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**Calendar of Exhibitions**  
**November 2008 – September 2009**  
**Grand Reopening Nov. 21**

### **First Floor Exhibitions and Displays**

Each wing of the museum's three exhibition floors will be anchored by a Landmark Object—large, compelling artifacts that will highlight the theme of that wing. The exhibitions in the East Wing of the first floor are focused on transportation and technology and the John Bull Locomotive is the signature artifact for this section. The exhibitions in the West Wing of the first floor are focused on science and innovation and the 1865 Telescope is the signature artifact for this section of the museum.

### **Artifact Walls**

#### **First and Second Floors; Center**

Artifact walls, consisting of 275 linear feet of glass-fronted cases lining the first and second floor center core, will highlight the depth and breadth of the collections and will convey that the museum collects, studies and exhibits objects from our nation's rich and diverse history. The artifact walls will be organized around the following themes: arts; popular culture; business, work and the economy; home and family; community; land and natural resources; peopling America; politics and reform; science; medicine; technology; and America's role in the world.

### **Special Cases**

#### **First Floor, Center**

Flanking the grand staircase on the first floor are five special cases dedicated to particular themes. They include: "Mobilizing Young American Minds, 1950-1970" which examines the changes in math and science education for young children during the Cold War, especially following the 1957 launch of the USSR's Sputnik satellite; "Civil War Field Printing" which investigates the role played by newly invented portable printing presses during the Civil War; "Barriers to Bridges: Asian Immigration after the Exclusion" which examines the processes of Asian immigration to the United States from the late 19th century to present day, paying particular attention to laws forbidding or restricting immigration and the ways Asians dealt with these roadblocks; and "Marketing Medicine:

1880-1930” which explores the historic relationship between medicine and advertising. “Producing for the American Table” illuminates the role of Mexican Americans in shaping the United States economy and culture through innovations in food production in both the home and the workplace.

**America on the Move**  
**First Floor, East Wing**

This 26,000-square-foot exhibition anchors the General Motors Hall of Transportation and features more than 300 transportation artifacts—from the 1903 Winton that was the first car to be driven across the United States to the 199-ton, 92-foot-long “1401” locomotive to a 1970s shipping container—showcased in period settings. The exhibition’s 19 settings, organized chronologically, allow visitors the opportunity to travel back in time and experience transportation as it shaped American lives and landscapes. As they travel through the show, visitors can walk on 40 feet of Route 66’s original pavement from Oklahoma, board a 1950s Chicago Transit Authority Car or, through multimedia technology, experience a “commute” into downtown Chicago on a December morning.

**Electricity Hall: Lighting a Revolution**  
**First Floor, East Wing**

This exhibition explores electricity and electrical invention in the 20th century and examines the similarities and differences between the process of invention in Thomas Edison’s era and today.

**Hall of Power Machinery**  
**First Floor, East Wing**

The Hall of Power Machinery holds examples of the machines that helped make the United States a world leader in industrial production. With models and machines—pumps, boilers, turbines and engines—the hall follows the development of increasingly efficient power machinery.

**Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Hall of Invention Gallery**  
**Invention at Play**  
**First Floor, West Wing**

What do the inventors behind Post-it Notes, robotic ants, Kevlar and the telephone have in common with children? Play! And it is the inaugural subject for the new Lemelson Hall of Invention, the Lemelson Center’s first dedicated public exhibition space at the museum, featuring the award-winning exhibition, “Invention at Play.”

With its highly interactive and engaging activities created especially for families, “Invention at Play” focuses on similarities between the ways children and adults play and the creative skills and processes used by inventors. Visitors of all ages will experience various playful habits of mind that underlie invention, such as curiosity, imagination, visual thinking, model building and problem solving.

Visitors will also “meet” inventors and innovators through compelling personal stories, photos and artifacts, and even have a chance to learn to windsurf on the Sailboard Simulator, which is based on a design by sailboard inventor Newman Darby.

**Lemelson Center Showcase**  
**Sporting Invention**  
**First Floor, West Wing**

“Sporting Invention” traces the development of sports inventions through drawings and prototypes, revealing the little-known stories of invention behind familiar sports equipment and also highlights aspects of universal design in sports technology development. Objects featured in the case include the skis and tennis racquets invented by Howard Head and an accessible snowboard for people with disabilities developed by student inventors at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass.

