

SMITH COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (FALL 2023)  
2023 Internship Project Description

(Send to Alex Capobianco [REDACTED])

Name of Smithsonian Staff Mentor(s): [REDACTED]

Title of Smithsonian Staff Mentor(s): Curator

Phone Number(s): [REDACTED]

Email Address(es): [REDACTED]

Museum/Institute/Office: NMAH

Department/Division/Office (if applicable): Division of Home and Community Life

Project Title (must be ONSITE): Heart and Soul: Lowrider Culture in the US

Project Description – *Please provide as much detail as possible. What will the intern learn? How will this internship benefit the intern and your unit? Please also include any relevant background information on the function of your unit, department, or office:*

*Corazón y Vida: Lowrider Culture in the United States*, a collaboration between SITES, NMAH, and CFCH, is a collecting initiative and traveling exhibit that explores Chicano car culture from several angles: as cultural and community expression; as technological innovation and artistic creativity, and as a set of relationship between families, community, and the nation.

The NMAH project has many components, a traveling photo exhibit, collection documentation, oral history processing, a catalog/book project, educational and teacher training products, public programs, and a possible Folklife Festival in collaboration with the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. The student will see the variety of tasks, the creative collaboration, and the public impact that one exhibit idea can have.

The research the Division undertakes is concerned with domestic and social environments and the intersection between public and private life. We explore changing notions of home, family, and community and how individuals and groups have reinforced or challenged accepted ideas of family, gender roles, community, age, religion, the division of labor, and social and political

issues. This project is firmly set within our Latino History program, and as such, will have other Latino/a history connections and collections to connect with.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the variety of products and tasks that go into creating a traveling exhibit and series of programs from the curatorial, collections, and public programs lens.
- Gain experience using XG collections management database and cataloging objects.
- Understand and gain experience processing and using oral histories for a variety of tasks.
- Gain experience conceptualizing and creating online posts and online labels.
- Gain experience using primary and secondary sources in a variety of libraries to research car culture, lowrider culture, Mexican American history and popular culture in the US.