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Oct. 26, 2009

Nov. 2009 Calendar of Public Programs at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum

All exhibitions and programs, unless otherwise indicated, take place at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum at 1901 Fort Place S.E., Washington, D.C., which is open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., except Dec. 25. For more information, call (202) 633-4820, (202) 633-1000 or visit anacostia.si.edu for updated program schedules.

Public Programs: All events are free, open to the public and require reservations, which can be made at (202) 633-4844 unless otherwise indicated.

Exhibitions

Opening Nov. 8

The African Presence in Mexico: From Yanga to the Present **

Nov. 8 – July 4, 2010

This is a traveling exhibition developed by curators Sagrario Cruz-Carretero and Cesáreo Moreno at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The exhibition looks at the history, culture and art of Afro-Mexicans, and begins in the colonial era and continues to present day. Included in the presentation is the companion exhibition, "Who Are We Now? Roots, Resistance and Recognition" curated by Elena Gonzáles. Highlights of the exhibition include "casta" paintings—paintings used to delineate racial categories and the ever-increasing complexity of racial mixture; discussions of African slavery in Mexico and the hero/slave rebel Yanga; artifacts related to the traditions and popular culture of the Afro-Mexicans; and many paintings, masks, photography and other works of art.

On View Indefinitely

Separate and Unequaled: Black Baseball in the District of Columbia

After a recent successful run at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., a condensed version of this popular exhibition is on view at the museum. From Reconstruction to the second half of the 20th century, baseball—the great American pastime—was played in Washington on segregated fields. "Separate and Unequaled" looks at the phenomenal popularity and community draw of this sport when played by African Americans. Featured are such personalities as Josh Gibson and "Buck" Leonard, star players of the Negro Leagues' most celebrated team, the Washington Homestead Grays. The show also highlights community teams that gave rise to the various amateur, collegiate and semi-pro black baseball teams and leagues.

Public Program Calendar

SI-000-200X

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FILM:

Tuesday, Nov. 10; 7 p.m.—Film
“Midnight Ramble”

This film features an account of the little-known community of black independent filmmakers who produced close to 500 movies for African American audiences between 1910 and 1940. These "race movies" were shown at segregated screenings, many held after dark. Called "midnight rambles," they provided diverse images of African Americans that were unavailable in mainstream Hollywood movies. This story focuses on Oscar Micheaux, a pioneering filmmaker, and the rise and decline of a unique movie business. (60 min.)

MUSIC:

Introducing:

Second Sundays, Nov. 15 – Sept. 12, 2010; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.—Lecture/Demonstration

Rhythm Café

Featured is a lecture and performance jazz series in a café setting that focuses on a specific genre or time frame within the jazz culture. The two-hour program will be led by a guest lecturer providing historical information during the first hour followed by a musical group performing that particular music during the second hour. Visit anacostia.si.edu for an updated series schedule.

Sunday, Nov. 15; 11 a.m.—Lecture/Demonstration

Rhythm Café: Steel Drums: A Community Celebration

The steel drum, or steel pan, a traditional Trinidadian instrument, has become essential to the musical expression of many Caribbean nations. Kim Johnson, a leading researcher on steel-band history, offers an illustrated discussion on the origins and the early development of pan, the orchestration of pan, and the instrument's place in the community. A musical demonstration by recording artist Lennard Jack accompanies the talk. This event is produced in collaboration with Caribbeana Communications Inc. Space is limited. Reservations are required by Nov. 13. Call (202) 633-4866. Visit anacostia.si.edu for an updated series schedule.

Introducing:

Selected Saturdays, Nov. 28 - Jun. 26, 2010; 3-5 p.m.—Lecture/Performance

Metro Mambo: Latin Music in D.C.

From The Casbah to The Zanzibar, the nightclubs, dancers and musicians of D.C.'s Latin jazz and dance music scene have long reflected Washington at its most diverse. Many African-American bandleaders, such as Hedrick Mitchell and Maria Rodriguez, were involved, starting in the 1950s and 1960s. Join radio personality Jim Byers, host of WPFW 89.3 FM's "Latin Flavor: Classic Edition," for **Metro Mambo**, a series of concerts and lectures highlighting a multicultural Latin music scene that has thrived with quiet intensity and great popularity in the nation's capital. The concerts by top regional Latin jazz and dance music ensembles will be preceded by panel discussions or presentations. Visit anacostia.si.edu for an updated series schedule.

Saturday, Nov. 28; 3 p.m.—Lecture/Performance

Metro Mambo - Abaniquito: The Beginnings

From the first crack of the timbale, D.C. has had a distinct history of African-American involvement in the Latin music scene. Discover the early years of this phenomenon in discussion with conga drummer Paul Hawkins, and D.C.'s first Mambo bandleader, Hedrick Mitchell. Dance to music performed by the former members of Paul Hawkin's LaJazz, a D.C. institution. Visit anacostia.si.edu for an updated series schedule.

Workshops, Talks and Books

Friday, Nov. 6; 3 p.m.—Lecture

The National Museum of Mexican Art at 27

Founder and President Carlos Tortolero will detail his work in establishing the National Museum of Mexican Art 27 years ago as a national model for exhibits, performances, art education programs, advocacy for equality issues, and the role of museums in a changing society.

Monday, Nov. 9; 2 p.m.—Talk

Curator's Talk—The African Presence in Mexico

Cesáreo Moreno, curator of the exhibition, presents an overview of The African Presence in México. Moreno offers insights into the history and cultural retentions of the African legacy in Mexico and modern-day influences. Issues include Spanish history, the slave trade and cultural influences, as well as focus on the areas of Veracruz and Costa Chica.

Selected Mondays, Nov. 16. - June 21, 2010; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.—Workshop

Quilting Series - A Stitch in Time: Block-by-Block Quilting

Learn the basics of hand quilting by designing and sewing together a variety of squares, half-square triangles, and even a little appliqué, to form different patterns with basic quilting tools—fabric, needle and thread. Call for reservations.

Monday, Nov. 16; 10:30 a.m.—Workshop

A Stitch in Time: Block-by-Block Quilting

One-block construction and the fundamentals of appliqué. Call for reservations.

Wednesday, Nov. 18; 10 a.m.— Nature Walk

George Washington Carver Nature Trail

Walk the museum's Dr. George Washington Carver Nature Trail and learn how the principles of Kwanzaa are used to explain the benefits of natural recycling, the insect community, medicinal plants and other outdoor offerings.

**** The African Presence in Mexico** exhibitions project was organized by the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago. The Washington, D.C., presentation received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool,

administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center. Exhibition programs and special events are presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Latino Center, the National Museum of African Art, the Mexican Cultural Institute, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Chase is the national sponsor for the traveling exhibitions.

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Note to editors: Images for some public programs are available and may be obtained by calling (202) 633-4876.