

# SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR FOLKLIFE & CULTURAL HERITAGE

## 2025 Folklife Storytellers Workshop

### Youth and the Future of Culture

Storytellers—researchers, educators, writers, and visual communicators—are vital to world conversations on folklife and cultural heritage. The Folklife Storytellers Workshop offers a professional skill-building and exchange experience for students and recent graduates interested in producing multimedia content for [Folklife Magazine](#), the [Folklife Festival Blog](#), and social media channels. The 2025 workshop will focus on storytelling from the Smithsonian Folklife Festival program, [Youth and the Future of Culture](#).

Interns come from a variety of fields of study, degree levels, work backgrounds, and regions, enriching the work and creative experience as well as the Center's content. Successful candidates are self-starters, expressive storytellers, and sensitive to issues of cultural representation. They will show demonstrated ability in their chosen storytelling genre. Although many articles are published in a bilingual format, the workshop is conducted in English and candidates should expect to write in English.

Interns participate in one-on-one story meetings with editors and cultural experts and a weekly workshop to learn and share techniques of interviewing, creative nonfiction writing, and media production in a highly supportive atmosphere. Topics of workshop sessions have included scene-building, story structure, description, dialogue, narrative closeness, suspense-building, and subtext. Storytellers then put these concepts to good use through multiple drafts before completing their work for final consideration. Interns critique each other's work and receive the personal attention of editors.

#### Participants will learn to:

- Tailor their work to an international audience interested in culture
- Build cultural and/or issue-based content into compelling narratives
- Learn to create stories that educate as well as intrigue and motivate
- Incorporate the Center's philosophies and methods of cultural presentation
- Give and receive criticism along with useful team-building skills

The 2025 workshop will be full-time and in person in Washington, D.C., from June to August 2025 and part-time September to November 2025. During the Festival, July 2–7, interns should be prepared to work outdoors in high heat and humidity, in a fast-paced setting around large crowds.

There are two internship areas. Please apply for the area that best fits your skills and interests:

- **Social Media & Video Editing:** Before the Festival, interns will work with our program teams to learn about the Festival content and participants, develop story ideas, and participate in the development of a content production plan. During the Festival, July 2–7, 2025, interns will work with our social media manager to capture video suitable for social media channels. After the Festival, interns will work with video documentation to create public-facing, documentary-style short videos. Applicants should have demonstrated experience and interest in video shooting and editing. This internship will primarily focus on video editing.
- **Writing:** Before and during the Festival, interns will work with our program teams to learn about the Festival content and participants, conduct interviews, develop story ideas, and participate in the development of a content production plan. After the Festival, interns will work on writing articles. Applicants should have demonstrated experience and interest in writing for public audiences and be passionate about one of the following subject areas:
  - Emerging Media
  - Expressive Culture (art, fashion, music, rites of passage, and sports)
  - Foodways
  - Lowrider Culture
  - Native Language Reclamation
  - Sustainability and Stewardship
  - Traditional Building Trades
  - Traditional Music and Dance

### How to Apply

Visit [solaa.si.edu](https://solaa.si.edu) and create an account. After selecting Internship, specify the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. You will be required to upload supporting materials, including an essay, résumé, transcripts, and letters of recommendation.

The submission deadline is April 1, 2025.