BECAUSE OF
HER STORY

✹ Smithsonian

American Women's History Initiative

2023 Because of Her Story Summer Cohort Internship Program

June 12–August 4, 2023

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 "Celebrating the Stories of Women Printmakers"

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Women's printmaking stories continue to be underrepresented in art historical documentation. This internship will offer an opportunity to work with ink-printed relief, intaglio, or lithographic prints produced by 19th and 20th century women printmakers. The intern will examine prints housed in the National Museum of American History's Graphic Arts Collection, research the artists and their works, and will write about two or three of the artists of their choosing. The intern will learn how objects are collected, documented and stored, and shared with the public through research and exhibitions. Through this project, the intern will help us explore how NMAH can most effectively amplify women's printmaking stories; how NMAH can support other women artists by seeing artists like themselves represented in stories about printmaking history; and how can NMAH make artist histories more inclusive and equitable for women of all identities? This internship project will be in person on-site at NMAH two days a week and virtual two days a week.

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

American Women's History Initiative (AWHI) | Office of Public Affairs (OPA)

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. The intern 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 Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, and Maya Angelou, the celebrated writer, performer, and social activist.) These biographies will help audiences understand the importance of these women—some household names, some lesser-known—as the quarters featuring these women go into circulation. In addition, the intern will learn Smithsonian best practices for social media and will draft posts that may debut on Smithsonian American Women's History Museum channels. 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. This internship project will be in-person on-site at OPA one day a week and virtual three days a week.

#3   "Star Stories: The Women Behind the Science"

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) | NASA's Universe of Learning (UoL)

NASA's Universe of Learning (UoL) team at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory is developing an audio series to highlight stories of astrophysical discovery and the people behind the science, with a specific focus on women scientists and scientists from underrepresented minorities. The Because of Her Story intern will work with the UoL team to develop the content for an episode of this audio series. Their responsibilities will include choosing one American woman in astrophysics to showcase, translating their science into a story for public consumption, choosing an American woman astrophysicist to interview on the current implications of their work, and developing questions for the interview. They will have the opportunity to collaborate with team members at both SAO and UoL, and will interact with and learn from experts in various fields. Through this project, the intern will combine scientific thinking, creativity and writing skills, reporting and interviewing skills, and an understanding of how to communicate with diverse audiences, all culminating in the creation of an exciting in-depth audio story about a revolutionary American woman and her breakthrough in astrophysics.

This project explores the questions: Who are the unsung heroines of American astrophysics, and how can we better highlight their stories? What are the intricacies and subtleties of the scientific process, and how can we communicate them in a way to foster public understanding and trust in science? How can we combine science, culture, and human stories to showcase a comprehensive history of discovery in true Smithsonian fashion? This internship project will be virtual four days a week.

#4   "Correcting the Records: Attributing Credit to Women in Science"

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

The OCIO Data Science Lab is a multidisciplinary research group that is using data science tools to study digitized collections and archives data. One active research project is contributing to our knowledge of Smithsonian women in science and how they have shaped Smithsonian collections. In particular, we are

using Bionomia (https://bionomia.net), a tool to attribute credit to natural history collectors and identifiers. Throughout the Smithsonian's history, many women in science did not receive proper credit for their work because they either were not official employees or worked alongside their spouses and were referred to as "Mrs. <spouse's name>." In many cases, this led to the specimens that they collected being attributed to their spouses. This project seeks to build upon our ongoing work to properly attribute specimens to women in science and to create visualizations of their collections-based research. Experience with either Python or R programming language would be helpful, though training is available for interns without prior experience. This internship project will be in-person on-site at OCIO three days a week and virtual one day a week.

