

BECAUSE OF HER STORY

 Smithsonian

American Women's History Initiative

2022 Virtual Because of Her Story Summer Cohort Internship Program

June 13–August 5, 2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



Please select **three projects** that interest you from the descriptions below and enter your first, second, and third preferences on your application form in SOLAA. Highlight your skills and knowledge in these areas in your personal statement and resume.

#1 “Magnifying the Stories of American Women with the Freedmen’s Bureau Transcription Project”

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) | National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

With nearly 60,000 digital volunteers, the Smithsonian Transcription Center is the Smithsonian’s largest crowdsourcing platform, working with colleagues across the Institution and volunteers around the world to transcribe materials from the Smithsonian’s collections. We are seeking the fresh perspective of an intern as we work to improve Transcription Center instructional resources and amplify the stories of women documented in our largest ongoing project: The Freedmen’s Bureau Transcription Project.

Totaling over 1.7 million pages, the Freedmen’s Bureau records represent an unparalleled resource for understanding Reconstruction and African American History. Every page transcribed (280,000 pages and counting) by our digital volunteers reveals new insight into the individual and collective history of the post-Civil War South. Yet the stories of millions of women (including formerly enslaved women, Bureau agents, and schoolteachers) represented in these records have yet to be fully identified and explored. Working closely with mentors, the intern will review a selection of recently completed transcriptions; develop educational and instructional resources for our digital volunteer community; identify three powerful stories of women in the Freedmen’s Bureau Records that surprise, inspire, or speak to them; and produce a series of social media posts that amplify the voices of these women. Join experts in digital asset management, community management, genealogy, and archival practice to develop educational resources and communications content for our volunteer community and public audiences. Together, we’ll ensure these records, and the many American women whose names and experiences are included within, are more accessible and discoverable than ever before!

#2 “To Coin a Phrase: Notable Women of the American Quarters Program”

American Women’s History Initiative (AWHI) | Office of Communications and External Affairs (OCEA)

This internship with the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative team offers an opportunity for a writer with an interest in storytelling, communications, and/or marketing to help share vital women’s history with the public. You will write five short biographic articles about notable women from a variety of time periods who are being honored in the U.S. Mint’s American Women Quarters program. (Previous women honored include Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, and Maya Angelou, the celebrated writer, performer, and social activist.) Your biographies, which will debut on the Because Of Her Story website, will help audiences understand the importance of these women—some household names, some lesser-known—as the quarters featuring these women go into circulation. The articles will also be used and shared with teachers and classrooms through the Because Of Her Story education team. In addition, you will also work with a leading Social Media Strategist to learn how the central Smithsonian team crafts compelling social media posts and get a chance to draft posts that might debut on Smithsonian-affiliated accounts. The ideal candidate will be curious about women’s history and eager to explore the systems or structures that made “firsts” tough or impossible for previous women to achieve.

#3 “Beyond Marty’s Story: The Complexities of Interpreting Gender-Based Violence”

American Women’s History Initiative (AWHI) | National Museum of American History (NMAH) | Cooper Hewett Smithsonian Design Museum (CHSDM)

In 2021, members from the National Museum of American History, Cooper Hewett Smithsonian Design Museum, and the American Women’s History Initiative formed “Marty’s Group,” in honor of Martha “Marty” Goddard, an advocate and innovator who helped to develop the first sexual assault evidence kit. An incoming Smithsonian acquisition provides an access point to create digital content for a wide audience. This internship provides an opportunity to work directly with AWHI’s Acting Head of Education, NMAH’s Curator of Medicine and Science, and CHSDM’s Curator of Contemporary Design to create content and programming related to gender-based violence—an issue central to the health and wellness of women and non-binary people. The intern will develop interpretation, communication, and project management skills and will engage with local and national advocacy groups, as well as

Smithsonian educators, curators and researchers. Together, the mentors and intern will carefully consider: How can the Smithsonian use objects to inform the public about gender-based violence? What are the ways AWHI can amplify and support community-based organizations that work with survivors of gender-based violence? What are necessary partnerships and factors to carry out this work in a holistic way? The intern will develop a conversation kit and design a public program for fall 2022 or Spring 2023.

