2012 Graduate Student Summer Internships in Public Scholarship

Arab American National Museum

Founded in May of 2005, the Arab American National Museum (AANM) is the first museum in the world devoted to Arab American history and culture. Located in Dearborn, the AANM is the only Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in southeastern Michigan to date. The Arab American National Museum documents, preserves, and presents the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. The AANM serves the diverse population of our region by producing exhibitions and educational programming that promotes understanding of Arab Americans and the Arab World.

The AANM seeks a graduate intern to revamp existing AANM lesson plans to ensure they meet Michigan grade level content expectations. The lesson plans will be used to enhance the experience of middle and high school students and educators who participate in guided or self-guided tours of the Museum. Additionally, the intern will help conduct oral history interviews of prominent Arab Americans. The content from these interviews will be archived in the Museum’s collection and shared with the public as an educational resource. Lastly, the Museum is launching a podcast series to dispel stereotypes about Arab Americans. The intern will research podcast topics and take an active role in recording and editing this content. Both the podcasts and oral histories will be disseminated to the public through iTunes U.

This experience will enable the intern to not only learn about Arab American history and culture, but also develop skills in creating and disseminating educational materials for those outside the scholarly community. The Arts of Citizenship program has a longstanding relationship with the Arab American National Museum. Preferred candidates will possess an interest in education, history, area studies, communication, or technology. Some familiarity with Arab culture and/or the Arab American community would also be desirable.

http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org/

University of Michigan Detroit Center

The University of Michigan’s Detroit Center seeks to mutually enrich University and Detroit communities through service, education, research, and the exchange of culture. A visible symbol of the University of Michigan’s nearly 200-year relationship with the City of Detroit, the Detroit Center will host a graduate intern who will be responsible for managing the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Tribute.
The intended centerpiece of this project is an exhibition comprised of images and models related to the Memorial that will be on view at the Work Detroit Gallery from June 22 – July 20, 2012. In addition to serving as co-curator of the exhibition, the intern will assist in organizing an opening reception, plan three public programs (one of which should specifically target youth), and coordinate marketing efforts in conjunction with the Communications Director. The purpose of the exhibition-related activities is to foster intellectual discourse concerning issues related to the 2012 University of Michigan MLK Day theme – “Building on the Past to a New Generation of Activism.” The intern will interface with community groups, university staff, and other stakeholders in Detroit, including two local schools, while investigating the work of other centers that share similar goals. In addition to increasing outreach efforts and audience development strategies, the intern may also be asked to research information and recommend programming related to the University of Michigan’s Bicentennial Activities. This research would primarily focus on materials at the University of Michigan’s Bentley Library and the Main Branch of the Detroit Public Library.

The MLK National Memorial Tribute supports the mission of the Detroit Center by developing and implementing programming that embodies the University’s commitment to the city while simultaneously providing community members with a forum for intellectual discourse and reflection on this significant achievement. The project offers a unique opportunity for Detroit residents to examine the process undertaken to design and create the Monument within the context of the influence exerted by the many stakeholders, as well as the constraints tied to the endeavor.

Preferred candidates will possess an interest in 20th-century history, American culture, education, politics, or communication, as well as an ability to work with diverse audiences. Some familiarity or experience with program and/or exhibition development is desired. Excellent interpersonal and written communication skills are required.

http://detroitcenter.umich.edu/

**Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**

As the world’s largest institution dedicated to the African American experience, the Charles H. Wright Museum provides learning opportunities, exhibitions, and programs that explore the diverse history and culture of African Americans and their African origins. The Museum’s Education and Public Programs Department develops aesthetic, interpretive, and intellectual experiences for diverse audiences. These offerings include curricular and community activities, curatorial and library services, a contemporary artists program, volunteer opportunities, and online resources. The Charles H. Wright Museum takes particular pride in helping young people gain the knowledge, skills, and values needed to succeed in the 21st Century. The Museum offers a range of projects that are suitable for a graduate intern, including the Cooperative Underground Railroad Education Partnership.

