

RFP – “Indian Summer” Education Specialist

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian seeks an Education Specialist to coordinate, implement and oversee the launch of “Indian Summer,” a multi-session program designed to introduce children who attend local, non-profit camps to Native arts and cultures. The Education Specialist position will be three full-time (5 days/week) contracts (April – September 2008; March – September 2009; March – September 2010).

“Indian Summer” is planned as a phased project that will begin in 2008 and run through the summer, 2010. The focus of the camps’ visits to the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) will be the exhibit, *Beauty Surrounds Us*, located in the Diker Pavilion for Arts and Cultures. The intended goal of the first year is to host an 8-week program (July 7 – August 29) that attracts approximately 30 youth/day. The second year will build on lessons learned from this summer and double the daily attendance.

The Education Specialist will be responsible for coordinating in advance all aspects of the planning process, including, but not limited to:

- Contacting local non-profit day camps to serve as potential partners for “Indian Summer”
- Serving as liaison between the NMAI and the selected camps for the duration of the partnership
- Coordinating all scheduling for “Indian Summer” programs
- Creating and managing programmatic timeline for the summer series and multi-visit sessions
- Designing, planning and implementing hands-on workshops that will excite children and instruct them about Native arts and cultures
- Overseeing “Indian Summer” interns and/or assistant educators

The qualifications sought by the NMAI are:

- Excellent oral communication skills
- Experience working with urban youth
- Familiarity with Native American arts and cultures and experience teaching about Native American art.
- Excellent organizational skills. Ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Experience working with government-funded projects and related compliance requirements

The program is anticipated to commence in April 2008 for a period of six (6) months. The program will re-commence in March, 2009 for seven (7) months and again in March, 2010 for seven (7) months. Interested individuals are invited to submit proposals that contain the following information:

A) Experience and expertise:

1. Knowledge of Native American arts and cultures
2. A history of experience working with (educating) urban youth. Special consideration will be given to experience with arts and cultural facilities.
3. Resume or cv

4. Art education experience
5. Two to three lesson plans demonstrating knowledge of Native American art and culture

B) Methodological Approach

1. A description of how you would approach the anticipated scope of services set forth in this RFP

C) Fee Requirements (The National Museum of the American Indian will assume all costs for art materials and supplies).

Please note: Selected candidate will be required to enroll with the Central Contractor Registration (www.ccr.gov).

History and Mission of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is the only national museum dedicated to the Native peoples of North, South and Central America. Chartered by Congress in 1989 as the 16th museum of the Smithsonian Institution, our mission is to recognize and affirm to Native communities and the non-Native public the historical and contemporary culture and cultural achievements of Native people of the Western Hemisphere.

The George Gustav Heye Center (GGHC), located since 1994 in the landmark Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House in Lower Manhattan, is NMAI's New York presence. It offers both historic and contemporary exhibitions, educational opportunities for children and adult and a host of vibrant public programs. Prior to its Smithsonian association, the GGHC was the Museum of the American Indian in Upper Manhattan. The majority of the museum's 850,000-piece collection was assembled by New Yorker George Gustav Heye, who became fascinated with Native cultures in the early 1900s and spent the next 50 years traveling the Western Hemisphere in search of Indian objects. Today, it is generally considered to be the most comprehensive Native American collection ever assembled. The museum's broad range of exhibitions and programs, both here and at the NMAI on the Mall in Washington, D.C., have built on this legacy, creating a Native place to explore the past, present and future of Native cultures.

Please send proposals to:

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