

BECAUSE OF HER STORY



American Women's History Initiative

2023 Because of Her Story Cohort Internship

Program Description

June 12–August 4, 2023

Deadline to Submit: 9:00am EST February 13, 2023*

**Applications will be capped at 400 students. The application will close when SOLAA receives 400 applicants or February 13, whichever comes first.*



2019 Because of Her Story Internship Cohort

As part of the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative (AWHI), the Smithsonian will host a cohort of 14 Because of Her Story (BOHS) undergraduate or recently graduated interns in the summer of 2023. This cohort intern program is in its fourth year and is offered to all Smithsonian units. Through a variety of experiential learning opportunities, including a hands-on internship at a designated Smithsonian unit, and a curriculum of in-person structured cohort activities, BOHS interns will develop familiarity and experience with museums and research units and American women's history. This internship program will allow interns to gain a deeper understanding about museum and educational best practices, job skills for working in a museum or a research center, and will increase their knowledge and experience regarding interdisciplinary women's history. Through such projects as developing educational and outreach programs or materials, creating posts for a social media campaign, or conducting research, the interns will help further the work of the American Women's History Initiative. BOHS 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.

All interns will be based in Washington, D.C. Cohort Learning Experiences will be in-person in Washington, D.C. Internship projects will either be onsite in-person at a Smithsonian museum or research center, online virtually with a Smithsonian museum or research center, or a hybrid of both (locations are noted in each project description).

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. **Unit Internship Project** (4 days/32 hours per week, Monday through Thursday, generally 9am EST to 5pm EST), 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. Projects will include one-on-one weekly meetings at a minimum with the principal mentor that are tailored to student interests and career goals, in addition to general project guidance. Each principal mentor will set-up at least one informational interview with another SI or non-SI colleague that are related to the intern's academic or career interests. Internship projects will either be onsite in-person at a Smithsonian museum or research center, online virtually with a Smithsonian museum or research center, or a hybrid of both (locations are noted in each project description).

2. **Cohort Learning Experiences** (every Friday + weekly dinner every Tuesday), which focus on personal and interpersonal development. All interns will be based in Washington, D.C. Cohort Learning Experiences will be in-person in Washington, D.C.
 - a. **Friday Cohort Learning Experiences:** Selected and Behind-the-Scenes exploration of the Smithsonian and panel discussions regarding women’s and workplace issues. This will include short readings prior to weekly discussions and a lunchtime guided conversation with the cohort and internship facilitator/coordinator. Cohort members will also work on their individual project presentation.
 - b. **Tuesday Cohort Dinners:** Weekly dinners will be hosted by the program on Tuesdays at 6pm EST and include guest invitees (BOHS mentors, AWHI staff, and other Smithsonian colleagues). This weekly experience will focus on promoting informal communication skills among the cohort, including participating in discussions with women and leaders across the Smithsonian, which allow them to articulate their thoughts, practice active listening, and negotiate civil discourse.
3. **Public Engagement and Individual Project Presentation:** In addition to unit level Smithsonian interactions, the Cohort will give short presentations on their individual unit projects at a Share-Fair, engaging other Smithsonian colleagues with the work that the cohort focused on during the internship.

***Please note: This internship program is geared towards undergraduate college students (rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors) and recent college graduates from an undergraduate program (graduation within one year of June 2023). Students must be 18 years old to apply.**

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 Internship Programs.

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>.