

INFORMATION SESSION

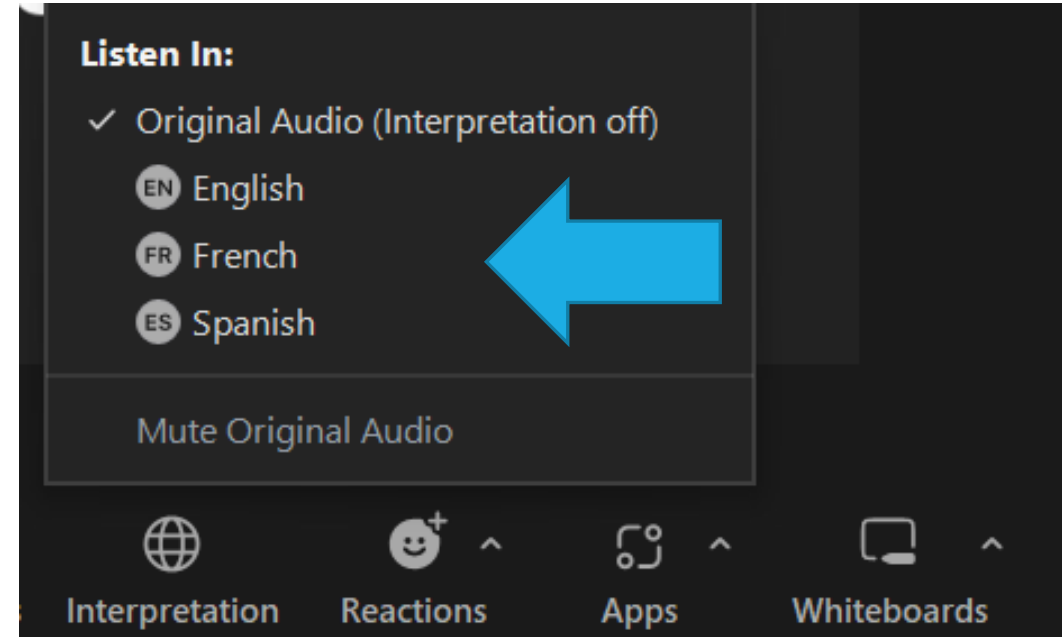
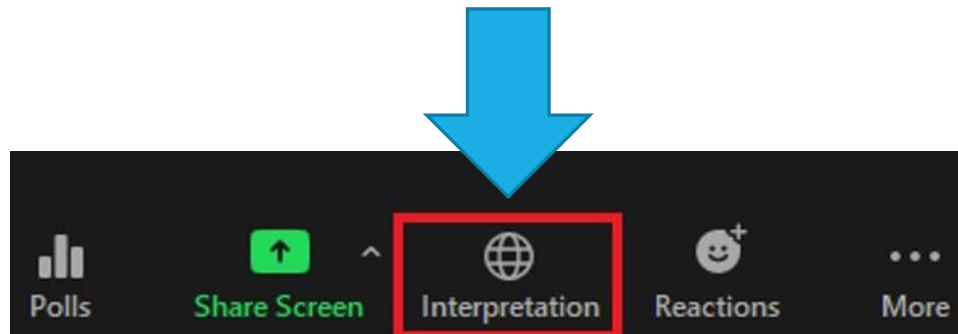
Cultural Heritage Forward: A Shared Stewardship and Ethical Returns Exchange Program

Supported by the U.S. Department of State
Implemented by the Smithsonian Institution



Zoom Interpretation

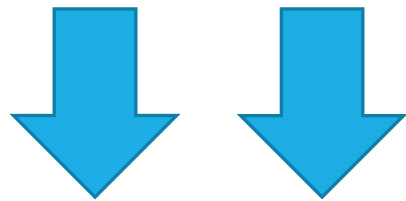
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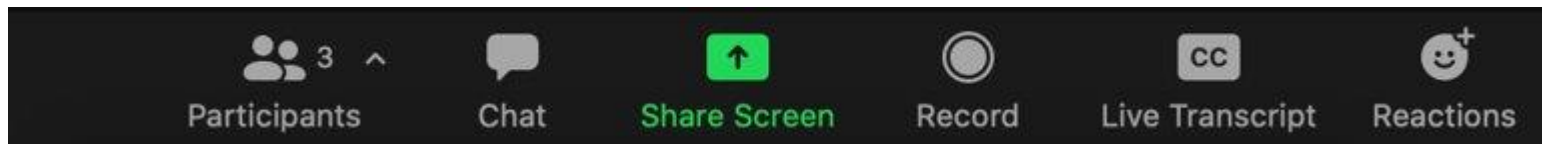
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Zoom Meeting Features