**Spark!Lab**  
**First Floor, West Wing**

Everyone can envision the “Eureka!” moment of invention, where the idea suddenly strikes and—BOOM—there’s a new product ready to change the world. Spark!Lab, the newest hands-on space for families and others visiting the museum, hopes to show the real story behind an inventor’s work.

Invention is a process, from creative ideas all the way to successful marketing, and the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation’s Spark!Lab aims to use fun activities, including games and science experiments, to help kids and families learn about the history and process of invention.

**Bon Appétit! Julia Child’s Kitchen at the Smithsonian**  
**First Floor, West Wing**

Visitors can sneak a peek into chef Julia Child’s legendary Cambridge, Mass., kitchen. When Child moved back to her home state of California in 2001, she donated the contents of her 14-foot by 20-foot custom designed kitchen, including small utensils, personal cookbooks, the stainless steel kitchen sink and her six-burner Garland commercial range. The kitchen, which Child used as the set of three television shows and as the testing ground for many recipes featured in her cookbooks, is composed of more than 1,200 individual pieces. The museum staff packed and catalogued the entire kitchen, then reassembled it in the museum exactly as it was in Child’s home.

**Science in American Life**  
featuring **Robots on the Road**  
**First Floor, West Wing**

This major exhibition explores significant connections between science and society from 1876 to the present. From genetics to the atomic bomb, the exhibition examines some of the issues the American public has dealt with and the ever-increasing role of science in society. This exhibition features more than 1,000 scientific instruments.

**NEW** in the exhibition’s “Looking Ahead” gallery is “Robots on the Road,” a display that explores how American society will react to recent research and innovations on mobile robots. The gallery features “Stanley,” a modified blue 2005 Volkswagen Touareg, the winner of the 2005 Grand Challenge, a robot race sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

**Smithsonian Libraries Exhibition Gallery**  
**Picturing Words: The Power of Book Illustration**  
**First Floor, West Wing**  
**Nov. 21– Jan. 4, 2010**

“Picturing Words: The Power of Book Illustration” showcases the richness of illustrated books through history. Pictures influence, inform and inspire in many ways. They add beauty, color and life to the printed page, offering a feast for the eye as well as food for the mind. Visitors may explore the power of pictures through 40 featured rare books from the Smithsonian Libraries’ collections in science, history and art, as well as objects from the museum’s Graphic Arts Division.

**Archives Center Display**  
**The Civilian Conservation Corps Experience, 1933-1942**  
**First Floor, West Wing**

Featuring rotating displays, the Archives Center cases will exhibit “The Civilian Conservation Corps Experience, 1933-1942” to mark the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corp’s founding. The display will show visitors what life was like for the young men who enrolled in the CCC, specifically the conservation work they engaged in and their daily life in camp, through photographs and paper materials.

**Second Floor Exhibitions and Displays**

The exhibitions in the East Wing of the second floor are focused on American ideals and the Greensboro Lunch Counter is the signature artifact for this section. The exhibitions in the West Wing of the second floor are focused on American lives and the George Washington Statue is the signature artifact for this section of the museum.

**Albert Small Documents Gallery**  
**The Gettysburg Address**  
**Second Floor, East Wing**  
**Nov. – Jan. 4, 2009**

Lincoln’s short address at Gettysburg, Pa., Nov. 19, 1863, became one of the most famous and eloquent speeches in American history. The manuscript that will be on view in the museum’s new Albert H. Small Documents Gallery is one of five drafts, the last known to have been written in Lincoln’s hand. Penned in March 1864 for an anthology to raise funds for the Union, it was kept by one of the book’s publishers, Alexander Bliss, and was auctioned in 1949. Oscar Cintas, a former Cuban ambassador, purchased it and, on his death in 1957, he asked that it be placed in the White House collection. There it is usually displayed on a corner desk in the upstairs Lincoln bedroom, which is not on public tours. With the generous support of Mrs. Laura Bush, the White House is loaning this copy of the Gettysburg Address for a very limited public viewing.

