

Smithsonian Institution: Interpreting African American History & Culture Workshop

January 26 – February 1, 2020

James Island County Park
Charleston, SC

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by 11:59 PM on Friday, November 1, 2019.

Applicants will be notified by Wednesday, November 15, 2019 of the program committee's decisions.

Workshop proudly co-sponsored by:



Program Overview

The [National Museum of African American History and Culture \(NMAAHC\)](#), [Office of Strategic Partnerships](#), in collaboration with [Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission \(CCPRC\)](#), is pleased to offer a professional development opportunity in Interpretive Training for museum professionals dedicated to the study or appreciation of the African Diaspora and African American life, art, history, and/or culture. The workshop is geared towards museum professionals who are engaged in historical and cultural interpretation or a closely related field, with career aspirations that involve the field of interpretation. The goal of the program is to recognize professionals with the potential to make the greatest contributions to their museum or historic site in the field of interpretation by providing them access to resources, training in the ethical interpretation of history and ongoing opportunities for continued engagement in a community of practice. The program additionally addresses the need for greater diversity in the field of interpretation.

Learner Outcomes

Participants who successfully complete the 32-hour Interpretation Workshop will receive [National Association for Interpretation \(NAI\)](#) certification. Interested applicants should be advised that the workshop is an immersive experience with prerequisite reading assignments, to be completed in advance of the workshop as well as study hours and homework, to be completed in the evening hours. Participants will be required to complete an open book multiple-choice literature review, prepare a presentation outline, and present a 10-minute thematic interpretive presentation based on some aspect of African American history and culture on the final day of the workshop. In addition to the 32-hour certification training curriculum, the workshop will include approximately 18 hours visiting and analyzing the interpretation of African American history and culture, including methodology, utilized at a variety of historic sites in the local Charleston area.

As a result of the knowledge acquired from this workshop, participants will:

- Learn about the history of the interpretation profession
- Acquire an understanding of the basic principles of interpretation
- Be able to demonstrate a thematic approach to developing and delivering interpretation that connects audiences to historical resources in meaningful ways
- Become familiar with current literature in the field of interpretation
- Apply what they have learned to their own sites

From the National Association for Interpretation Certification (NAI) website:

Interpreters connect visitors to important natural, cultural, and historical resources at parks, nature centers, historical sites, aquariums, zoos, and anywhere that people come to learn about places. NAI defines interpretation as "a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource."

Eligibility Criteria

- Beginning with the incoming Class of 2020, eligibility requirements for participation have been extended to all museum professionals engaged in the field of interpretation or a related field, with at least 2 years of professional museum experience.
- Students strictly enrolled in full-time academic programs, without any affiliated and/or current museum work are not eligible.

Tuition

The workshop will be held Sunday, January 26 through Saturday, February 1, 2020 at James Island County Park in Charleston, SC. Tuition to attend the workshop is \$1,250 per person and includes the workshop itself and all materials; NAI Certification Fees; admission and transportation to all offsite excursions in Charleston; breakfast and lunch throughout the week, as well as dinner on the first and last nights; 6-nights shared accommodations in two-bedroom, two-bathroom suites at the Residence Inn by Marriott Charleston Downtown/Riverview and daily shuttle service to/from the workshop site at James Island County Park.

Scholarship Opportunities

Thanks to the generosity of program sponsors—National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), [Association of African American Museums](#) (AAAM), [Southeastern Museums Conference](#) (SEMC) and the [National Park Service](#) (NPS), there are a number of scholarships available for both travel and/or tuition. See eligibility requirements below under each opportunity. Scholarship application is on the last page of this announcement.

