

Announcing the 2016 SI NMAAHC Interpretation Workshop Scholarships

The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for AAAM Members (or those who work at member organizations) in Interpretive Training, in partnership with the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission at McLeod Plantation Historic Site in Charleston, SC. The workshop carries National Association for Interpretation Certification.

NMAAHC is sponsoring a 32-hour course in the theory and practice of personal interpretation. Individuals that complete the training will demonstrate a basic knowledge of:

- The history of the interpretation profession
- The principles of interpretation
- The thematic approach to developing and delivering interpretation that connects audiences to historical resources in meaningful ways
- Current literature in the field of interpretation

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. The workshop will take place January 17-23, 2016.

From the 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."

For more information on the partner organizations:

NMAAHC: www.nmaahc.si.edu

McLeod Plantation Historic Site: <https://www.ccprc.com/1447/McLeod-Plantation-Historic-Site>

NAI: www.interpnet.com

AAAM: www.blackmuseums.org

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be members of AAAM or on staff at an AAAM member institution at the time of application.
- Applicants must be staff engaged in the field of interpretation or a related field. Applicants/Applicant institutions must be members of AAAM through August 2016.
- Applicants must be able to attend the AAAM National Conference August 2-5, 2016 in Riverside CA.
- AAAM board officers, scholarship committee members and members of their families are not eligible.

To Apply

All applications must be received by **5 pm EDT October 16, 2015**.

Please combine all documents into one pdf file and email it to BrynerN@si.edu with subject "2016 Interpretation Scholarship".

- The attached form
- A letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor/director.
- A resume
- A statement of why you are interested in attending the interpretation workshop that states how you and your institution will benefit from your attending the workshop. (500 word maximum)
- A statement of your vision for how you will apply new interpretation tools/new skills in your institution (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
- Vision
- Professional experience (Applicants should have at least 2 years of professional experience in the museum field)

Selection Procedure & Timetable

- Applications posted on AAAM website on September 1, 2015
- Applications received by Scholarship Coordinator by October 16, 2015
- Scholarship Committee screens applications through October 30, 2015
- Applicants notified by Scholarship Coordinator around Nov 10, 2015
- Acceptance letters received by Scholarship Coordinator December 1, 2015
- Applicants attend interpretation workshop in Charleston SC January 17-23, 2016
- Certified participants present at AAAM conference in Riverside CA August 2-5, 2016

Membership Applications

To become a member of the Association of African American Museums please visit www.blackmuseums.org.

Additional Details

The Association of African American Museums/AAAM Interpretation Workshop scholarship program is for 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 AAAM Interpretation Workshop scholarship 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. Scholarships are awarded to museum employees endorsed by their institutions, and include workshop registration, travel, lodging, readings, and related workshop materials and per diem to cover 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners and 4 group site visits to related historic sites in the greater Charleston area.

Participants who successfully complete the Interpretation Workshop will receive NAI interpretation certification (provide info elsewhere as a side bar). **Certified participants** will present their work at the AAAM 2016 Conference in Riverside CA.

Certified participants will receive complimentary full AAAM conference registration and \$500 towards travel expenses.

Each award recipient must be able to attend the AAAM National Conference August 2-5 in Riverside CA. Successful participants will make a formal presentation at the AAAM conference, will be recognized at an awards lunch, and will participate with the Auction Committee in the Scholarship Auction.

2016 SI NMAAHC Interpretation Workshop Scholarship Application

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Organization:

Job Title:

(Please remember to attach required supplemental materials as listed below into one PDF File and email it to BrynerN@si.edu with subject "2016 Interpretation Scholarship" by 5pm on October 16, 2015.)

- A letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor/director.
- A resume
- A statement of why you are interested in attending the interpretation workshop that states how you and your institution will benefit from your attending the workshop. (500 word maximum)
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