## **The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag That Inspired the National Anthem** **Second Floor, Center**

The newly conserved flag is the centerpiece of the historic renovation and reopening of the National Museum of American History. An architectural representation of a waving flag—approximately 40 feet long and 19 feet high and composed of 960 reflective tiles made of polycarbonate material—soars above the entrance to the Star-Spangled Banner gallery. As visitors enter the gallery, a companion exhibition sets the scene for a dramatic historic event: the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, when this young nation endured and Francis Scott Key was moved to write the words that would become the national anthem. Around the corner, visitors then see the fragile 30-foot by 34-foot wool and cotton flag displayed inside a specially constructed, environmentally controlled chamber, fronted by a 35-foot-long floor-to-ceiling glass wall. The chamber is designed and engineered to safeguard the flag while providing maximum visibility to visitors. Low light levels protect the flag, yet dramatically evoke an atmosphere of “dawn’s early light,” similar to what Key experienced on the morning of Sept. 14, 1814, when he was inspired to pen the famous lyrics. The first stanza of the national anthem is projected prominently on the wall above the Star-Spangled Banner. A tactile image of the banner and an interactive projection of the flag allow visitors to investigate key details about the flag, its history and how it was made. Upon leaving the viewing chamber, additional exhibits convey specific stories about the making of the Star-Spangled Banner: its meaning as an Armistead family keepsake, the efforts of the Smithsonian to preserve the flag for more than 100 years and how Americans have used the Star-Spangled Banner, both the flag and the song, to express diverse ideas of patriotism and national identity.

## **Communities in a Changing Nation: The Promise of 19th-Century America** **Second Floor, West Wing**

“Communities in a Changing Nation” is an exhibition that explores the promise of America in the 1800s through the experiences of three different communities. Visitors walk through the industrial era in Bridgeport, Conn.; relive the Jewish immigrant experience in Cincinnati, Ohio; and witness slavery and freedom among African Americans in Charleston, S.C.

## **Within These Walls...** **Second Floor, West Wing**

“Within These Walls...” tells the history of the house that stood at 16 Elm Street in Ipswich, Mass., and five of the many families who occupied it from the mid-1760s through 1945. Through this history, the exhibition explores some of the important ways ordinary people, in their daily lives, have been part of the great changes and events in American history. Within the house from Ipswich, American colonists created new ways of living, patriots sparked a revolution, an African American struggled for freedom, community activists organized to end slavery, immigrants built new identities for themselves, and a grandmother and her grandson served on the home front during World War II.

## **Third Floor Exhibitions and Displays**

The exhibitions in the East Wing of the third floor are focused on American wars and politics and the Clara Barton Red Cross Ambulance is the signature artifact for this section of the museum. The exhibitions in the West Wing of the third floor are focused on entertainment, sports and music and a Dumbo ride car is the signature artifact for this section.

### **The Price of Freedom: Americans at War Third Floor, East Wing**

“The Price of Freedom: Americans at War” is an 18,000-square-foot exhibition surveying the history of the U.S. military from the Colonial era to the present, exploring ways that wars have been defining episodes in American History. Using a unique blend of more than 800 original artifacts, graphic images and interactive stations, the exhibition tells the stories of how Americans have fought to establish the nation’s independence, determine its borders, shape its values of freedom and opportunity, and define its leading role in world affairs. Among the objects included in the exhibition are one of the few Revolutionary War uniforms in existence; furniture used by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee during the surrender ceremony at Appomattox Court House; a restored Huey Helicopter, an icon of the Vietnam War that is the largest object on display; and the uniform worn by Colin Powell during Operation Desert Storm.

### **Gunboat Philadelphia Third Floor, East Wing**

In October 1776, American troops in a ragtag collection of newly built boats faced an advancing line of British ships on Lake Champlain in New York. The Americans, under the command of Benedict Arnold, were forced to retreat, but not before they fought the British to a standstill. One of the American vessels, the “Philadelphia,” sank during the battle and rested on the bottom of the lake until 1935. It was recovered that year with much of its equipment intact and came to the museum when the building opened in 1964, complete with the 24-pound ball that sent the gunboat to the bottom.

### **The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden Third Floor, Center**

This exhibition explores the personal, public, ceremonial and executive actions of the 43 men who have had a huge impact on the course of history in the past 200 years. More than 900 objects, including national treasures from the Smithsonian’s vast presidential collections, bring to life the role of the presidency in American culture. The visitor discovers the nation’s highest office through multiple sections, a timeline and media presentations.

