



2009 YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Young Ambassadors is a national leadership development program for high school seniors with the aim to cultivate the next generation of Latino leaders in the arts and culture fields through one-on-one interaction with artists, curators, historians, and other museum and arts professionals.

Students with an interest and commitment to the arts (e.g. film, dance, design, music, visual, performing, and/or literary arts) are selected to travel to Washington, D.C. for a week-long arts enrichment and leadership seminar at the Smithsonian Institution. Conducted by world-renowned experts in their respective fields, the seminar encourages youth to examine Latino identity and embrace their own cultural heritage through first-hand observation of the Smithsonian's Latino collections, lectures, and other activities. Following the seminar, students return to museums and other cultural institutions in their local communities, including Smithsonian affiliated organizations, to participate in a four-week summer internship. This program is made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund.

INTERNSHIP PARTNERS

Long Beach, California

Museum of Latin American Art

San Francisco, California

Precita Eyes Mural Association (TBC)

Miami, Florida

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing
Arts of Miami-Dade County
The Wolfsonian-FIU

Chicago, Illinois

National Museum of Mexican Art

Albuquerque, New Mexico

National Hispanic Cultural Center

New York, New York

National Museum of the American Indian- The
George Gustav Heye Center

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Museum of Art

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico

Houston, Texas

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio Museum of Art

Washington, District of Columbia

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
National Museum of the American Indian

Phoenix, Arizona

Scottsdale Public Art Program





FEES AND EXPENSES

Participation is underwritten by Ford Motor Company Fund and includes meals and accommodations for the duration of the one-week seminar, as well as the cost of round-trip travel to Washington, D.C., and a program stipend. Students selected are responsible for all expenses during the four-week internship, including transportation, accommodations, and meals.

PROGRAM STIPEND

Upon completion of the program, participants will receive \$2,000 towards their higher education. Students that do not complete the seminar and four-week internship will not receive the program stipend.

ELIGIBILITY

Admission is competitive. To be eligible for the program, you must:

- Be a high school senior graduating in 2009
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States with a valid Social Security Number at the time of application
- Have a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale
- Be fluent in English
- Commit to participate in the one-week seminar at the Smithsonian Institution and complete a four-week paid summer internship
- Be enrolled full-time in a degree seeking program at a four-year accredited college or university (enrollment will be verified in the Fall 2009)

SELECTION

Up to twenty-four participants are selected through a competitive process, guided by a selection committee comprised of museum and arts professionals. The selection committee evaluates each application based on the following criteria:

1. Excellence in an arts discipline, including film, dance, design, music, visual, performing, or literary arts
2. Academic record
3. Leadership experience
4. Commitment to the arts
5. Community service





APPLICATION CONTENTS

The 2009 Young Ambassadors application includes:

- A complete application form. The application includes an essay (250-750 words) on the topic of how Latino/Hispanic culture has influenced your art form, personal development, and long-term goals.
- An example of work in film, design, music, visual, performing, or literary arts.
- An unofficial transcript, which includes weighted cumulative grade point average.
- One to two (1-2) letters of recommendation that have been completed by instructors, mentors, and/or advisors.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete and submit the online application form for the Young Ambassadors Program directly at <https://solaa.si.edu> (Search for Smithsonian Latino Center Young Ambassador Program) or by linking to the site from www.latino.si.edu/education. **Please note: the application does not recognize special characters or accent marks. Please do not use when filling out the application.**
2. Each recommender should submit an online letter of recommendation.
3. Upload the digital media of your work in film, dance, design, music, visual, performing, or literary arts to the online application. If your work is not compatible with the Smithsonian online application, please send one (1) CD or DVD of your work. If your work is not compatible with digital media, please provide six copies of the work with your application. Please be sure to include a cover sheet with your name and location clearly identified.
4. Send any materials that cannot be uploaded to the online application to the Smithsonian Latino Center. Materials received after the deadline will not be considered by the selection committee.

DEADLINE

All application materials are due in the Smithsonian Latino Center office no later than 5 pm March 31, 2009.





Smithsonian Latino Center

PRIORITY MAIL/EXPRESS DELIVERIES/UPS OR FEDEX

Young Ambassadors Program
Smithsonian Latino Center
600 Maryland Avenue, SW
Suite 7042 MRC 512
Washington, DC 20024

CALENDAR

January 15, 2009	Application available at www.latino.si.edu/education
March 31, 2009	Application deadline
April, 2009	Application processing
Mid-April, 2009	Selection committee convenes
May 1, 2009	Selection process finalized
June 21 – 27, 2009	Seminar
July 6 – July 31, 2009	Internship

NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified of their application status in May 2009.

INQUIRIES

For more information please visit the Smithsonian Latino Center online at <http://latino.si.edu>, or contact Emily Key, Education Programs Manager at 202.633.1268 or email keye@si.edu.



Ford Motor Company Fund