

BECAUSE OF HER STORY

 Smithsonian

American Women's History Initiative

Because of HER STORY

2019 Summer Internship Program Description

June 17–August 9, 2019

Deadline to Submit: **April 8, 2019**



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 Overview

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in America, the Smithsonian is designing exhibitions, developing programs, hiring curators, and expanding the national collection to better portray how women have shaped this country. The stories we tell will deepen our understanding of women's contributions to America and the world, showing how women have advanced and how we as a country value equality and the contributions of all our citizens. We will inspire new leaders to raise their hands and follow these role models, who have made a difference in the life of our nation. For information about the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative ("the Initiative"), visit <https://womenshistory.si.edu>.

Because of HER STORY Internship Overview and Goals

Through a variety of experiential learning opportunities, including a hands-on internship experience, in addition to a curriculum of more structured cohort activities, Because of HER STORY interns will develop familiarity and experience with museums in general and American women's history in particular. This will allow interns to gain a deeper understanding about museum and educational outreach best practices, job skills for working in a scholarly and educational workplace, and increased knowledge and experience regarding interdisciplinary women's history. Through hands-on activities and original research that will help further the work of the American Women's History Initiative, interns will: **amplify** women's voices to tell a more complete American story, **reach** a diverse audience, and **empower** and inspire people from all walks of life through education and public outreach.

The Because of HER STORY program ("the Internship") aims to empower young people to become leaders in their communities by contributing to this national effort and participating in a transformational summer experience that will provide unique tools for civic engagement and representation in museum and other community spaces. To view specific learning objectives and how to apply, please refer to the Internship Application Guide.

Program Components:

1. (8)-week summer internship experience (6/17/19–8/9/19) with a Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative project mentor based in Smithsonian facilities in the Washington D.C. metro area.
2. Various professional development opportunities provided by the internship mentor, the cohort facilitator and Initiative committee members, and Smithsonian and other field professionals.
3. Hands-on learning experiences with a specific project that can range from research to program development.
4. Weekly cohort activities that engage in timely subject specific discussions, group team-building activities, and interactive opportunities to contribute further to the Initiative’s concepts and themes through feedback, prototype development and testing, public relations/media (i.e. blogs and social media, etc.), and audience engagement activities (i.e. programming, etc.). Activities will also include soft skill development such as networking and leadership/professional capacity building through mechanisms such as identifying and leveraging internal resources (i.e. affinity groups, etc.), and future mentorship opportunities.
5. Activities will be led by cohort facilitators and include weekly internship lessons learned and connections debrief.
6. Post-internship:
 - a) Interns are encouraged to stay in touch with the Smithsonian via their mentors, other Smithsonian staff, and the intern cohort group.
 - b) Interns are empowered to share American Women’s History Initiative content throughout the academic year with their local and collegiate regional areas leveraging a Smithsonian provided tool-kit. This opportunity builds on research, writing, public speaking, and audience engagement skills learned during the internship.

What will the experience be like?

We are looking forward to building this internship program as a cohort experience, which will allow for deeper connections with Smithsonian staff and collections, and amongst the internship program participants. This program offers (10) internships in its first cohort year. The cohort will have the opportunity to engage directly with Smithsonian staff members in order to provide direct professional networking opportunities, continued conversations and refinement of this program experience. The Initiative is exploring ways to develop a private online tool to encourage continued cohort engagement during and after the internship experience.

Internship Descriptions

There will be (10) internship projects for the 2019 summer cohort program experience. These projects are related to on-going American Women's History Initiative projects in the areas of collections care, curatorial, digital, marketing, and education and public engagement. Specific details and description can be found in the [Application Guide](#)

For more program information and how to apply, please refer to the Because of HER STORY Internship Application Guide found at <https://womenshistory.si.edu/news/2019/03/call-interns>.