### **Thanks for the Memories: Music, Sports and Entertainment History Third Floor, West Wing**

Music, sports and entertainment play major roles in American life, shaping our national memory and often defining what is American to the nation and to the world. The infinite variety of popular culture offers a democracy of choices. The memorable objects and ideas in this exhibition are a sampling of

more than a century of collecting at the Smithsonian and feature Dorothy's ruby slippers from "The Wizard of Oz," Muhammad Ali and Joe Louis' boxing gloves and a boom box owned by hip hop pioneer Fab 5 Freddy.

### **Hall of Musical Instruments** **Third Floor, West Wing**

The Hall of Musical Instruments presents samples of instruments and music relating to the history, performance styles and techniques of European and American music and the development of musical instruments. Included in the Hall are several instruments made by Antonio Stradivari, universally acknowledged to have been the greatest of all violin makers. The *Servais* Cello (1701) is considered to be one of the best preserved Stradivarius cellos. Also included is the Herbert R. Axelrod Quartet of Decorated Instruments also made by Stradivari. Among only 11 rare decorated Stradivarius instruments that survive today, the Axelrod Quartet features the following: Violin, the *Ole Bull* (1687); Viola, the *Axelrod* (1695); and Violin, the *Greffuhle* (1709). While generally on display, these instruments also are used for performances of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society.

### **The Dolls' House** **Third Floor, West Wing**

"The Dolls' House" is an exhibition featuring a miniature house designed, decorated and furnished by Faith Bradford. It is five stories tall with 23 rooms and is built on a scale of one inch to one foot. The house contains 806 items collected by Bradford, including furniture, linens, toys and other household items. Calling this small house home are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Doll, their 10 children, two visiting grandparents, five servants and 20 pets. The Dolls' House was exhibited twice before coming to the museum, at Gadsby's Tavern in 1932 and in the Christmas display windows of a Washington, D.C., department store in 1933. Also featured is Bradford's scrapbook, which illustrates her methods in creating the house.

### **Lower Level Displays**

#### **Taking America to Lunch: Lunchboxes** **Lower Level in Stars and Stripes Cafe**

"Taking America to Lunch" celebrates the history and endurance of American lunch boxes. After reaching the height of their popularity at the dawn of the television era, lunch box sales became barometers for what was hip in popular culture at any point in time. Included in the display are approximately 75 objects drawn from the museum's collection of children's and worker's illustrated metal lunch boxes and beverage containers dating from the 1880s through the 1980s.

## **Cafes and Stores**

### **Constitution Cafe**

#### **First Floor**

When the museum reopens there will be a new cafe at the Constitution Avenue entrance. The Constitution Cafe, open the same hours as the museum, will be the perfect place for morning coffee, a light lunch or a mid-afternoon ice cream. Its large picture window will have a terrific view of the museum's fountain and the street.

### **Stars and Stripes Cafe**

#### **Lower Level**

The main eatery for the National Museum of American History will be the newly renovated Stars and Stripes Cafe, located on the lower level. This dining area has something for everyone, from fresh pizza made in our wood burning oven, to sandwiches, salad bar and decadent desserts. Of course it wouldn't be an "American" cafe without hamburgers, hot dogs and French fries and we will have those also. This cafe seats 600 and is large enough to accommodate groups. **NOTE:** The Stars and Stripes Cafe will be open for seating and serve boxed lunches starting Nov. 21. Hot food service will begin in December.

### **Main Museum Store**

#### **First Floor**

There will be a new 6,000-square-foot store centrally located on the first floor. Visitors will be able to browse through a collection that includes new merchandise inspired by the Star-Spangled Banner, an expanded line of jewelry and a wonderful book selection. Dog tags, toys, note cards, T-shirts and other old favorites also will be available.

### **Mall Museum Store**

#### **Second Floor**

Located at the Mall entrance to the museum, a new store will be stocked with the "best of" the museum's collection of merchandise. It also will be the place to purchase your last souvenirs, as well as convenience items such as water, maps and batteries. This store will feature a dog tag-making machine, which is a perennial visitor favorite. Other hot-selling items that will be featured are Star-Spangled Banner merchandise, personalized mugs and Washington, D.C.-related items.

### **The Price of Freedom Store**

#### **Third Floor**

The third floor store adjacent to the exhibition "The Price of Freedom" reopens along with the museum. It will carry a large selection of military-themed merchandise, as well as products related to the exhibition "The American Presidency," also located on the third floor. Books, apparel and home accessories will be available for purchase.



