

BECAUSE OF HER STORY



Smithsonian American Women's History Museum

2024 Because of Her Story Cohort Internship

Program Description

June 10–August 2, 2024

Deadline to Submit Application: 5:00pm EST February 7, 2024*

****Applications will be capped at 400 students. The application will close when SOLAA receives 400 applicants or 5pm February 7, whichever comes first.***



2023 Because of Her Story Internship Cohort

As part of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum (SAWHM), the Smithsonian will host a cohort of up to 14 Because of Her Story (BOHS) undergraduate or recently graduated interns in the summer of 2024. 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 Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. 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 a week, Monday through Thursday; 32 hours per week, generally 9am ET to 5pm ET), 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 the intern's 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:** 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 coordinator. Cohort members will also work on their individual project presentations.
 - b. **Tuesday Cohort Dinners:** Weekly dinners are hosted by the program on Tuesdays at 6pm ET and include guest invitees (BOHS mentors, SAWHM 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, each intern will give a five minute presentation 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 accepts undergraduate college students (rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors) and recent college graduates from an undergraduate program (graduation within one year of June 2024). Students must be 18 years old to apply.**