

ACTC Museum Fellows Program

INTERESTED IN HOW MUSEUMS ENGAGE THE PUBLIC? THIS PROGRAM ENCOURAGES YOU TO EXPLORE A CAREER IN MUSEUMS AND GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW MUSEUMS ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF PRESENTING DIVERSE HISTORICAL NARRATIVES TO POPULAR AUDIENCES.

The “ACTC Museum Fellows Program” is designed to engage students in studying the challenges related to the underrepresentation of communities of color and American Indian Nations in historical organizations, museums, and public history graduate programs. Communities need to “see themselves” in the work of cultural organizations in order to identify with their missions. For museums, inclusion is not about political correctness. The demographic shifts in American society require the leaders of state historical organizations and museums to diversify the perspective of their organizations in order to truly fulfill their missions.



2014-2015 ACTC Fellows at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian



2014-2015 ACTC Fellows in the collections at the Minnesota Historical Society

The ACTC Museum Fellows Program consists of four components:

1. Semester-long course that explores the museum field and the challenges that museums face regarding diversity and inclusion (Tuesdays 3:30–6:00 P.M.).
2. Paid internship during the Spring Semester.
3. Museum-study trip to meet with various museum professionals at the Midwest’s leading museums.
4. Post-program mentoring from program staff regarding graduate programs and professional development opportunities.

2015-2016 ACTC Fellows visited many of the Midwest’s Top Museums:

- The Field Museum
- The Chicago History Museum
- The Museum of Science and Industry
- The Jane Adams Hull House Museum
- The National Museum of Mexican Art
- The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

The Museum Fellows Program is a partnership between the Minnesota Historical Society and the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities, made possible by Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



2015-2016 ACTC Fellows at the Field Museum

HIS 440—AUGSBURG HISTORY DEPARTMENT, FALL 2016

The course provides an introduction to challenges and trends within the museum field to address diversity and increase community engagement outside the museum's walls. Course material covers the history and development of museums in the U.S. the functions of museums, and museums as educational institutions. Museum professionals representing all aspects of museum work serve as guest lecturers and provide concrete information based on experience rather than theory. The course is primarily focused on history museums, but will cover multiple types of cultural institutions.



PAID INTERNSHIP WITH THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



During the spring semester, each participant will complete an "externship" (external internship placement) experience at a partnership organization. The experience provides a stipend up to 100 hours of work over the spring (roughly January—May). While the class provides a great deal of theoretical knowledge of museums, the externship provides an experimental component where Fellows can begin to practice what they learned in the course. This is a great opportunity for program participants to begin to build skills and experience within a museum related position paths.

MUSEUM STUDY TRIP TO CHICAGO—JANUARY 2017

In January, Fellows spend a week visiting museums in Chicago to learn about how leading institutions in the region are dealing with issues of inclusion and community engagement. Last year, Fellows visited the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, the Chicago History Museum, the National Museum of Mexican Art, the DuSable Museum of African American History, the Chicago Institute of Arts, and more. Many of the museum visits allowed Fellows to meet and network with professionals in the field. Finally, group discussions each evening helped students connect what they learned in the course to practices used by museums.



APPLY TO THE ACTC MUSEUM FELLOWS PROGRAM

The 2016-17 ACTC Museum Fellows Program will be limited to 15 participants who are selected through a competitive application process. You **MUST** have approval from program staff at the Minnesota Historical Society to register for the course. To apply:

1. Visit <http://www.mnhs.org/internships/fellows/actc> to find the online application
2. Complete the online application. Applications received by March 22 will receive priority consideration.
3. Program staff at the Minnesota Historical Society will contact you to set up an interview in March.

If you are accepted to the program, you must register for the Augsburg history course HIS 440: Diversity and Community Engagement in Public History and Museums through your home campus registrar's office. You will receive formal permission and instructions regarding registration via email.

For questions about the application process, contact Kyle Parsons at Kyle.Parsons@mnhs.org or call: 612-229-5986

Apply online at: <http://bit.ly/1WV7hws>