The purpose of the Cooperative Underground Railroad Education Partnership is to create instructional materials and activities that help all students learn about African and African American history. Through this collaborative effort, the Museum is creating a digital archive that not only commemorates the Underground Railroad, but also facilitates access to the often inaccessible stories of the lives, communities, events, and places that made this freedom-seeking network possible. The intern will take a lead role in producing an online portal comprised of encyclopedic entries, interactive maps, dynamic timelines, downloadable PDFs, videos, and educational media that brings greater awareness to the
Underground Railroad and those who traversed it. In conjunction with this project, the intern may opt to upgrade and expand the Pan African Nurturing Development Association Games, an academic competition that connects high school students with African and African American history. Another possibility may involve adapting activities in the Children’s Discovery Room to specific audiences as a means of communicating the intensity of the experiences of enslaved peoples fleeing to freedom.

Staff members at the Charles H. Wright Museum will tailor the project to fit the skills and interests of the intern. The Cooperative Underground Railroad Education Partnership is just one of many possible projects, including those involving a content management system, Civil War film series, African Americans in STEM exhibition, financial literacy project, and contemporary artists program. Preferred candidates will possess an interest in African American culture, education, technology, or communication. Some familiarity with program and/or website development is desired.

http://www.thewright.org/

University of Michigan Museum of Natural History

The University of Michigan’s Museum of Natural History is a dynamic, evolving organization committed to promoting the understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our place in it. From February 9 – May 27, 2013, the Museum will host a condensed version of the nationally traveling exhibition, RACE: Are we so different? In conjunction with this exhibition, the Museum is planning a major on-campus LSA Theme Semester on race and conducting outreach to local school districts, community members, and groups.

The Museum of Natural History is seeking a graduate intern to help plan activities developed in conjunction with the exhibition. Based in Ann Arbor, the intern will be responsible for developing a community-generated photography exhibition on the theme of race. This will be located in a small (500 square-foot) gallery near the hall in which the national exhibition will be on view. A primary goal of this project is to engage members of the community by creating the framework for a local component of the national exhibition. The intern may explore a variety of possible structures for the community exhibition, including a web-based component, and establish a local jury to select the images to be displayed. In addition to developing a call for participation, the intern will create a timeline for the project and take this work as far as possible within the allotted timeframe. If interested and available, the intern may continue working on this project through the fall term. If this is not a possibility, however, the intern will develop step-by-step instructions for someone else to complete the project.

If time permits, the intern will also assist with developing a schedule of facilitated dialogues on race while the exhibition is on view. These conversations would take place at the Museum of Natural History and at locations on campus and in the community.

Desired qualifications include an interest in thinking about race, racism, and racial justice, as well as an ability to work with diverse audiences. Preferred candidates will possess experience conceiving, implementing, and/or promoting programs or displays. Attention to detail is required, as are excellent interpersonal and written communication skills.

http://www.lsa.umich.edu/ummnh/
University of Michigan Museum of Art

The University of Michigan’s Museum of Art seeks to transform individual and civic life by promoting the discovery, contemplation, and enjoyment of various forms of art. Widely considered one of the finest university art museums in the country, the Museum contributes to the academic mission of the University of Michigan and has a unique ability to create bridges between scholarship and public life. From the research and study uses of objects in the collections, to the teaching implications of temporary exhibitions, the Museum plays a central role in the academic life of the University while also connecting to diverse regional and national community audiences.

The graduate intern at the University of Michigan Museum of Art will support the educational mission of the institution by developing collections resources for the 2013 LSA Theme Semester, “Understanding Race.” Working as part of a team, the student will select and research a group of collections objects with connections to issues of race in order to support their use in teaching, informal discussion, and community engagement during the Theme Semester. The project will address the broad goal of fostering exploration of “the subject of race in an interdisciplinary setting with special attention to the many ways it shapes our lives.” In collaboration with two senior education staff members and one or more undergraduate Mellon Diversity Fellows, the graduate intern will create teaching and learning resources that extend the reach of the Theme Semester. This work will involve examining and utilizing objects from the Museum’s collections, as well as carrying out research in collections files, the U-M library, and on-line sources, in order to create a dossier for each object selected. Potential products of this project will include 1) a portfolio of teaching resources for U-M faculty and instructors to use during and after the LSA Theme Semester on race, 2) a curriculum for K-12 teachers and students to use during and after the LSA Theme Semester, 3) interpretive materials for gallery or study case display of these works, and 4) selected responses to these works of art through interview or other methods.

