FALL 2022 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Our Places: Connecting People & Nature
Interactive Exhibition | Community Engagement| Audience Research

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Join a dynamic and diversely skilled team working on a new exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) called Our Places: Connecting People & Nature. Our Places is a collaborative effort between the Office of Exhibits and the Office of Education, Outreach, and Visitor Experience at NMNH to design an exhibit to create change.

Nature is all around us every day. We form connections to the natural world through the places we live, work, study, and visit. People find themselves, community, and inspiration in nature. Yet 83% of the U.S. population lives in urban areas and about a third do not have a park within a 10-minute walk from home. Our goals are to emphasize human interconnections with the natural world via place, to highlight how significant places inspire and deepen Museum scientists’, community partners’ and individuals’ work, and to inspire visitors to care about the natural world—a first step toward sustainability actions. The exhibit is designed to encourage visitors to develop and share personal nature- and place-based stories, selected examples of which get displayed within the exhibition. Reaching out to communities and learning about our audiences is a core part of the exhibition itself. The exhibition will change during its two-year run as we learn from our audiences’ interaction with rotating stories and engagement methods.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The intern will learn about and gain skills in informal science education, audience research, and exhibition development. This includes learning how to:

- design and evaluate facilitated and unfacilitated activities,
- research, review, and provide feedback on exhibition elements, and
- collect and analyze audience data.

The intern will also gain hands-on experience working in a multi-disciplinary team on a project that brings together exhibitions, education, and audience research.

SPECIFIC DUTIES: The intern will work both collaboratively and independently to contribute to existing work in the areas of education, audience research, and exhibit design. The intern will attend regular meetings to provide their perspective and expertise, update the group, and support development. The intern will also join team members in the museum or virtually to conduct audience testing, prototype exhibition and education elements, and facilitate activities and conversations.

QUALIFICATIONS: Undergraduate or graduate student with a background and interest in museum studies, conservation, science, and/or teaching. To maximize the project learning outcomes, applicants should have the following qualifications:

- Education in education, museum studies, environmental justice, community science/engagement, and/or science education
- Ability to cooperate as part of a collective team, while also working independently to reach
team goals.  

- Self-starter with passion and the ability to plan, organize and establish priorities to meet goals and achieve results according to a timeline with set deadlines.
- Proficient in using Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Able to speak and effectively communicate information to a group.
- Flexible.

LOCATION: On-site at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT: Office of Education, Outreach, and Visitor Experience and Office of Exhibitions

STIPEND: up to $4,500

TIMEFRAME: Fall 2022 to early winter 2023

COMMITMENT: 30 hrs/week for 10 weeks, or equivalent to 300 hours

TO APPLY: Please send a cover letter explaining your qualifications and what you hope to gain; resume; ideal start date and hourly commitment; and the names, affiliation and email of three references to Jennifer Collins at CollinsJE@si.edu.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 1, 2022

CONTACT: Jennifer Collins – Our Places Lead Educator – CollinsJE@si.edu