#5   "Accessible Universe: Amplifying Science Stories for Inclusive Education through Sight, Sound and Touch"

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO)

When we tell stories about science, we tell stories about culture and identity, both collective and individual. Science storytelling helps learners understand the "how's" and the "why's" of science—two critical areas for fostering new STEM learners and for being inclusive in science communications and education. In an effort to increase exposure to STEM role models and STEM content, this project is committed to ensure that these stories are diverse in subject matter, but also inclusive in their telling. Utilizing the technology of XR (Extended Reality), the project will blend print, sonification, audio/video content, and 3D models. This project will include stories of female scientists, scientists of color, people of different abilities and native languages, and transgender and non-conforming (TGNC) scientists. The BOHS intern will play a key role in shaping this project through brainstorming and research. They will engage in user interface design by helping to storyboard the diverse learner experience, learn the intricacies of developing creative products through teamwork, and participate in meetings with astrophysicists, web developers and designers. This internship project will be virtual four days a week.

#6 "Improving Asian Pacific American Women Representation on Wikimedia through Crowdsourcing"

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

How can collaborations between museums and the Wikimedia platforms help to solve the shared gender gap and representation issues in both? Wikipedia is the 5th 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 women in a variety of fields are written out of history. We are taking steps to change that! This internship will allow a BOHS intern to work alongside the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative and the Wikimedia community to advance gender equity on Wikipedia by making our collections about Asian Pacific American (AAPI) women accessible on the Wikimedia platforms. With the help of expert Wikimedians at the Smithsonian, the intern will work to use software tools to identify and change outdated terminology related to AAPI women and women's history on Wikipedia, Wikidata, and Wikimedia Commons. This internship will be entirely digitally focused and will allow for exploration of the place of open access platforms in museums, how to use sites like Wikipedia to reach a wider audience, and addressing content gaps like that of Asian Pacific American women on freely accessible sites like Wikipedia. The future of museums is increasingly digital. The BOHS intern will learn about the current open access movement in museums and be urged to think of how early career leaders can participate in these innovations. This internship project will be virtual four days a week.

#7 "No longer an 'And:' Amplifying the Stories of Field-working Women"

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)

Since the 1880s, what is now the National Anthropological Archives has been collecting and sharing the papers of anthropologists and archaeologists. However, the insights of female (including BIPOC) anthropologists are relatively invisible. Their work is often framed as an addition to the men they worked with or is not widely recognized. We aim to surface and highlight the stories of these groundbreaking women. The BOHS intern will join experts in archiving, digitization, and transcription to assess the gaps in how women are presented, and will develop resources that share the stories of these women—making the insights and scientific expertise of these women more accessible than ever before. The BOHS intern will: evaluate the visibility of women anthropologists in the National Anthropological Archives, through web and Wikipedia searches; develop informational resources about

the field notebooks of women researchers held in our archive; research and produce digital content highlighting stories of women from the National Anthropological Archives; and draft social media posts or other web content that amplifies the voices of these women. Experience with social media, Wikipedia, or writing for the web is preferred. This internship project will be in-person on-site at NMNH two days a week and virtual two days a week.

#8   "Women of Paleontology: Digging Deeper into their Untold Stories"
National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)

Historically, the face of paleontology has often been dominated by white males from wealthy backgrounds, and the trope of the heroic male paleontologist was created based on stories of early paleontological discovery within this context. Women have always been part of the story of paleontology, yet their contributions are often hidden in the details. In the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Department of Paleobiology, a myriad of references to the impact of women on our fossil collections await discovery and acknowledgement. This project will help to tell the stories of these women by digging into specimen records and archives to identify female contributors and expand our understanding of who they are and the roles they played in the history of the nation's fossil collection. This project will include highlighting and expanding on knowledge about well-known female paleontologists like Julia Gardner or digging into the histories to bring back the names and identities of people like "Mrs. Paul E. Drez,"previously only known in our records under her husband's name. The BOHS intern will work with our team to establish methods for disambiguation, creation of biographies, records enhancements, and distribution of data through public, shared knowledge platforms. The intern will also have the opportunity to engage with community partners, contributing to our growing network of diverse perspectives in paleontological data. Familiarity with Wiki platforms (e.g. Wikipedia, Wikidata) and with data processing programs like OpenRefine preferred. This internship project will be in-person on-site at NMNH three days a week and virtual one day a week.