- **National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)**
Need-based scholarship open to all applicants regardless of membership affiliation. Scholarship includes tuition assistance and invitational travel to/from Charleston, SC. Smithsonian Institution employees are not eligible.
- **Association of African American Museums (AAAM)**
Scholarship open exclusively to AAAM individual and institutional members. Must have an active membership to apply. Scholarship includes tuition assistance and invitational travel to/from Charleston, SC. AAAM board officers, committee members, and members of their families are not eligible.
- **Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC)**
Scholarship open exclusively to SEMC individual and institutional members. Must have an active membership to apply. Scholarship covers tuition only. SEMC board officers, committee members, and members of their families are not eligible.
- **National Park Service (NPS)**
Stephen T. Mather Training Center scholarship open to current employees of NPS. Scholarship includes tuition assistance and invitational travel to/from Charleston, SC.

To Apply

The application process for the Class of 2020 opens on Monday, September 23 and closes by **11:59 PM on Friday, November 1, 2019**. Please note that all application materials (and scholarship request form, if applicable) must be combined into one PDF File and uploaded through the online application form.

Required Materials:

- [Online application form](#)
- Applicant resume or CV (3-page maximum)
- Letter of recommendation from immediate supervisor/director
- Statement of interest: Please share your interest in attending the interpretation workshop and how you and your institution will benefit from your attendance at the workshop (i.e. any special project(s) and/or workplace challenges you are hoping to address. 500-word maximum)
- Personal vision statement: Please share how you will apply newly acquired interpretation tools/skills at your institution and/or personal interpretation. (500-word maximum)

Optional:

- Scholarship Request Form (Located on last page of this announcement)

If you wish to apply for an available scholarship, please indicate which scholarship fund(s) you are applying for (NMAAHC, AAAM, SEMC and/or NPS). Follow the instructions and eligibility requirements above. Please note that only one scholarship can be awarded per applicant.

Review Criteria

All applications are reviewed and selected by an appointed committee. We particularly encourage emerging, new and mid-career museum professionals to apply. Applications are reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Leadership potential
- Proposed project/workplace challenge
- Knowledge of interpretation
- Personal vision
- Professional experience

Application Process & Workshop Timetable

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| • Application process opens | September 23, 2019 |
| • Deadline for workshop applications | November 1, 2019 |
| • Applicants notified by Program Coordinator | November 15, 2019 |
| • Applicant registration paperwork completed | November 22, 2019 |
| • Registration and tuition payment made to CCPRC | December 6, 2018 |
| • Applicants attend interpretation workshop in Charleston SC | January 26 – February 1, 2020 |

Tuition Refund Policy

- Registrants will receive a full refund if the program is cancelled by CCPRC.
- All participant withdrawals must be received during regular business hours.
- Registrants withdrawing more than four (4) business days prior to the program start date will receive a full refund.
- Registrants withdrawing four (4) business days or less prior to the program start date will receive a 50% refund.
- Registrants failing to show for a program without prior notice during regular business hours will not receive a refund.

Membership Information

For more information on membership, please visit the following websites:

Association of African American Museums:

www.blackmuseums.org

Southeastern Museums Conference:

<http://www.semcdirect.net>

Additional Details

All participants are welcome and encouraged to apply. Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations or who have questions about physical access may contact Shawn Halifax, Cultural History Interpretation Coordinator at the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission at (843)762-9508.

For all other questions regarding workshop logistics and/or the application process, please contact Jennifer Zazo-Brown, Museum Program Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African American History and Culture at (202) 633-4499.



Office of Strategic Partnerships

**Smithsonian Institution
Interpretation Fellows
Class of 2020 Application**

NMAAHC 2020 Scholarship Request Form

Instructions: Please include a copy of this scholarship request form with your Smithsonian Institution Interpretation Fellows Class of 2020 application packet. Completed applications must be received by **11:59 PM on Friday, November 1, 2019.**

Name:

Title/Position:

Organization:

Which scholarship(s) do you wish to be considered for? NMAAHC AAAM SEMC NPS

What is your membership eligibility?

I am a current member of AAAM SEMC **Membership #** _____

I am a current employee of NPS **NPS Unit** _____

Have you previously completed NAI's Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training? YES NO

Statement of Need

Please provide a brief statement (500-word maximum) describing any financial or administrative barriers to your participation in the workshop and an estimate of your travel expenses/budget.)

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