



American Women's History Initiative

Because of Her Story 2020 Summer Internship

Project Descriptions

June 14–August 8, 2020

Deadline to Submit: **March 15, 2020**



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.

The American Women's History Initiative is funded through a public-private partnership with Congress, the American people and private donors, corporations and foundations. Learn more by visiting <https://womenshistory.si.edu/leadership-donors>.

American Women's History Initiative Project Selection

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

American Women's History Initiative Project Descriptions

#1 TRANSFORMATIONS

National Air and Space Museum

Join the content team as the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) transforms our exhibitions to a new level of public engagement. NASM is one of the most visited museums in the world and you will get a first-hand look into the processes of how large-scale exhibitions are planned, designed, and executed. Working within the Exhibits Design Department, you will assist the NASM Writer-Editor in exhibition script operations and learn interpretive approaches to increase accessibility and inclusion in order to enhance the visitor experience of our artifacts and original research. The internship focuses on the areas of interpretive planning, script development, editing and writing. The tasks will contribute to a cohesive museum visitor experience and align with the NASM Editorial Style Guide for Exhibits. Your tasks will vary depending on the exhibit design project phases and may include: • examining scripts and resolving consistency issues to ensure that they conform to our house style • evaluating interpretive writing, with focus on expanding stories of inclusion and diversity • draft label editing, proofing, and review for visitor evaluation • develop and conduct formative evaluation testing with museum visitors • correspond and interact with museum professionals such as curators, educators, and designers. Candidates should have excellent verbal and written communication skills, be detail-oriented, be able to multi-task, and have knowledge of Microsoft Word.

#2 WOMEN AND FEMMES IN AEROSPACE HISTORY

National Air and Space Museum

How will we create change in STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) environments for women and femmes? Through activities and conversations with visitors, the Astronomy Education Program looks to catalyze conversations on women and femmes in aerospace history to better understand the challenges women face today. As part of a team, the intern will have a chance to learn, develop, and lead activities on science, history, and the stories of women and femmes in STEM in the Museum's galleries and at the Phoebe Waterman Haas Public Observatory. During the internship, the intern will have the opportunity to engage with different informal learning techniques and interact with experts and stakeholders throughout the National Air and Space Museum and the local DC community. Based on research and conversations with experts and stakeholders, the intern will also have the chance to develop an activity that supports our ability to share stories of women and femmes in aerospace history, as well as discuss the challenges they face. Finally, you will have a chance to develop a training session to train staff and volunteers on how to facilitate your activity, as well as share topics you researched during your internship.

#3 BEFORE DOLORES HUERTA: EARLY LATINA LABOR ORGANIZERS

National Museum of American History

Before Dolores Huerta: Early Latina Labor Organizers is a research and access project that highlights the lives and legacy of Latinas: Emma Tenayuca, Luisa Capetillo, Luisa Moreno and Josefina de Fierro Bright. Very little is known of the lives of these amazing women activists, yet, they impacted the lives of many men and women working in different fields, from agriculture to canning, and from California to New York City. The intern will conduct research and help create a public program.

#4 GIRLHOOD: IT'S COMPLICATED

National Museum of American History

The driving question around this internship will be: How is the public connecting with the Girlhood exhibition? The intern will help with a range of activities around the *Girlhood: It's Complicated* exhibition. Starting just before the exhibition's opening, the intern will assist with last-minute preparations of all kinds and will help with opening programs and activities. But the main tasks of the intern throughout the summer will be threefold: 1) conduct on-the-floor evaluation of the exhibit, both

through observation and by interviewing visitors; 2) assist with maintaining the exhibit experience, cataloging visitor responses and selecting the best ones to be used on social media; 3) assist the collections manager with updating collections records related to the *Girlhood* exhibition. There will be a good balance between front-of-house and behind-the-scenes work.

#5 REPRESENTING NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY AT NMAI

National Museum of the American Indian

Representing Native American Women's History at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), the BOHS intern will work with the NMAI Assistant Director for History and Culture and appropriate offices across the Museum and Smithsonian to expand research initiated through the 2019 *Smithsonian American Women* publication and identify additional key collections and objects related to the history of Native American Women, their personal stories and professional accomplishments, which may lead to new options for digital scholarship projects. As NMAI works to launch the museum's presence on the Google Arts and Culture website and redevelop the NMAI website in 2021, the BOHS intern will work closely with the mentor and staff in the NMAI Office of Museum Learning and Programs to plan and support a Wikipedia-edit-a-thon focused on expanding Wikipedia entries for Native American women represented in the NMAI collections and archives, advancing the *Smithsonian American Women* book research and Native Knowledge 360 curriculum development, and including new stories of Native women's history represented in NMAI and across the Smithsonian. The BOHS intern will collaborate with NMAI colleagues, and archivists at the National Anthropological Archives and Smithsonian Institution Archives to successfully schedule, plan and complete the Wikipedia event.

The mentor cohort learning lesson topic will focus on the American experience through the lens of Native American women's history already represented in exhibitions, publications, and programs at the NMAI, with curator tours of the "Americans" exhibition, meeting with the publications manager, and discussions with educators to introduce the development of new modules for the Native Knowledge 360 online curriculum, and the exploration of the potential to develop new exhibitions, publications, and programs on Native American women's history for the upcoming 2026 250th anniversary of the United States.