#9   "Native Women in the Revolutionary Period: Teaching Untold Stories of Women Leaders"

National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)

The National Museum of the American Indian's education initiative Native Knowledge 360° is creating a digital learning module on the experiences of Native peoples during the Revolutionary era. This internship provides the unique opportunity to directly contribute to an extension of this module that will be available to teachers and students all over the world. The participation and contributions of Native peoples during the Revolutionary war are often minimized or overlooked in U.S. curricula, especially the contributions of Native women leaders. This project seeks answer the following questions: What role did Native women leaders play in the Revolutionary period? What was their impact? How can teachers use inquiry and research to facilitate student learning about these Native women leaders? The BOHS intern will collect and analyze research and scholarship to support the creation of educational materials centering the narratives of Nanyehi [Nancy Ward] (Cherokee); Nonhelema (Shawnee); and Konwatsi'tsiaienni [Mary Brant] (Mohawk). The intern will have the opportunity to engage with 18th century primary source materials written by and about Native women leaders located in archives around the world. The intern will help synthesize this research to create engaging inquiries and educational resources (for example: teaching posters, listicles, a website, or a podcast) about these remarkable women. The educational resources will highlight their crucial contributions which are often left out of the narrative of the Revolution, shifting students' perspective of the war itself. This is especially salient as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Teachers are eager to find new ways to frame the Revolution and center the stories of Native people and women. The ideal candidate will have some background in research, education theory, and/or social studies education. This internship project will be in-person on-site at NMAI two days a week and virtual two days a week.

#10   "Illuminating Women's Stories in Air and Space for Family Audiences"

National Air and Space Museum (NASM)

The Education Department at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) provides families with opportunities to learn together through collaborative exploration, discovery, and conversation. We also want families to be inspired by our research and collections which highlight the science, technology, and history of aeronautics and space exploration. "Soar Together at Air and Space Family Days," the current

signature family program at NASM, invites families to explore various fascinating air and space topics through activities, experiences, collections, and stories about innovators from diverse backgrounds who challenged conventions and changed the world. Soar Together at Air and Space Family Days provide virtual live and on-demand activities and in-person events happening throughout the year onsite at the museum amongst the iconic artifacts and exhibits. During this internship, the BOHS intern will conduct research to create a resource bank of content—such as stories, artifacts, images and collection items—that will be used to create activities for future Soar Together programs that introduce families to the untold and overlooked stories of women in aerospace history. The BOHS intern will apply their research towards the development of two activities for multigenerational family audiences for Fall 2023 Soar Together programs. This internship project will be in-person on-site at NASM two days a week and virtual two days a week.

#11   "Drawn to Art: Tales of Inspiring Women Artists"

Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)

Since 2020, the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) has produced and published *Drawn to Art: Tales of Inspiring Women Artists*, a series of web comics which combine themes of diversity, inclusion, and empowerment in a digital-first format, to honor the struggles and triumphs of women artists whose works are in the museum's collection. SAAM sought to give young people the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the stories of visionaries and rule breakers, and to draw strength from that visibility. In addition to telling the stories of women artists—especially women of color or from marginalized communities—the digital first *Drawn to Art* series is reaching our target audience of middle school-age readers and their adult caregivers and teachers in the online spaces they already occupy. The popularity of the web comic format comes from the compelling aesthetic and easy-to-read mix of text and visual content, and educators are increasingly using them as teaching material. The *Drawn to Art* comics were published on the museum's website and social media channels. The BOHS intern will help bring SAAM's full run of 30 web comics to a wider audience through creating accessibility aids such as ALT text, writing and researching blog posts, helping to create short videos and social media posts, identifying key spaces online for outreach, and gathering and analyzing teacher feedback to inform development of classroom resources. This internship project will be in-person on-site at SAAM during the Summer Teacher Institutes, June 27-30, 2023 and July 25-28, 2023, allowing the BOHS intern to

interact with and learn from a key audience. Outside of these dates, this internship project will be virtual four days a week.