

Native Arts Fellowship

This program seeks to increase the number of artists engaging with and researching collections at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).

This program provides funding to support artists who want to visit and learn from object and archival collections housed at the museum's Cultural Resources Center (CRC) in Suitland, MD. In addition to travel and stipend support, artists receive professional development in best practices for conducting research at museums and cultural institutions to help plan and prepare for their collections visit, as well as learning opportunities about additional artist engagement with museums.

This hybrid program takes place over a total of 8 to 10 weeks. Six weeks are dedicated to building artist capacity to conduct their research. These 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 that help prepare artists for future engagements with museums and cultural institutions. This time is conducted simultaneously with all artist fellows.

Artists then have up to one year to conduct their own onsite research at the museum. This program provides support for 2 to 4 weeks of onsite research activities. Artists work in consultation with museum staff to set the times and dates of their onsite visits and coordinate additional collections visits in the Washington, DC, area. After completing their research, artists are eligible for additional funding to support a community-based project or workshop that builds on their fellowship work.

This program best supports artists who

- have clear connections or ties to a community with collections housed at the museum.
- consider themselves early in their artistic careers, are venturing into new art forms, or have experience in their field but are not yet fully established.
- could benefit from additional mentorship on museum collections research and engagement.
- have a desire to share their work and knowledge with Native communities.

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.