

# BECAUSE OF HER STORY



American Women's History Initiative

Because of HER STORY

2020 Summer Internship **Program Description**

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>.

As part of the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative ("the Initiative"), the Smithsonian will host a cohort of ten (10) Because of HER STORY (BOHS) undergraduate interns in the summer of 2020. This cohort intern program is in its second year and will be offered to Washington, D.C. area-based units, with possible expansion later. Through a variety of experiential learning opportunities, including a hands-on internship experience, and a curriculum of more structured cohort activities, Because of HER STORY interns ("the interns") will develop familiarity and experience with museums in general and American women's history. 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 increase their knowledge and experience regarding interdisciplinary women's history. Through activities that might include developing education and outreach programs and/or original research the interns 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.

**Program Components:**

1. Unit Internship Project (4 days/week), which focuses on the professional development of each intern. This should include a tailored project scope based on an 8-week program with 2-week project milestones (orientation/introduction, deep project dive, draft of project deliverable, final project result). Project should include one-on-one in person weekly meetings at minimum with the principal mentor that are tailored to student interests and career goals, in addition to general project guidance.
2. Cohort Learning Experiences (1 day + weekly dinner), which focus on personal and interpersonal development. One of these learning experiences will focus on alumni engagement.
  - a. Weekly Work Day Cohort Learning Experiences: Hands-on and Behind-the-Scenes exploration of the Smithsonian and discussion related to topics selected by intern cohort regarding women's and workplace issues. This will include short readings prior to weekly discussion and group share out with rotating lead cohort member.

- b. **Weekly Cohort Dinners:** This is part of a more structured informal cohort community-building effort. Weekly dinners should be “paid” and hosted by the program and include guest invitees (mentors, speakers, facilitators, etc.). This weekly experience will focus on promoting informal communication skills among the cohort, including participating in timely current event discussions and their connections to the cohort, which allow them to articulate their thoughts, practice active listening, and negotiate civil discourse. The dinners will also allow for the group to discuss possible ways of community engagement and outreach when they return home.
3. **Public Engagement and Group Project:** In addition, to unit level Smithsonian visitor interactions, the BOHS Internship Program will design a Smithsonian Share-Fair day to engage all Smithsonian employees, interns, volunteers, and contractors with the work that the cohort produced during the internship and learning experience. This will include individual tables discussing their unit projects and a short presentation on the cohort’s Because of Her Story group project.

*Please note: This internship program is geared towards undergraduate students and recent college graduates (graduation completion within one year of program date).*