## **Exhibitions Coming Soon: December 2008**

### **First Ladies at the Smithsonian Second Floor, West Wing**

“First Ladies at the Smithsonian” will showcase premier objects from the nearly century-old collection, including 14 dresses ranging from Martha Washington to Laura Bush. An introductory section explores the evolution of the collection and how it has been displayed at the Smithsonian. The centerpiece of the gallery is a large exhibit case that will feature selected gowns, portraits, White House china, personal possessions and associative objects from the Smithsonian’s unique collection of first ladies material. The display is designed to encourage visitors to think about how museums interpret individuals and document their lives through objects. A section discussing the tradition of the first lady’s inaugural gown coming to the Smithsonian will answer some of the public’s most frequently asked questions. It highlights the gown worn by Helen Taft (the first inaugural gown presented by the first lady herself in 1912) and the 2001 inaugural gown worn by Laura Bush. The final section focuses on the contributions of America’s first ladies and the ways in which they have influenced the most powerful office in the country—through their shaping of the first ladies role, the country’s expectations of public women and the needs of the presidential administration. This exhibition was conceived as a bridge to the museum’s plans for an expanded exhibition on first ladies history set to open in a few years.

## **Opening in 2009**

### **Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life Third Floor, Center Jan. 16, 2009 – January 2011**

As part of the Smithsonian-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, the museum will bring together—for the first time—its unique and unparalleled Lincoln collection. Through a focused selection of nationally important Lincoln artifacts, visitors will explore the life and times of this extraordinary figure. Each highlighted object will be augmented with personal stories told by Lincoln and the people who knew him best. The exhibition will showcase more than 60 historical treasures associated with Lincoln’s life from an iron wedge he used to split wood in the early 1830s in New Salem, Ill., to his iconic top hat he wore the night he was shot at Ford’s Theatre. The exhibition will tell a new and very intimate story of the life and legacy of this remarkable individual.

### **Albert Small Documents Gallery America’s New Birth of Freedom: Documents from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Second Floor, East Wing Jan. 16, 2009 – March 22, 2009**

The museum, as part of its Abraham Lincoln commemoration, is hosting an exhibition of 10 rare and important documents from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill.

The display will include a signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation and letters expressing Lincoln's views toward emancipation and the conclusion of the Civil War. These documents have become the cornerstone of current thinking on Lincoln and his legacy. Included in the exhibition is Lincoln's letter to long-time friend James C. Conkling in which he makes his forceful defense of the Emancipation Proclamation and his letter to Francis Blair, Lincoln's unofficial conduit to Confederate President Jefferson Davis, on his unwavering demands for peace.

**National Museum of African American History and Culture Gallery**  
**The Scurlock Studio and Black Washington: Picturing the Promise**  
**Second Floor, East Wing**  
**Jan. 30, 2009 – Nov. 15, 2009**

Nearly a century's worth of photographs from the Scurlock studio combine to form a vivid portrait of black Washington, D.C., in all its guises—its challenges and its victories, its dignity and its determination. The exhibition features more than 100 images created by one of the premier African American studios in the country and one of the longest-running black businesses in Washington. Highlights include cameras and equipment from the studio and period artifacts from Greater Washington. Beginning in the early 20th century and continuing into the 1990s, Addison Scurlock, followed by his sons, Robert and George, used their cameras to document and celebrate a community unique in the world. They captured weddings, baptisms, graduations, sporting events, civil protests, high society affairs and visiting dignitaries. It was for portraiture, however, that the Scurlocks became renowned; they continue to be recognized today by scholars and artists as among the very best of 20th-century photographers who recorded the rapid changes in African American urban communities nationwide. The images are drawn from the Scurlock Studio Collection, preserved since 1997 at the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History. Artifacts are on loan from Howard University, The Historical Society of Washington DC and the Scurlock family. The exhibition—and its fully illustrated, 224-page catalog (Smithsonian Books, \$35)—are presented by the National Museum of African American History and Culture in collaboration with the National Museum of American History.

**Albert Small Documents Gallery**  
**Duke Ellington's Mood Indigo**  
**Second Floor, East Wing**  
**April 4, 2009 – May 29, 2009**

Drawing on the museum's large and internationally renowned Duke Ellington collection, the exhibition will focus on one of his most significant works, "Mood Indigo." Throughout his life Ellington reimagined this piece of music. The exhibition, through an examination of music manuscripts and media stations, will discuss the significance of the work and how it was changed throughout time. The exhibition opening will be timed to coincide with Jazz Appreciation Month in April 2009.