#4 “Creating Public Resources for Latina History”

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

The National Museum of American History's goal is to become the most accessible, inclusive, and relevant history museum in the country. Creating and communicating Latina history resources is a critical part of this ambition. Through this internship, you will have the unique opportunity to work cross-departmentally with the Office of Communications and Marketing and the Office of Curatorial Affairs to help create bilingual public resources about Latina history. Your primary task will be to support the museum's ongoing Latina history projects in three main areas: outreach, communications, and curatorial. You will attend exhibition team meetings, create digital resources, and assist with Spanish-language digital engagement. The driving questions for this internship will be: "How can the museum best communicate with Latinx—particularly Latina—audiences?" and "What types of educational and public resources can the museum create that are relevant to the Latinx community at large?" Through the Office of Communications and Marketing, you will help create bilingual communications resources that bring attention to ongoing Latina history projects at the museum. You will also help create a comprehensive communications and marketing plan for a bilingual Latina history exhibition opening in 2023. Through the Office of Curatorial Affairs you will assist curators and curatorial assistants with research and development of Latina content in current and upcoming exhibitions. **The ideal candidate is fully bilingual in English and Spanish (able to speak, read, and write in Spanish).**

#5 “Increasing the Representation of Asian Pacific American Women on Wikipedia”

American Women's History Initiative (AWHI) | Asian Pacific American Center (APAC)

How can collaborations between museums and the Wikimedia platforms help to solve the gender gap and representation issues? Wikipedia is the fifth most visited website globally, but only 19% of its biographies are about women and only 10% of editors identify as female. Without equitable representation on Wikipedia, notable Asian Pacific American women in a variety of fields are written out

of history. We are taking steps to change that. This internship will allow you to work alongside American Women's History Initiative, the Asian Pacific American Center, and the Wikimedia community to advance gender equity on Wikipedia by making our collections about Asian Pacific American women accessible on the Wikimedia platforms. You will create a Learning Lab that focuses on the intersection of Wikipedia, the cultural heritage sector, and Asian Pacific American women on the site, providing resources, analysis, and support to instructors and learners of all ages. This digitally focused internship will explore the place of open access platforms in museums, how to use sites like Wikipedia to reach a wider audience, and address content gaps like that of Asian Pacific American women on freely accessible platforms like Wikipedia. The future of museums is increasingly digital. You will learn about the current open access movement in museums and be urged to think of how career leaders can participate in these innovations.

#6 “Gram It This Way: Digital Engagement to Center Voices of Women Artists”

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

We've all been taught about the genius of Van Gogh, Picasso, and da Vinci. But what about Mendieta, Schneemann, and Bourgeois? Women have been making art since the beginning of time, but are underrepresented in the cultural, intellectual, and institutional discourse of art and art history. And when they are recognized, women artists are often pigeonholed and weighed down with labels. You have the chance to add to this important conversation with a virtual social media internship at the Hirshhorn, the nation's museum of modern and contemporary art. The Hirshhorn seeks an enthusiastic intern to help plan and execute an Instagram campaign, under the guidance of the curatorial and communications departments, for "Put It This Way: (Re)Visions of the Hirshhorn Collection." Opening June 24, 2022, this exhibition highlights the work of women and non-binary artists in the collection and addresses the complexities of what it means to be a woman artist. Enjoy creative freedom, a visible platform of 108,000 Instagram followers, and a highly collaborative work environment as you lift up the voices of women artists, center crucial perspectives, and shatter myths.

