the development of emerging scholars and museum professionals in the fields of Latino history, art, and culture. Created in 1994, the program focuses on developing museum practice within a framework of Latino cultural studies and is offered as a dual component experience: a two-week seminar, and a four-week practicum.

**GOALS**

- Promotion and accessibility of Smithsonian Latino collections and resources
- Contributions to current research and program development at the Smithsonian.
- Highlight Smithsonian museum practices and methodologies
- Expansion of the number of Latino/a emerging scholars in the museum field.
- Develop new ways of thinking and broaden the understanding of fundamental museum issues.
- Create a network among participants, Smithsonian staff, guest faculty and program alumni.

The LMSP program helped me develop an understanding of the museum field through intentionally designed experiences packed into one summer! My practicum offered the chance for me to dive into the planning for the new Molina Family Latino Gallery, and to engage in rapid prototyping of the digital and immersive elements of the gallery, focused on the visitor experience. My practicum mentor showed by example the power of collaboration and iterative design. I very much appreciated exploring alongside a brilliant and thoughtful group of emerging Latinx scholars, my fellow fellows.

- Krity Li Puma, 2019 LMSP Fellow

This program received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.
National Museum of American History

Fellow: Marina Marisela Álvarez
University of Illinois at Chicago
Practicum: Documenting Girlhood (It’s Complicated) Exhibition
Lead: Dr. Kathleen Franz

Fellow: Nancy Escalante
California State University
Practicum: Coloring Girlhood (It’s Complicated) Exhibition
Lead: Dr. Kathleen Franz

Fellow: Sarah Corona
The University of California, Los Angeles
Practicum: Not Lost in Translation: Processing the Arias Papers
Lead: Alison Oswald & Daniela Jiménez
National Museum of American History

Fellow: Cintia Huitzil
University of Michigan
Practicum: Latinx Music Collection in “Entertaining America”
Lead: Dr. John Troutman

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Fellow: Allison Saenz
University of Houston
Practicum: Latino Political History Initiative
Lead: Dr. Nancy Bercaw

Fellow: Natalie Solis
Harvard Divinity School
Practicum: Researching Contextual History of Chicanx and Latinx Graphics
Lead: Dr. E. Carmen Ramos
Fellow: **Andrew Viñales**  
The Graduate Center - CUNY  
**Practicum:** Locating Latinidad: Activating Archival Access to Latino-related Collections  
**Lead:**  
Cecilia Peterson

Fellow: **Carmella Scorcia Pacheco**  
The University of Arizona  
**Practicum:** Smithsonian Year of Music: Latino Public Programs  
**Lead:**  
Erin Dowdy

Fellow: **Víctor Hernández-Sang**  
The University of Maryland  
**Practicum:** AfroLatino Music at NMAAHC  
**Lead:**  
Dr. Dwandalyn Reece
Practicums

Smithsonian Latino Center

Fellow: 
**Sonja Elena Gandert**  
The Graduate Center - CUNY

**Practicum:**  
Latinos & the 21st Century: A Digital Experience for All

**Lead:**  
Melissa Carrillo

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Fellow: 
**Kristy Li Puma**  
University of Maryland

**Practicum:**  
Latinos & the 21st Century: A Digital Experience for All

**Lead:**  
Melissa Carrillo

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Fellow: 
**Cynthia García**  
Stanford University

**Practicum:**  
Latino DC History Project: Recovering the Legacies of Corina Smith and Casilda Luna

**Lead:**  
Ranald Woodaman
During the seminar portion of the program, students strengthen their leadership, research and creative skills through a series of panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and behind-the-scenes tours of Smithsonian museums and collections. Below are highlights of the presentations for 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

- Smithsonian Latino Gallery Overview and Media Prototype Workshop
- Inclusive Design at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR)
- Activating Community Spaces Through Digital Storytelling and Pop-Up Installations
- Collections Care: Material Culture and Object Handling
- Newish Latinx Stories at Our National Museum: ¡Presente! A Latino History of the United States
- Engaging Stakeholder Communities: Perú and Brasil at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival
- Conversation with the Provost
- Objects Out of Storage: Latinx Music at the Nation's Museum
- Shaping Our Narratives: Media and The Diverse Stories of Latino Communities
- Cross-Cultural Music Collecting at the Smithsonian
- Mapping the Exhibition Process of Girlhood (It's Complicated)
- Latinx Influence in Public Art
- National Portrait Gallery Latino Initiatives: Portrait of Sylvia Rivera
- Overview of NMAH Collecting: How We Collect and Why
- Conversation with Curator for Latinx History and Culture, Ariana Curtis
- Art Museum of the Americas Murals
2019 LMSP Seminar
Highlights in Pictures
2019 LMSP Seminar Highlights in Pictures

Top: 2019 LMSP Fellows with Smithsonian Provost, Dr. John Davis
Center: 2019 LMSP Fellows pose for a group portrait
Bottom: 2019 LMSP Fellows with Curator Dr. Ariana Curtis
2019 LMSP Highlights in Pictures

Top left: NMAH Curator Dr. Theo Gonzalves speaks about cross-cultural collecting
Top center: Artist Frida Larios presents on augmented reality and museums
Top right: Curator Cristina Díaz Carrera discusses Folklife Festival stakeholder engagement
Bottom: 2019 LMSP Fellows, National Portrait Gallery staff, and guest speakers Marisa Lerer (LMSP 2006) and Kendal Henry pose with a portrait of LGBTQ rights activist Sylvia Rivera taken by Luis Carle in 2000 and held at the National Portrait Gallery
2019 LMSP Highlights in Pictures

I am forever grateful for my time with LMSP. While a part of the program I learned many valuable skills that have proved useful to my budding career as a public historian. Being back at my institution has allowed me to share the skills I gained while in DC. I am honored to have been, and continue, to be a part of the growing movement to increase the Latinx presence on the National Mall!

- Allison Saénz, 2019 LMSP Fellow

Top: 2019 LMSP fellows visit the Art Museum of the Americas at the Organization for America States for a murals tour
Bottom: 2019 LMSP fellows learned about the upcoming *Girlhood (It's Complicated)* Exhibit led by Dr. Nancy Bercaw and Dr. Kathleen Franz