

*[Photo: A logo reads, "Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum."]*

Narrator: Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum presents the following interview with Noel Lopez, "A Racialized River". The interview takes place in Washington, DC apart of the DC Community Forum. Noel sits with a panel in front a screen that reads, Documenting Anacostia.]

Noel Lopez: Some of the work that was done by Brett Williams. He did wrote a book,

Noel Lopez: not a book, but an article called,

Noel Lopez: A River Runs Through Us, about the racialization of the river.

Noel Lopez: She describes in great detail,

Noel Lopez: the way that the river sort of the process that Anacostia came to be called

Noel Lopez: Anacostia at East of the river.

Noel Lopez: Everything that way and the process of the racialization of the river and

Noel Lopez: racialization in the area and how we people on this side of the boat.

Noel Lopez: People on the other side of the river,

Noel Lopez: sort of perceiving those who live in Anacostia.

Noel Lopez: but the question is how to define it and that's a really tough one.

Noel Lopez: It depends, from my perspective, I have one way that I define what Anacostia is,

Noel Lopez: but I don't know if it's useful necessarily for something outside of the Park Service

Noel Lopez: I think that what's more interesting and what's maybe all of our work sort of

Noel Lopez: does, is it connects with the community itself and then ask them like,

Noel Lopez: how do you define the place you

live, how you define yourself.

Noel Lopez: And I think that ultimately is a more valuable way of interpreting what

Noel Lopez: Anacostia is, because if it's from my perspective,

Noel Lopez: it'll be from a governmental top-down approach and that rarely

Noel Lopez: benefits the community. So, I guess that's a way of me saying I decline to answer.

Audience: [Laughs]

Noel Lopez: I don't know.

