



# PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

<b>Job Title:</b>	Program Manager for Scholarly and Public Engagement
<b>Organization:</b>	Smithsonian Provenance Research Initiative (SPRI), Smithsonian Institution
<b>Location:</b>	Washington, DC
<b>Stipend:</b>	\$65,000 with health insurance for fellow
<b>Start Date:</b>	September 1, 2016

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Smithsonian Provenance Research Initiative (SPRI) advances and enhances the institution's ongoing serious commitment to provenance research and the preservation of cultural property and heritage as an integral part of the Smithsonian's mission, "the increase and diffusion of knowledge." Befitting its importance to the central work of the institution, SPRI is housed in the Office of the Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture, and works with Smithsonian museums and archives to develop strategies and methods to facilitate provenance research. Current emphasis is on the decorative arts and Asian art, with projects at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and the National Museum of American Art. Systematic research of collections, object stewardship, and educational outreach efforts are core to the work of museums.

In order to aid the identification and discovery of objects that may have been subject to questionable transfer of ownership or unlawful appropriation during the WW II-era, directives issued by the American Association of Museums and the Association of Art Museum Directors inform the Smithsonian's research priorities. SPRI develops and offers training for established as well as emerging professionals; initiates international partnerships with museums, archives, libraries, and universities around the world; organizes symposia and roundtables; and publishes its findings and results. Last year the Archives of American Art published an online finding aid and introduction to its WWII-era provenance research holdings.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Program Manager will report to the SPRI Director, gaining deep experience with all facets of the Initiative by taking the lead on administrative, programmatic, and scholarly management tasks. The program manager will contribute to SPRI's ongoing provenance research projects at Smithsonian museums, researching and facilitating research in consultation with its museums' teams of curators, researchers, collections management staff, and external partners. S/he will assist in developing research priorities for publications and digital outreach, and ensure that the content of the research is accurate, articulate, and comprehensive.

An exciting aspect of this job will be learning to conduct provenance research while coordinating and developing national and international training programs. Provenance research of museum collections has become an institutional priority for many museums, especially in regards to objects acquired during the WWII-era and for antiquities, due to extensive looting in Syria and Iraq. Through this position, the program manager will build a strong portfolio in provenance research management, museum policy and

administration, educational programs and training, archival research and digitization, web-based technology, collections software, conservation, and legal issues.

The program manager will:

- Manage a portfolio of research projects related to SPRI (including conducting research and analysis in conjunction with an experienced provenance researcher, and taking the lead on developing specialized contracts for academic researchers);
- Develop a communications plan to help disseminate and contextualize SPRI project research results, in consultation with curators, collections and program managers, and information technology professionals, using existing portals, websites, and new technology that interfaces Collections Management data and digitized archival materials through Linked Open Data;
- Plan and facilitate collaborative training programs and speaking engagements for provenance researchers to take place at the Smithsonian, at other US institutions, and at international organizations. Attend at least one of them off-site, pending travel funding;
- Produce a second issue of the journal Collections with an international focus and contributors; develop a plan for an on-line provenance research journal with our partners at the University of Glasgow, Free University of Berlin, and a to-be-confirmed US university;
- Plan and organize two to three Provenance Research Symposia or Smithsonian Provenance Research Roundtables related to topics such as Asian Arts, Decorative Arts, and new technology, collaborating with key SPRI stakeholders to develop content, secure speakers, and prepare communication materials, working with the fundraising team to create proposals for support; and
- Develop and manage grant proposals for SPRI projects.

#### **REQUIRED AND PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
- Excellent organizational, analytical, research, and communication skills (written and verbal);
- Ability to work independently and on teams, under time pressure, and to meet tight deadlines;
- Good problem solving abilities, flexibility, attention to detail, and a self-starter;
- Interest in provenance and archival research as well as digital humanities;
- Curiosity, persistence, and ability to see possibilities and make connections; and
- Experience studying or working abroad at a museum, university, or research center would be an advantage.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the ACLS Public Fellows Program: [www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows](http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows)
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System ([ofa.acls.org](http://ofa.acls.org))
- Application deadline: March 24, 2016, 8 pm Eastern Daylight Time

This position is *only* available through the ACLS Public Fellows program.  
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.