

Smithsonian Institution's Interpreting African American History & Culture Workshop

January 28 – February 3, 2018

James Island County Park
Charleston, SC

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, November 8, 2017.

All applicants and scholarship recipients will be notified by Monday, November 20, 2017
of the program committee's decisions.

Workshop proudly co-sponsored by:



Program Overview

The Smithsonian Institution, [National Museum of African American History and Culture \(NMAAHC\)](#), in partnership with [Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission \(CCPRC\)](#) and the [National Association for Interpretation \(NAI\)](#) 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 training is offered exclusively to individual members of the [Association for African American Museums \(AAAM\)](#), [Southeastern Museums Conference \(SEMC\)](#) and the National Association for Interpretation (or those who work at AAAM, SEMC and/or NAI member organizations). 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 an outstanding contribution to their museum or historic site in the field of interpretation by exposing them to resources and providing training related to personal interpretation. 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 NAI certification. Interested applicants should be advised that the workshop is an immersive experience with 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 on the final day of the workshop. In addition to the 32-hour certification training course, the workshop will include 18 hours visiting and analyzing the interpretation of African American history and culture, including methodology, utilized at a variety of historic sites in Charleston, SC.

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.

Tuition

The workshop will be held Sunday, January 28 through Saturday, February 3, 2018 at James Island County Park in Charleston, SC. Tuition to attend the workshop is \$400 per person. Thanks to the generosity of program sponsors—NMAAHC, AAAM, and SEMC, the tuition fee covers a portion of the overall program costs, which includes the workshop itself; travel to and from local historic Charleston sites; all breakfast and lunches throughout the week, as well as dinner on the first and last nights; and 6-nights, shared accommodations in the cabins located at James Island County Park. The National Association for Interpretation has also kindly waived certification fees and study guides for all workshop participants. Cabins are walking distance from the training site and include two private bedrooms with a shared bathroom and full kitchen. Please note that tuition fees do not include participant travel to and from Charleston, SC or ground transportation to the workshop site.

NMAAHC Tuition Scholarship Fund

To apply for a NMAAHC Tuition Scholarship, please indicate your interest on the application checklist and enclose a justification for your request in your attached supplemental materials that briefly describes your scholarship needs (500-word maximum). NMAAHC Scholarships will cover the full cost of tuition fees. Please note that individual travel to the workshop in Charleston, SC is not included in scholarship funds.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be members of AAAM, SEMC, NAI (or on staff at an AAAM, SEMC and/or NAI member institution) at the time of application. See below for membership information.
- Applicants must be staff engaged in the field of interpretation or a related field. Applicants/Applicant institutions must be members of AAAM, SEMC and/or NAI through October 2018.
- Applicants should be able to attend the AAAM Annual Conference: August 8 - 11, 2018 in Hampton, VA; the SEMC Annual Meeting: October 8-10, 2018 in Jackson, MS; **OR** the NAI Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA: November 27-31, 2018.
- Applicants should have at least 2 years of professional experience in the museum field.
- AAAM, SEMC, and NAI board officers, committee members, and members of their families are not eligible.
- Applicants that currently hold NAI Interpretive Guide Certification (CIG) are welcome to apply but should note that first priority will be given to applicants that have not been previously certified.
- Students strictly enrolled in full-time academic programs, without any affiliated and/or current museum work are not eligible.

To Apply

All applications must be received by **11:59 PM on Wednesday, November 8, 2017**.

Please combine all documents into one pdf file and email it to Zazo-BrownJ@si.edu with subject "2018 NMAAHC Interpretation Workshop".

- Completed application form
- Applicant resume or CV
- Letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor/director
- Statement of interest that states why you are interested in attending the interpretation workshop and how you and your institution will benefit from your attendance at the workshop (500 word maximum)
- Statement of your personal vision for how you will apply newly acquired interpretation tools/ skills at your institution (500 word maximum)
- Scholarship request, if applicable that briefly describes your scholarship needs (500 word maximum)

Review Criteria

We particularly encourage emerging, new and mid-career museum professionals to apply. Applications are reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Leadership Potential
- Knowledge of interpretation
- Personal vision
- Professional experience

Application Process & Workshop Timetable

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Application process opens | September 27, 2017 |
| • Deadline for workshop applications | November 8, 2017 |
| • Applicants notified by Program Coordinator | November 20, 2017 |
| • Applicant registration paperwork completed | December 4, 2017 |
| • Registration and tuition payment made to CCPRC | December 11, 2017 |
| • Applicants attend interpretation workshop in Charleston SC | January 28 – February 3, 2018 |
| • Certified participants present at AAAM, SEMC or NAI conferences | August, October or November 2018 |

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.

Culminating Experience

Certified participants will be asked to present their work at one of the following national conferences:

1. AAAM Annual Conference August 8 - 11, 2018 (Hampton, VA)
2. SEMC Annual Meeting October 8-10, 2018 (Jackson, MS)
3. NAI Annual Conference November 27-31, 2018 (New Orleans, LA)

Thanks to the generosity of the Association of African American Museums, the Southeastern Museums Conference, and the National Association for Interpretation, workshop participants/presenters will receive complimentary full conference registration for the conference they attend (limited registrations are available for each). Participants will make a formal presentation (either poster session or panel discussion) focused on their experience as a cohort member of the NMAAHC Interpretation Workshop. Please note that participants will be responsible for their hotel accommodations and individual travel to conference locations.

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>
National Association for Interpretation: <http://www.interpnet.com>

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's NMAAHC
Interpreting African American
History & Culture Workshop**

NMAAHC 2018 Workshop Application

Name:

Title/Position:

Organization:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone (work):

Phone (mobile):

Email:

What is your membership eligibility? I am a current member of AAAM SEMC NAI

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

Do you wish to be considered for a NMAAHC Tuition Scholarship? YES NO

Application Checklist

- Completed application form
- Applicant resume or CV
- Letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor/director
- Statement of interest (500 word maximum)
- Personal vision statement (500 word maximum)
- Scholarship request, if applicable (500 word maximum)

Please combine required supplemental materials as listed above into one PDF File and email your complete application package to Jennifer Zazo-Brown, Museum Program Specialist at zazo-brownj@si.edu with the subject line, "2018 NMAAHC Interpretation Workshop" by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, November 8, 2017.