The ideal applicant will have a strong background in history, art history, or the humanities with a demonstrated aptitude for research and writing. Desired qualifications include an interest in bringing ideas and scholarship in the humanities to bear on contemporary social issues in an accessible and engaging way. A background in education, curriculum development, or art handling is a plus.

826michigan

826michigan is a nonprofit writing and tutoring center that serves over 2,000 school-aged students in need each year. The organization’s small staff and army of volunteer tutors work one-on-one with students, supporting youth aged 6 to 18 in building their skills as writers, developing their enthusiasm for the written word, and deepening their sense of confidence in themselves as individuals.

826michigan seeks a highly-motivated graduate intern who will develop creative writing lesson plans for low-income school-aged students, collaborate with other interns on content for writing workshops, and prepare materials for a variety of classes. By the end of the summer, the intern will take a lead role in creating and delivering a final product featuring student writing. This project will likely take the form of a chapbook. In addition to culling the best writing from each student and supporting youth in the editing process, the intern will be responsible for formatting, copyediting, and collaborating with a graphic designer to transform this work into a book. Final projects may also take the form of a blog, short film, performance, or other creative project. The graduate intern will likely help recruit and train
volunteers to assist with the above projects and manage logistics of portions of 826michigan's comprehensive summer educational programs.

This experience will enable the intern to develop confidence in the classroom and rapport with youth. The intern will also have an opportunity to hone planning skills and those involving motivating and mobilizing individuals in community service. Preferred candidates will possess an interest in education, literacy, publishing, social justice, and the arts. Experience in classroom teaching is highly desirable, but not required.

www.826michigan.org

**Historical Society of Michigan / University of Michigan Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies / African American Cultural and Historic Museum of Washtenaw County**

The Historical Society of Michigan, the University of Michigan Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, and the African American Museum of Ann Arbor are partnering on a capacity building project that aims to strengthen public history, stimulate new scholarship, and promote innovative teaching in southeast Michigan. Specifically, the Historical Society of Michigan has embarked on an ambitious outreach effort to expand the Michigan History Day program in K-12 schools while offering professional assistance to small historical organizations. The organization is seeking a graduate intern to oversee this project while simultaneously supporting the public history initiative of the U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Working directly with several museums and historical agencies in Washtenaw, Wayne, Lenawee, and Jackson Counties, the intern will take responsibility for developing “toolkits” that are delivered to schools in the fall of 2012 as part of an effort to establish school-based History Clubs. Additionally, the intern will pursue a related project with the African-American Museum of Ann Arbor, one of the sites sponsoring a History Club.

**Site Surveys in the Field (1 day per week)** – The Historical Society of Michigan will identify eight organizations that have agreed to act as sponsors of History Clubs at specific schools. The intern will visit each site to assess its primary resource materials and determine how these can be integrated into the 2013 Michigan History Day theme and the Department of Education’s content expectations.

**Historical Society of Michigan Lansing Office (1 day per week)** – Staff at the Historical Society of Michigan’s Lansing office will orient the intern to Michigan History Day and the History Club school program. The intern will help implement a new database system to track information related to History Day and assist staff with transferring, collecting, and inputting data.

**U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies (2 days per week)** – The intern will compile resources from the eight organizations into History Club “toolkits” that will include primary source compendiums, schedules, contact information, and club materials. Additionally, the intern will create Facebook pages for each club as a means of facilitating communication among teachers, students, and volunteers.

**African American Cultural and Historic Museum of Washtenaw County (1 day per week)** – The Historical Society of Michigan is partnering with the African American Museum of Ann Arbor to help train its volunteer staff. The intern will design and implement a project that helps the Museum integrate the History Club program into its long-term outreach goals. This may encompass archiving records, conducting oral histories, or developing programs.
The ideal applicant will have a strong background in history, as well as the skills needed to work well independently and with others. A background in education or curriculum development is a plus, as is a demonstrated aptitude for research and writing.

http://www.hsmichigan.org/
http://www.lsa.umich.edu/eihs
http://www.aachmuseum.org/