

A Museum Project like no other



SHRINERS MUSEUM · USC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT & INTERPRETIVE DESIGN INTERN

4 POSITIONS

• **3–6 HOURS WEEKLY**

• **ACADEMIC CREDIT ELIGIBLE**

• **LOS ANGELES**

About the Project:

The Shriners Museum Project is a ground-up museum-development initiative dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the Al Malaikah Shriners, the Shrine Auditorium, Shriners Children's, Daughters of the Nile, and more than a century of Southern California civic, fraternal, cultural, and philanthropic history.

Working with materials drawn from the historic Shriners vaults and organizational collections, interns will help transform an important but largely uncatalogued archive into an accessible, professionally organized museum collection which will eventually open to the public.

The Exhibition Development & Interpretive Design Intern will assist with the early planning and development of the museum's permanent and temporary exhibitions.

Working under the direction of museum leadership, interns will help identify exhibition themes, select objects and images, organize stories, draft interpretive text, and explore ways to present complex history clearly and responsibly. This position combines historical research, storytelling, visual thinking, and audience engagement.

What You'll Do:

- Assist in developing exhibition themes, narratives, and interpretive goals.
- Review collection records, historical research, photographs, and archival materials for exhibition potential.
- Help select objects, documents, images, quotations, and stories for display.
- Organize exhibition content into clear sections and visitor-friendly storylines.
- Draft and revise exhibition labels, introductory panels, captions, timelines, and other interpretive text.
- Prepare preliminary object lists, image lists, and exhibition-content outlines.
- Develop basic floor-plan concepts, case groupings, or display sequences.
- Research comparable exhibitions and museum interpretation practices.
- Consider accessibility, reading level, cultural sensitivity, and different audience perspectives.
- Identify opportunities for interactive, digital, audiovisual, or hands-on interpretation.
- Coordinate with the Collections & Archival Cataloguing Team to confirm object information and display requirements.
- Coordinate with the Historical Research Team to verify facts, context, quotations, and source material.
- Coordinate with the Digital Imaging & Metadata Team to identify exhibition-quality images and digital assets.
- Follow museum standards for object safety, copyright, privacy, attribution, and responsible interpretation.

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Expected Deliverables

- Exhibition concept outlines or interpretive frameworks
- Preliminary object, image, and content lists
- Draft exhibition labels, captions, timelines, or introductory panels
- Research on comparable exhibitions and interpretive approaches
- Preliminary layout, case-grouping, or visitor-sequence concepts
- Accessibility and audience-engagement recommendations
- A short end-of-semester summary of completed work, unresolved questions, and recommendations
- Participation in the cohort's final presentation to museum leadership

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the internship, students should be able to:

- Explain the major stages of museum exhibition development.
- Organize historical content into a clear interpretive narrative.
- Select objects and images that support specific exhibition goals.
- Write concise, accurate, and accessible museum labels.
- Consider visitor needs, accessibility, cultural sensitivity, and multiple perspectives.
- Connect exhibition ideas with collection records, research, digital assets, and object-care requirements.
- Recognize the practical limitations of space, budget, security, conservation, and installation.
- Understand how museums use objects, design, and storytelling to create meaningful visitor experiences.

Preferred Qualifications:

This internship is especially appropriate for students studying:

- Museum studies
- Public history
- Art history or history
- Exhibition design
- Architecture or interior design
- Graphic design or visual communication
- Anthropology
- Theatre, scenic design, or production design
- Education
- English, journalism, or creative writing
- Digital media or interactive design
- Material culture

Applicants should demonstrate strong writing, visual organization, curiosity, collaborative skills, and an interest in communicating history to public audiences.

Application & Approval

Finalists will be reviewed by museum leadership and must receive Shriners approval before accessing collection materials or historic records. Approved interns will receive onboarding, collections-handling training, a defined work schedule, an assigned supervisor, and a semester deliverables tracker

Applicants should submit:

- Résumé
- Brief statement of interest
- Academic program and year
- Weekly availability
- Relevant coursework or experience
- USC faculty recommendation, when applicable