



## **Museum Studies Program Proposal for Master's Thesis**

A completed form is due to the Museum Studies Program Administrator during the semester *before* you intend to initiate your Master's Thesis research and course credits. (Deadline for this form is September 15<sup>th</sup> for Spring semester work, or February 15<sup>th</sup> for summer and fall work.)

### **1. Personal Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email / Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Master's Thesis title: \_\_\_\_\_

Site/Institution where Master's thesis research work will take place: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Supervisor Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Supervisor Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

### **2. Master's Thesis Proposal**

Your Master's Thesis combines the academic rigor of an in-depth research effort with the practical experience of developing a manuscript for potential publication. Students apply knowledge and skills they've acquired in the classroom to address contemporary theoretical frameworks and related challenges confronting museums through well-formulated research, analysis, and the presentation of their final capstone product. Your final product (in Plan I – Thesis track) should be guided by your graduate committee of three approved committee members who have expertise in the subject and experience in research; to that end, your committee should be constituted by the start of the semester in which your research begins. Your committee chairperson is asked to sign this form in recognition and support of your thesis proposal.

Attach to this form a written proposal (approximately 3 to 5 double-spaced pages) for your graduate thesis with brief supporting bibliography.

The proposal should include the following:

- Your overarching thesis or proposed research question and brief summary, including the goals and objectives for this capstone product. Why is this an interesting and valuable effort to undertake?
- Describe your specific contribution to the question (i.e., the research you will pursue, how you will analyze and present the results). If this research is part of a larger collaborative effort, such as a museum exhibit or publication project, please describe how your work connects project-tasks being carried out by other project members and museum staff.
- Note who you will be working with both at your research institution and the faculty members you have invited to serve as your faculty review committee.
- Ideal timeline for the thesis: note what you believe will be your proposed schedule and timeline to completion. Are there firm deadlines that your committee should be aware of (for example, an exhibit opening or other constraint on your host institution)?
- Deliverables: In addition to a thesis manuscript that critically addresses relevant topics in museum studies, please provide a preliminary list of additional anticipated deliverables for the project (e.g., exhibit related materials, object research, reports, etc.).

**3. Attachments: please attach the following**

- current résumé or CV
- completed Program of Study form
- current UNM transcript

**4. Approval of Project, Goals, and Objectives**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MSST Committee Chair Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MSST Program Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_