**On the Water: Stories from Maritime America**  
**First Floor, East Wing**  
**Summer 2009**

“On the Water: Stories from Maritime America” is a new permanent exhibition designed to engage the public in a dynamic exploration of American maritime history. The exhibition will build on the Smithsonian’s unparalleled National Watercraft Collection of rigged ship models, patent models, documents and images to bring the sights, sounds and stories from the oceans, inland rivers and coastal communities to the museum’s millions of visitors.

The maritime influence on American history is one of the most compelling chapters in the national story. Marine transportation and waterborne commerce underlie American history like a strong and steady ocean current. Maritime trade established major cities, created connections between people and places and opened the continent. Visitors will explore life and work on the nation’s waterways, discovering the stories of whaling crews, fishermen, shipbuilders, merchant mariners, passengers and many others. From 18th-century sailing ships, 19th-century steamboats and fishing craft to today’s mega containerships, the exhibition will reveal America’s maritime connections through objects, documents, audiovisual programs and interactives. Visitors will discover the continuous and significant role maritime activity has played in American lives.

“On the Water” is an 8,000-square-foot companion exhibition to “America on the Move” and replaces the museum’s “Hall of American Maritime Enterprise.” This exhibition is funded by the A.P Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation.

**Stories on Money**  
**First Floor, East Wing**  
**Summer 2009**

“Stories on Money” explores the National Museum of American History’s National Numismatic Collection through four themes. “America’s Money” examines how money changed from colonial days to the present, featuring objects from the Gold Rush, among other notable eras. “Ancient Money” looks at examples that predate civilization as we know it. “What’s Money?” focuses on traditional currency, such as glass beads and jewelry, from various cultures to look at how people creatively invented currency in marvelously different forms. Finally, “Women on Money” focuses on real, mythical and allegorical women remembered on money in an exploration of how social and cultural messages about American women have changed throughout history. The exhibition immerses the visitors in these “Stories on Money” with objects and interactive media where visitors can view enlarged images and delve further into numismatic history.

**Albert Small Documents Gallery**  
**Earl Shaffer and the Appalachian Trail**  
**Second Floor, East Wing**  
**July 10, 2009 – October 11, 2009**

This exhibition will focus on the American environmentalist, naturalist and activist Earl Shaffer (1918-2002), whose papers are owned by the Archives Center. In 1948, Shaffer was the first to hike the Appalachian Trail in its entirety—more than 2,000 miles—in one continuous hike. He repeated the feat twice more and inspired thousands of hikers who complete the trail annually. Some examples of featured items include: photographs taken along the trail, diaries from the 1948 hike and later ones, letters from hikers asking for advice and papers relating to his activism in numerous environmental and hiking groups. The scope of the exhibition will include the conception and development of the Appalachian Trail and its larger cultural and environmental impact.

**Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964**  
**Second Floor, West Wing**  
**September 2009 – January 2010**

“Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942 -1964” examines the bracero program and experiences of bracero workers and their families. The bracero program, a little-known chapter of American and Mexican history, was originally created to fill the labor shortages of World War II. Between 1942 and 1964, millions of Mexican men came to the United States on short-term labor contracts, making it the largest guest worker program in United States history. Both bitter and sweet, the bracero experience tells a story of exploitation but also of opportunity.

“Bittersweet Harvest” will be organized into three main sections that will explore the bracero’s motivations and expectations for the journey north, the work they did and the effects the bracero program had on family and communities in Mexico and the United States. The exhibition will draw extensively from the museum’s collection of photographs taken by photojournalist Leonard Nadel in 1956, as well as oral histories, documents and objects collected by the Bracero Oral History Project.

**About the Museum**

The National Museum of American History collects, preserves and displays American heritage in the areas of social, political, cultural, scientific and military history. After a two year renovation and a dramatic transformation, the museum will shed new light on American history, both in Washington and online. A grand reopening festival is scheduled for Nov. 21-23. To learn more about the museum and its renovation, check <http://americanhistory.si.edu>. For Smithsonian information, the public may call (202) 633-1000, (202) 633-5285 (TTY).

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