

Native American Collections Fellowship

This program supports community- and academic-based scholars with collections access and research at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).

This program supports community-focused researchers who engage with Native communities and perform research in a way that benefits Native peoples. Individuals applying to this program may or may not be associated with a university. Community scholars include individuals who have community knowledge gained through lived or learned experience. Fellows receive professional development in best practices for conducting research at museums and cultural institutions to help plan and prepare for their collections visits, as well as additional opportunities to share their work with museum staff and constituents.

This hybrid program takes place over one year. The first six weeks are completed in a virtual environment and include learning about the resources available at the museum and the Smithsonian, engaging with staff and other fellows, and attending workshops and sessions designed to increase scholars' capacity to do their work. The remainder of the fellowship is dedicated to performing research activities. Scholars work in consultation with NMAI staff to receive collections access and handling training, coordinate access to museum collections, as well as research appointments at relevant non-museum collections, and engage in further knowledge sharing and professional development opportunities. After completing their research, scholars are eligible for additional funding to support a community-based project that builds on their fellowship work.

This program best supports individuals who

- have a research project that is beneficial to a community with collections housed at the museum.
- consider themselves early in their research or scholarly careers, or have conducted previous work and could benefit from additional guidance and mentorship.
- engage with Native communities or have a history of working with Native peoples.
- can relocate to the Washington, DC, area for at least nine months to conduct their research.

To learn more about this fellowship opportunity, application deadlines and submission materials, and funding support, please visit <https://AmericanIndian.si.edu/about/fellowships>.

For any questions, please contact Fellowship Program Administrator Kendall Tryhane at 301-238-1486 or NMAIFellowships@si.edu.