

SMITHSONIAN
CENTER FOR
FOLKLIFE
& CULTURAL
HERITAGE

Marketplace Internships

1. Folklife Marketplace Community Engagement Intern

Learning Objectives

The Folklife Marketplace Community Engagement Intern gains hands-on learning in public-facing cultural programming, with an emphasis on how stories, objects, and making practices foster connection and dialogue. Through this experience, the intern builds skills in community engagement, interpretive storytelling, and facilitating informal learning environments that center craft, cultural knowledge, and lived experience.

Internship Focus

The internship centers on engagement with exhibitions and participatory spaces happening in the 2026 Folklife Marketplace, located in the Arts and Industries Building in Washington, D.C. The intern will contribute to the design and development of a community-focused space in the Marketplace, the *Storied Objects* exhibition. The intern will explore how research and interpretation, visitor interaction, and spatial care support meaningful participation. Emphasis is placed on understanding how materials, environments, and visitor flow are thoughtfully designed and maintained to ensure spaces remain welcoming, responsive, and ready for ongoing public engagement. The intern will gain experience engaging and interacting with visitors, while gathering data and insights into the effectiveness of the space.

Location

The internship will be a combination of remote and on-site participation. Intern must be available full-time in D.C. during the Folklife Marketplace activations.

Approximate Dates

- Start date: February 17
- Remote: February 17 to mid-May
- On-site: mid-May to July 19
- End date: July 19

2. Folklife Marketplace Interactive Programming Intern

Learning Objectives

The Folklife Marketplace Interactive Programming Intern gains broad exposure to community-based cultural programming within a dynamic public marketplace. Through this experience, the intern develops an understanding of how artist-led programs, participatory learning experiences, and retail environments intersect to support cultural exchange. Learning emphasizes adaptability, public engagement, and the coordination required to sustain welcoming, inclusive spaces for artists and visitors alike.

Internship Focus

The internship centers on learning how community programs are coordinated and activated in a marketplace setting. Through engagement with artist-in-residence activities, workshops, the Making Space, and other public programs, the intern explores how scheduling, facilitation, and on-the-ground support create meaningful visitor experiences. The intern contributes across multiple areas of the Folklife Marketplace, supporting its interconnected programs and public-facing spaces.

Location

The internship will be a combination of remote and on-site participation. Intern must be available full-time in D.C. during the Folklife Marketplace activations.

Approximate Dates

- Start date: March 1
- Remote: March 1 to late-May
- On-site: late-May to July 19
- End date: July 19