Internship Opportunity

Katzenberger Foundation Art History Internship

Unsettled Nature: Artists Reflect on the Age of Humans - Creating Exhibition Programming

Project Description:
The Office of Education, Outreach, and Visitor Experience (EOVE) creates programs and associated marketing and outreach materials that highlight, support, and promote research, exhibitions, and collections management at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).

The Community Programs branch of EOVE produces lectures, film screenings, discussions, demonstrations, workshops, science cafes, art/science programs, and other events that are open to the public. Since March 13, 2020, these programs have been presented virtually – streamed live over the internet and also recorded and archived for viewing anytime.

After Hours programming focuses on evening and weekend events for adult audiences. This programming includes the Beyond the Exhibition series, which highlights the content, curators, and conversations inspiring new and developing exhibitions at the National Museum of Natural History. Currently, the Museum has on display an exhibition featuring contemporary artists engaging current issues of human impact on the environment, entitled Unsettled Nature: Artists Reflect on the Age of Humans. When the Museum reopens to the public – and possibly even before – we will offer a series of thought-provoking and participatory public programs and web components in support of the exhibition, under the Beyond the Exhibition umbrella.

The Public Programs Intern will assist NMNH staff with research, development, promotion, implementation, and evaluation of public programs and web pages related to the exhibition Unsettled Nature: Artists Reflect on the Age of Humans. The programs will be both virtual (in the near term) and on site (in the longer term). Among the intern’s responsibilities will be to research potential program topics and presenters including artists, curators, authors, scientists, filmmakers, critics, and others who can deliver accessible presentations for the general public; assist in development of program agendas; assist with program logistics such as scheduling presenters; contribute to the content and development of an Unsettled Nature landing page on
the Museum’s Education website; assist with development of marketing materials to broaden our audience and encourage program registration; learn to measure performance by assessing registration numbers, survey responses, revenue from paid programs, and e-newsletter and web engagement. Training and guidance will be provided by NMNH staff.

Learning Objectives:

- Practicing her/his professional skills by working as a member of a diverse, creative team and focusing on collaboration, critical thinking, and data-driven decision making.
- Developing proficiency in production of marketing/outreach content demonstrated through a portfolio of materials.
- Developing an understanding and appreciation for effective art and science communication techniques and approaches for audience development.
- Gaining an understanding of research, curation, event development and marketing practices within NHMH and throughout the Smithsonian.
- Gaining knowledge of opportunities that connect the museum, art history & curation, scientific research, education, and media fields.
- Gaining proficiency in development and analysis of business reports and spreadsheets, useful in evaluating the effectiveness of museum programs and business activities.
- Gaining knowledge and experience in behind-the-scenes logistics of running museum programs.
- Gaining an understanding of ways that art can elicit thoughtful conversations, new perspectives, and varied interpretations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR (VIRTUAL) INTERACTIONS:

- Biweekly team meetings and monthly Education, Outreach, and Visitor Experience staff meetings
- Film screenings
- Public programs with artists, curators, filmmakers, scholars, and scientists
- Telephone and/or video meetings with program participants (possible in-person meetings depending on Smithsonian guidelines at the time)
- Networking opportunities with staff and interns from other Smithsonian units (virtual or in-person, depending on Smithsonian guidelines at the time)
February 14, 2021: Deadline for applications
April 1, 2021: Award notification

Internship Dates: 6/1/21-8/10/21 Interns must be available for the entire 10 weeks, 40 hours per week, and capable of carrying out their project virtually if needed.

Background & Purpose
The Katzenberger Foundation Art History Internship Program is a need-based program supporting internships for undergraduates in research and collections projects at the Smithsonian Institution. The program is generously funded by the Katzenberger Foundation and administered by the Office of Fellowships and Internships. Six internships are offered each summer.

Eligibility
- U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status.
- Must be formally enrolled in an undergraduate program of study with academic standing as a junior or senior, or have completed their degree within the past six months.
- Must be declared as an art history major, concentration, or related discipline.
- Students are generally expected to have an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 or its equivalent.
- Qualify for financial need. The aim of this program is to provide an opportunity for high achieving students with financial challenges to participate in a significant internship experience. Applicants must be eligible to receive federal student aid (i.e. Pell Grant, Stafford Loan, Perkins Loan, etc…).

How it Works
Interns must be available for the entire 10 weeks, 40 hours per week.
Stipend: $3,750

How to Apply
Use the SOLAA System to Apply Online: https://solaa.si.edu
- Register for SOLAA
- Select “Internship”
- Select “Office of Fellowships”
- Select “Smithsonian Katzenberger Art History Internship Program”
- Apply for 2021

ALL documents must be received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time February 14, 2021.

Files you will need to upload:
**Essay**

- 2 pages double spaced
- 12 point type
- Must address the following:
1) Your past and present academic history and other experiences which you feel have prepared you for an internship
2) What you hope to accomplish through an internship, and how it would relate to your academic and career goals
3) What about the Smithsonian in particular interests you and leads you to apply for an internship – particularly the project you have chosen

**Transcripts** (or other materials when transcripts are not issued) from all appropriate institutions are required. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable. If transcripts or other materials are not in English the applicant should provide translations.

**Resume**

**References**

- Names and email addresses of two academic references
- All reference letters are considered confidential unless confidentiality has been waived by the reference
- Through SOLAA you will send an email to these referees so they can provide references through the web
- Have the reference submit in sufficient time to meet the application deadline

**Selection Criteria**

- Substantial course work in Art History or related museum disciplines.
- Demonstrated interest or experiences in museums, galleries, libraries, or archives.
- Demonstrated research and writing skills, attention to detail, and knowledge of computer programs.
- The relevance of an internship at the Smithsonian to the student’s academic and career goals will be an important part of the evaluation of an applicant.
- Applicants should note that it is not possible for the Office of Fellowships and Internships to arrange an internship project or award a stipend to all qualified candidates.
- The Smithsonian does not discriminate on grounds of race, creed, sex, age, marital status, condition of handicap, or national origin of any applicant.
Questions?
Please send questions about this program Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Internships at siofi@si.edu

Contact Phone: (202) 633-7070

Please visit the Office of Fellowships and Internships website for full information.