

RFP – “Indian Summer” Educator

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian seeks an Educator to assist with the coordination and implementation of “Indian Summer,” a multi-session program designed to introduce children who attend local, non-profit camps to Native arts and cultures. The Educator position will be three part-time (4 days/week) four-month contracts (June – September 2008; June – September 2009; June-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 30 youth/day. The second year will build on lessons learned from this summer and double the attendance.

The Educator will be responsible for assisting the Education Specialist in implementing “Indian Summer” at the NMAI, NYC. Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with outreach between the NMAI and the selected camps for the duration of the partnership
- Assisting with scheduling programs for “Indian Summer”
- Assisting with design, plan and implementation of hands-on workshops that will excite children and instruct them about Native arts and cultures

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 “Indian Summer” Educator will commence in June 2008 for a period of 4 months. The same lengths of serves will be required in 2009 and 2010. Interested individuals are invited to submit proposals that contain the following information:

- A) Experience and expertise:
 - a. Knowledge of Native American arts and cultures and experience drafting lesson plans about Native Americans
 - b. A history of experience working with (educating) urban youth. Special consideration will be given to experience with arts and cultural facilities.
 - c. Resume or cv
 - d. Art education experience

- B) 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.

Send proposal no later than May 20, 2008 to:

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