



## Advanced-Level Folklife Festival Internships

In 2023, we are offering paid summer internships to students or recent graduates with connections or interest in the following categories:

- Women in Foodways and Plant Knowledge
- U.S. Pacific Islander Expressive Culture
- U.S. Latinx Expressive Culture

These internship stipends received support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative Pool; federal support from the Asian Pacific American Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center; and federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the National Museum of the American Latino.

Festival program interns will learn about the planning, programming, and production of a large public event and how curation intersects with all aspects of the Folklife Festival. Before and after the Festival, interns will learn how to organize materials from bibliographic and field research, create written and multimedia digital content, and prepare documentation for archival processing. These processes help the curatorial team in making programmatic decisions, inform the operational planning of the event, increase digital outreach, and fulfill obligations to steward collections and documentation. During the Festival (June 28–July 9), interns will learn hands-on how to support the needs and presentations of Festival participants, working closely with the tradition-bearers.

The two programs featured at the 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival are [Living Religion: Creative Encounters in the U.S.](#) and [The Ozarks: Faces and Facets of a Region](#). The internships will be in-person, full-time positions in Washington, D.C., for ten weeks. In exceptional cases, internships may begin or end with remote work; interns must be in-person full time during June and early July. Writing and speaking abilities in Hawaiian, Marshallese, or Spanish are highly desired but not required.

We encourage graduate students, graduates, and upper-level undergraduates with previous experience or coursework in folklore, ethnomusicology, anthropology, art history, cultural heritage studies, religious studies, and related fields to apply.

**Deadline:** March 15

**Stipend:** \$800/week for a full-time, 10-week internship

## **Learning Objectives**

While supporting the curatorial team, interns will interface with various departments and functions in the Festival, gaining exposure to administration, archives, operations, production, documentation, curatorial, editorial, and design work—and how these pieces fit together as our teams collaborate in a professional setting within a large institution. As interns are exposed to the development of the Festival programming, they will gain direct experience with translating research into compelling, accessible public programming and digital outputs. Through their written work, they will strengthen skills in writing and communicating to specific audiences, working through an editorial process, and working with research documentation. The interns will interact with stakeholders including invited participants and scholarly advisors and can network and expand their perspective and awareness of issues and key figures in the field.

The project will benefit from the interns' perspectives as emerging professionals who can bring new ideas for in-person programming and digital products. Working with the interns in the weeks leading up to the Festival will provide them with knowledge and experience of some of the source communities involved in the events, which helps with smooth operations and quick problem-solving during the Festival.

## **What to Expect**

- Participation in weekly meetings with the Living Religion or Ozarks program team, Festival production meetings, and planning meetings with participants and partners as scheduled
- Learning best practices around processing research materials, such as filling production forms for assigned participants and events and communicating needs for their presentations
- Gaining knowledge about processing Festival documentation, including metadata for photos, audio, videos, and reports
- Strengthening skills in digital storytelling through online articles and media assets
- Learning about the setup, supply, and other needs of assigned participant groups during the Festival

Daily in-person attendance during the dates of the Festival is required (June 28- July 9), including Saturdays, Sundays, and the Fourth of July. The Festival takes place outdoors on the National Mall between Seventh and Fourteenth Streets NW.

Optional: Interns may elect to research and author a web piece (essay, playlist, interview, or other digital contribution) profiling a researched artist or community. Interns have the opportunity to shape this project and some other aspects of their internship according to their interests.