#7 “Looking Backward to Move Forward: Self-told Stories of Smithsonian Women Scientists”

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)

Until the latter half of the 20th century, scientific careers were largely filled by white men. As women with different backgrounds enter the sciences, they bring with them new, intersectional experiences. “Looking Backward to Move Forward: Self-Told Stories of Smithsonian Women Scientists” will bring these experiences and stories to the forefront, making them more inclusive and accessible for a broad audience. We want to inspire younger generations of women scientists and show them that they too can make it in a male-dominated field. During your internship, you will engage with SERC’s team of scientists and communications staff to organize, facilitate, and share conversational interviews between Smithsonian women scientists spanning multiple Smithsonian units, professional positions, and career stages. You will share the stories of their scientific breakthroughs and achievements, as well as the challenges they have faced along the way. Your work will help the Smithsonian highlight how perceptions of and reactions to women in science have changed over the decades, and promote a future focused on inclusivity, equity, and diversity in science. We’re excited to have you as part of our team!

#8 “The Sky Is Not the Limit: Women in Aviation and Spaceflight Soar Online”

National Air and Space Museum

Since the advent of aviation and spaceflight, women have been a part of every major milestone and every mundane task. Women’s history is the history of aviation and spaceflight. Yet women’s stories are untold and underimagined, leading to an erasure from the historical record that contributes to the continued underrepresentation of women in these fields today. NASM is committed to disrupting this pattern by researching and amplifying women’s stories in our exhibitions, public programs, and digital resources. We enthusiastically invite our Because of Her Story intern to help women in aviation and spaceflight soar online! In anticipation of the fall 2022 reopening of our reimagined West End galleries at the National Mall Building, we are enhancing our “Women in Aviation and Space” webpage to reflect the stories of women from our eight new exhibitions. You will amplify and expand upon these women’s stories by researching and writing biographies for our website using world-class Smithsonian collections and resources. The sky—and our physical museum spaces—are not the limit for women’s history! While exploring your own interests and expanding your knowledge and skills, you will help shape an important resource that will center women in the history of aviation and spaceflight. You will make a critical contribution to NASM’s historic 21st-century transformation, as well as a big impact for virtual

audiences everywhere. We're excited to welcome you to our collaborative and dynamic workplace as we make history more accurate, accessible, and inclusive together!

#9 “In Fleming’s Footsteps: Recognizing and Documenting Gendered Care Work in Astronomy”

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO)

Since the 19th century, women at the Harvard College Observatory have been the stewards of one of the most significant astronomical data sets in history—a collection of 500,000 glass plates that record the entire night sky (Digitizing A Sky Century at Harvard, DASCH). The Curators of Astronomical Photographs, beginning with Williamina Fleming, have organized and maintained the plates and their data, making them accessible to researchers around the globe. Care work in the sciences, like care work throughout Western culture, is gendered, with lower pay and prestige, and sometimes the only point of entry for women in scientific workplaces. Historians have not fully acknowledged the importance of this work because it is devalued. In fields like astronomy that privilege invention and discovery, the importance of care work is not acknowledged. You will help the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory recognize and document the stories of care workers in astronomy! During your internship, you will design and conduct oral history interviews with four staff members of the Harvard College Observatory who continue in Fleming’s footsteps today as part of the DASCH oral history initiative, amplifying women’s contributions to astronomy, Preserving Harvard’s Early Data and Research in Astronomy (Project PHaEDRA). Under the guidance of your mentor, you will ponder: What is care work and why is important in astronomy? How is care work gendered, devalued, and erased in astronomy? How can oral histories disrupt the processes of erasure and devaluation? How might the experiences of contemporary care workers inform our understanding of historical care workers? You will have an opportunity to share your work and lessons learned on the Wolbach Library website and in a presentation to the Project PHaEDRA team.

#10 “Black Feminist Public History: Roots, Branches, and Remedies”

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

The work of Black feminism is all around us, reverberating from the past and taking new forms in the present. Yet despite its vital contribution to American life, popularized Black feminist concepts – from self-care to intersectionality – have been divorced from their origins. Similarly, Black feminist history (made both in the academy and at the kitchen table) has been obscured. Curators Crystal Moten,

