

BECAUSE OF HER STORY



American Women's History Initiative

Because of Her Story

2021 Virtual Summer Internship Program Description

June 14–August 6, 2021

Deadline to Submit: **February 28, 2021**



2019 Because of Her Story Internship Cohort

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 virtually host a cohort of twelve (12) Because of Her Story (BOHS) undergraduate or recently graduated interns in the summer of 2021. This cohort intern program is in its third year and is offered to all Smithsonian units. Through a variety of experiential learning opportunities, including a hands-on virtual 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 such as 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 includes 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). Projects include one-on-one virtual 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** (every Friday + weekly dinner every Tuesday), which focus on personal and interpersonal development.
 - a. **Virtual Weekly Workday Cohort Learning Experiences:** Curated and Behind-the-Scenes exploration of the Smithsonian and discussions related to topics selected by the intern cohort regarding women's and workplace issues. This will include short readings prior to weekly discussions and group share-out with rotating lead cohort member. Cohort members will also work on the Cohort Group Project.
 - b. **Virtual Weekly Cohort Dinners:** Virtual weekly dinners will be 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 interactions, the BOHS Internship Program will design a Virtual Smithsonian Share-Fair day to engage other Smithsonian employees, interns, volunteers, and contractors with the work that the cohort produced during the internship and learning experience. This will include 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 college students (rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors) and recent college graduates from an undergrad program (graduation within one year of June 2021). However, all eligible applicants who applied for the 2020 Because of Her Story Summer Internship Program are eligible to apply to the 2021 Program.