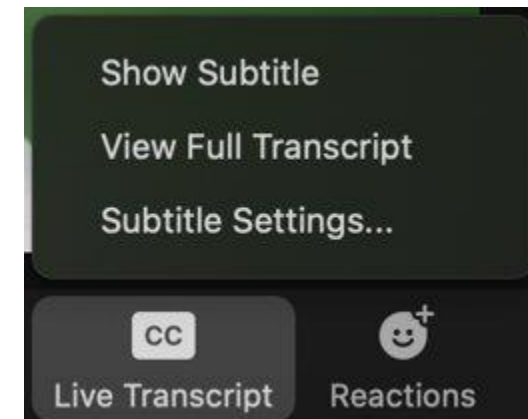
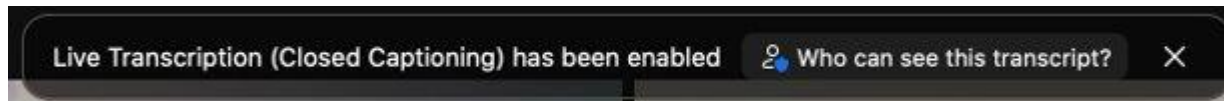
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Agenda

- **Introductions**
 - **Smithsonian Institution**
 - Welcome from the Office of Global Affairs (OGA)
 - Meet the Unit Hubs: National Museum of African Art (NMAfA), National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), and the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH)
 - **U.S. Department of State Cultural Heritage Center (USDOS CHC)**
- **Program overview**
- **Application requirements and deadline**
- **Q&A**



Smithsonian Institution

- ❑ Welcome
- ❑ Smithsonian mission
- ❑ Global engagement



Smithsonian Unit Hubs



**National Museum of the
American Indian**



**National Museum of
African Art**



**Center for Folklife and
Cultural Heritage**

National Museum of the American Indian



Community engagement with collections in person.



In person + virtual engagement in dedicated space.

National Museum of African Art



Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage



The Bahnar Rongao Gong and Drum Ensemble from Vietnam perform a special ceremony in the Mekong River program at the 2007 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.



Archives staff and interns digitize at-risk audio recordings in need of preservation.



U.S. Department of State Cultural Heritage Center (CHC)

- CHC Mission
- Global Community Engagement
- Shared Stewardship and People to People Exchanges



Cultural Heritage Forward

Program Objectives:

- Examine a range of topics including equity, access, inclusion, shared stewardship, and ethical returns;
- Provide technical assistance and professional development for its participants, rooted in a multi-directional exchange of ideas and approaches;
- Build the capacity of individuals to conserve, manage, and display and interpret objects; and
- Build and strengthen international networks of dialogue around these key topics.

Program Structure

Phase 1

- Program launch
- Virtual engagements with full cohort
- Preparation for Washington, DC-based exchange

Phase 2

- Two-week visit to Washington, DC with paired Smithsonian unit
- Knowledge sharing and exchange
- Project development
- Engagement with Department of State leadership and DOS staff involved in cultural heritage preservation in each region

Phase 3

- Project work from home countries
- Virtual engagements with full cohort
- Smithsonian site visits to paired country / region / community
- Virtual capstone meeting

The Cohort



Peru



Chile

**National Museum of the
American Indian**



Nigeria



Cameroon

**National Museum of
African Art**



Vietnam



New Zealand

**Center for Folklife and
Cultural Heritage**

Eligibility

Applicants should have all the following to be considered for selection:

- Ability to participate in all three phases of the program, including ability to travel to the United States from 7-18 October 2024 (for participants from Nigeria, Cameroon, Vietnam, and New Zealand) or the spring of 2025 (for participants from Peru and Chile - dates to be determined).
- A valid passport at the time of application or the ability to obtain a passport in advance of international travel. Visitors traveling to the U.S. are required to be in possession of passports that are valid for six months beyond the period of their intended stay in the U.S.
- Access to reliable internet for the duration of the program to participate in regular virtual meetings organized by the Smithsonian Institution.

Eligibility (continued)

Applicants should have all the following to be considered for selection:

- Ability to participate in occasional virtual meetings outside of the hours of 09:00 – 17:00 to connect with the cohort and program organizers.
- Must self-identify as a cultural heritage steward or practitioner from Cameroon, Nigeria, New Zealand, Vietnam, Chile, or Peru. Any prospective applicant from the country must be working with cultural heritage materials that are of regional origin.
- Proficiency in spoken English is suggested, but not required.

Application requirements and deadline

- 1) **A statement of purpose (no more than one page, 12-point font, single spaced)**
- 2) **Resume, CV, or list of relevant work experience.**
- 3) **Letter of support**
- 4) **Answers to the following questions (no more than one page total, 12-point font, single spaced)**
 - a. How do you envision the future of inclusive museum practice and cultural heritage management work at your museum or in your community in the next few years?
 - b. How do you plan to contribute to the aims of the Smithsonian Institution host unit (NMAI, NMAfA, CFCH) with which you will work?
 - c. What impact do you think inclusive museum practices will have on the field of cultural heritage management in the coming years?

Interested individuals should submit the above, each as a separate attachment (four (4) total), to Global@si.edu with subject line “Cultural Heritage Forward Program Application” and the name of the Smithsonian unit host to which you are applying no later than 11:59pm ET on **10 April 2024**.

Q & A