Modupe Labode, and Tsione Wolde-Michael, members of the African American History Curatorial Collective (AAHCC) at the National Museum of American History, are currently engaged in major projects exploring the history and impact of Black Feminism on publicly engaged historical practices. Working directly with curators, and with their mentorship and guidance, the intern will work in three important areas: 1) processing an oral history collection featuring interviews with distinguished Black feminists including Barbara Smith (founder of the Combahee River Collective), Dr. Brittney Cooper (public intellectual and author of *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpowers*), Dr. Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (MacArthur Fellowship recipient, historian and author of *How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*), and others; 2) researching material culture and primary sources from SI collections that will be included in a digital resource for K12-16 audiences; and 3) writing a blog post for NMAH's blog, "Oh Say Can You See" and developing a social media posts amplifying the stories unearthed during the internship period. The intern will be invited to engage in professional development opportunities as they relate to exploring the work of the AAHCC at NMAH.

#11 "An Ocean of Opportunity: Diversity in Marine Science at the Smithsonian"

**National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) | Smithsonian Marine Station (SMS) |
Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA)**

With an increased focus on the importance of Earth's oceans and their role in planetary and human wellbeing, so, too, is the role of marine researchers boosted. With ocean-facing activities occurring across the Smithsonian, the Smithsonian's network of scientists focused on the oceans is robust and growing. Unfortunately, representation of women in the scientific ranks, especially women of color, has historically been lacking. To strengthen the importance of diversity in science for understanding the complex processes related to Earth's oceans and how they influence human livelihoods, this virtual intern project will develop a series of profiles of diverse women working in marine science at the Smithsonian today. These profiles will showcase the backgrounds, work, interests and influences of three female marine researchers from across the Smithsonian, with opportunities to contrast their work today with historic stances towards women and women of color earlier in the Smithsonian's history. The profiles will be published on the Smithsonian Ocean Portal and cross-promoted on the National Museum of Natural History's and Smithsonian Marine Station's websites and social media channels. The intern will work with Smithsonian science communicators to plan and structure three written profiles, with great leeway for design approach; conduct interviews with story subjects; gather photos, videos, and

other media for potential use in the final profiles; and develop and enhance their storytelling abilities through written and audiovisual design.

#12 “From Footnotes to Features: Amazing Women in History”

Smithsonian Enterprises | *Smithsonian Magazine*

This internship with *Smithsonian* magazine offers an opportunity for a burgeoning writer, journalist, or historian to tell stories about the diversity of women whose accomplishments have yet to be shared with the world. Who are the unsung heroes who, as women--particularly women of color--have for too long been relegated to the footnotes of history? Learn how our editors engage in journalistic storytelling as you write articles for Smithsonianmag.com and help professional writers with their research and reporting. Play a key role in shaping our coverage through your own brainstorming and projects. As part of our editorial team, you will learn how a small but powerful group of editors produces a daily magazine and explore how to best share stories of the diversity of women’s history with a monthly audience of 10 million readers. During the internship you will attend daily meetings where the editorial team discusses what coverage will go up on the site each day, as well as weekly meetings centered on broader editorial strategy. You will have a firsthand understanding of what it takes to succeed in the world of online journalism and storytelling. The ideal candidate will be hungry to learn the skills of a professional reporter, eager to challenge the status quo, have some experience as a journalist, and must have curiosity running through your veins.

#13 “50 Years of Title IX: Impacts, Legacies, and Increasing Opportunities for African American Women in Sports”

National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in all programs or activities in all federally funded educational institutions. June 23, 2022 will mark the 50th Anniversary of Title IX and will acknowledge the accomplishments and invaluable contributions women have made in education, medicine, law, politics, and sports. But how did we get here? You will learn about the legacy of Title IX and how women athletes used their platform to champion social justice issues, benefiting not just women but society as a whole. Under the guidance of your mentors, you will learn about collections processes and conservation methods of iconic objects, as well as best practices for research and evaluation to further the work at NMAAHC. Assist in identifying,

researching, and collecting artifacts around women's contribution to sports. Help organize and evaluate the museum's collection of sports related artifacts, and aid in planning and implementing museum exhibitions, programs, and publications related to sports, African American history and culture, and women.

This program is administered by the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative's Education and National Access Committee with support from the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Internships.

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