



## **Women at the Wheel: Lowrider Culture Internship**

### **Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage**

This curatorial and public programs internship encompasses preparation, support, presentation, and documentation of the “Lowrider Culture” program area of the 2025 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, *Youth and the Future of Culture*, taking place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., July 2–7. The activities in this program explore the multigenerational reach of lowrider culture, presenting activities that explore the intersection of youth culture, popular culture, ethnic heritage, creativity, technological innovation, vocational training, and concerns for environmental sustainability.

This program of the 2025 Festival is produced in collaboration with the curatorial team of the forthcoming exhibition *Corazon y Vida: Lowrider Culture in the United States* organized by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The internship is built around amplifying the experiences of the women and girls who are transforming how lowrider culture is produced and represented. The intern will work alongside a team that is supporting the entire program and its two dozen participants.

The intern will participate in a sequence of processes that comprise elements of curatorial work produced for a large-scale, multi-day event. Assignments will include:

1. Conducting research on women and lowriding in order to prepare materials for panel facilitators, performance emcees, and demonstration presenters.
2. Supporting program participants during the Festival through assistance with presentations and demonstrations and fielding questions from the public.
3. Preparing program documentation for the archives: assisting with the compilation of accurate metadata for photographs, video, and audio recording that will be cataloged as part of the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections; ensuring that program participants understand the terms of the Festival’s release form and the Center’s shared stewardship policy.
4. Writing a report that reflects upon and evaluates their experience.

5. Producing content for one of the Center’s online platforms that focuses on the theme of women/girls and lowriding.

Through these experiences, the internship will provide:

- Opportunities to connect with and collaborate on programming with curators, scholars, artists, educators, and community culture bearers;
- Hands-on experience in cultural research, public history programming, and community engagement—contributing to the production of content for in-person program activities as well as for our Festival online platforms, which could include the Folklife Festival Blog and Folklife Magazine;
- Hands-on experience with documentation and archival policy and processing.

Requirements/special considerations:

- The intern is expected to work Festival weekends and the July Fourth holiday, should be comfortable working outdoors in high heat and humidity and in a fast-paced environment among large crowds.
- Preferred qualifications include an interest in lowrider and/or car culture and/or Chicanx/Latinx visual or material culture; strong oral and written communication skills; strong collaborative skills and effectiveness working under conditions that require collaboration, creative problem solving, resourcefulness, flexibility, adaptability; strong attention to detail; good organization; capacity to work in Microsoft Office and shared platforms.

**The intern will receive a \$11,920 stipend for a full-time, ten-week internship (6/9/25–8/15/25, with some flexibility with dates).**

**To apply online, visit [solaa.si.edu](https://solaa.si.edu) and create an account. After selecting Internship, specify the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Under the Additional Questions section, indicate “Women at the Wheel” as the internship area.**

**The submission deadline is March 1, 2025.**

*Federal funding for this stipend comes from the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative Pool, administered by the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum in support of programs that amplify women’s stories to tell a more complete American history, reach a diverse audience, and empower and inspire people from all walks of life.*