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The Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum Announces April 30 Call-for-artifacts Deadline Extension

The Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum has extended its deadline to April 30 for its nationwide call for artifacts to be considered for inclusion in its "East of the River: Continuity and Change" exhibition, opening in mid-September 2007 in observance of the museum's 40th anniversary. The exhibition will focus on the history and community life of Washington, D.C., neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, from their Native American beginnings in the 18th century forward to the present.

This national call is requesting that persons who resided in these communities from the 1940s through 1999 or have ancestors from this region contact the museum about loaning personal artifacts and items to be used in the exhibition.

Items Requested

Among the items being requested are photographs of family and friends and of historical, community, military, political, school and church events, gatherings and places; memorabilia, such as newspaper clippings, church bulletins, flyers, home movies, slides, films, posters, advertisements, letters, documents, recreation facility items, awards, campaign buttons/stickers, signage and maps; clothing or costumes worn to go-go clubs and to significant community affairs; and paintings or drawings of the community. Of particular interest are items from Anacostia neighborhood churches, Union Town, the Panorama Room, Barry Farms, St. Elizabeth Hospital and the Anacostia Museum.

Target Communities

The communities included in the exhibition research are Anacostia, Barry Farm, Bellview, Buena Vista, Congress Heights, Douglass, Dupont Park, Fairfax Village, Fairlawn, Fort Dupont, Fort Stanton, Garfield Heights, Good Hope, Hillcrest, Knox Hill, Naylor Gardens, Randle Highlands, Sheridan, Shipley Terrace, Washington Highlands and Woodland.

How to Submit Items for Consideration

Persons who have artifacts to be considered for inclusion in the exhibition should provide their contact information and a brief description of the items to Jenelle Cooper-Tolson by calling (202) 633-2867, emailing jctolson@si.edu or mailing to EOR Call, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, 1901 Fort Place S.E., Washington, D.C. 20020. The museum will contact potential lenders directly for more information. Lenders will be credited for items selected for display in the exhibition.

Volunteers Needed

In connection with the exhibition, the museum also is seeking volunteers to assist in reviewing and reporting on articles about these communities in historical newspapers on microfilm in the institution's library. Volunteers are being asked to read, identify and print newspaper articles. Persons interested in volunteering for this project should call Shelia Parker at (202) 633-4823.

Renamed the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum in 2006, the museum opened in southeast Washington in 1967 as the nation's first federally funded neighborhood museum. Today, it is recognized as a national resource, creating critically acclaimed exhibitions, engaging public programs and innovative community documentation initiatives. The museum's collection features significant holdings in African American art, religion, photography and family and community history dating back to the early 1800s. Located at 1901 Fort Place S.E., Washington, D.C., the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. For tours, call (202) 633-4870. Museum Web site: <http://anacostia.si.edu>. For general Smithsonian information, call (202) 633-1000.

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