#6 USING WIKI TO SHARE STORIES OF WOMEN IN ANTHROPOLOGY

National Museum of Natural History | National Anthropological Archives

Improve the discoverability of women's archives on the web. Wikipedia is the 5th most visited website on the planet. But only 18% of all Wikipedia biographical pages are about women and only 1 in 10 Wiki editors identify as women. This internship at the Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archives (of the National Museum of Natural History) will give the intern the opportunity to search the archives for the stories of underrepresented women in anthropology and archaeology, and to make those stories public through the platform of Wikipedia. The intern will learn the basics of archival research, gain critical digital information skills, and have a crucial opportunity to improve the web's stark gender imbalance.

#7 IN THEIR OWN VOICES: NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

National Museum of Natural History

For nearly ten years, "Recovering Voices" has worked on the cusp of the community, museum and collections interface through the Community Research Program. This program has created long standing research collaborations, partnerships and powerful outcomes for communities. Marginalized Native American women have been quietly driving much of this work and their impact has been significant. But when do we hear from these American voices? What role have marginalized American women played in bridging Native American communities, their cultural heritage, and museums? What stories are missing from American history that would help inspire a greater appreciation and understanding of Native American communities and how they have shaped American History? To help tell a more robust, complete story of American women's history, "In Their Own Voices", this internship will provide the intern with the opportunity to work with some of the country's leading community researchers to curate and pilot an outward facing, interactive, social media and public outreach communication program in tandem with the 2020 Community Research Program.

#8 DIGITAL ACCESS: AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS IN SAAM COLLECTIONS

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Work alongside the Smithsonian American Art Museum's digital content team to identify key artists in our collection, research their lives and work, and tell their stories across multiple platforms. This internship project will span the creative and research process, working closely with content experts and SAAM's content team. Together we'll create a content plan from research to publication to enrich our

website and digital platforms for current and future audiences. In addition to working closely with experts at SAAM and other key Smithsonian units, the intern will have opportunities for creative input and artist selection. Strong research, writing, and creative problem-solving skills, as well as a keen curiosity and willingness to work collaboratively are key.

#9 UNHERALDED WOMEN: SHARING UNTOLD STORIES THROUGH JOURNALISM

Smithsonian Enterprises | *Smithsonian* magazine

A great spot for a burgeoning writer, journalist, or historian, this internship with *Smithsonian* magazine offers an opportunity to tell stories about the diversity of women whose stories have yet to be shared with the world. Who are the unsung heroes of science, the ingenious brains of technology, the brave souls of the military who have for too long been relegated to the footnotes of history? Learn how *Smithsonian* magazine reaches millions of readers each month and be part of a vibrant team of editors and writers who are eager to educate their curious audience with new narratives. In this internship, the right candidate will be hungry to learn the skills of a professional reporter and eager to challenge the status quo where women, particularly women of color, have been ignored by the books, newspapers, and movies of years past. The intern will have the chance to meet researchers from all across the Smithsonian as they dive deeper into these unheralded women, and then will work with editors to fine tune their journalistic chops as they write stories to be published on Smithsonianmag.com The ideal candidate will have some experience as a journalist, and must have curiosity running through their veins.

#10 SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WOMEN’S COUNCIL

Smithsonian Institution Archives

The Smithsonian Institution Archives’ American Women’s History Initiative Digital Curator researches and produces digital resources and exhibitions about Smithsonian women working in science—from founding to the present. The Because of Her Story intern will help research and produce digital content about the history of the Smithsonian Institution’s Women’s Council (SIWC). The intern will help create a Wikipedia page and Wikidata about the SIWC, and as a final project, the intern will write an article for the SI Archives’ “The Bigger Picture” blog of the findings about the Smithsonian Institution Women’s Council. The SIWC was established in 1972 to discuss promoting the status of women at the Smithsonian. Women were elected by their peers to serve on the council annually, and they worked with Smithsonian leadership to promote the interests of women at the Smithsonian. SIA has over

twenty-five boxes of archival materials, including newsletters, meeting minutes, correspondence, and reports, which record the SIWC's formation and impact at the Smithsonian. These records provide insight into the greatest challenges and opportunities for women at the Smithsonian from 1970-1990, the history of the Smithsonian's Minority Women's Council, as well as what workplace culture was like for women in this period. Key Research Questions include: What major work/life issues did the SIWC identify relating to women's employment at the Smithsonian? How did SIWC work with employees at the Smithsonian, as well as SI leadership, to address the issues? What impact did the SIWC have on working conditions for women at the Smithsonian? Why did the SIWC form? What relationship did it have to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, as well as the Smithsonian Minority Women's Council? Why did the SIWC stop operating, likely in the 1990's?

#11 WEDNESDAYS IN MISSISSIPPI

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) seeks an intern to assist with the conceptual development of the upcoming exhibition, *Wednesdays in Mississippi*. The exhibition recognizes the crucial role of women in the civil rights movement, sharing the extraordinary story of women coming together across race, class, and religion to change the course of history. Through this SITES project, you will be introduced to SITES' exhibition development process and work with curators, subject matter experts, designers, and educators to shape the way this crucial story will be shared across the United States.