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**Media website:** <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

## Fact Sheet

### Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum

**Director:** Camille Giraud Akeju

**Total Full-time Employees:** 19

**Annual Budget (federal and trust) FY 2010:** \$3 million

**Number of Artifacts:** 7,300

**Visitors (2009):** 34,000

#### Background

The Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum documents and interprets the effect of historical and contemporary social and cultural issues on communities. Established in 1967 as the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, it served first as a Smithsonian outreach museum situated in one of the Washington, D.C.'s largely African American neighborhoods and later evolved into a museum documenting, preserving and interpreting African American history from local and community history perspectives. In 2006, the name of the institution was changed to the Anacostia Community Museum to reflect the expansion from ethnic themes and issues to broader cultural issues that resonate within communities.

#### Research

The museum's Community Documentation Project records the history and ongoing changes in communities found east of the Anacostia River. Subjects of interest include gentrification, displacement and loss of families and social groups, the effect of globalization and technological change on community life, the loss of traditional means of employment and income, and the issue of economic disparity. This research is the basis for the broader national and international issues addressed in exhibitions and programs under the museum's expanded mission.

#### Collections

The museum documents and collects objects and archival material in three areas. The neighborhood collections focus primarily on artifacts relevant to the history and community life of Washington neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River. The arts collections—primarily folk art—explore national and international themes of community such as creativity and nonconformity. The legacy collection is composed of significant African American historical and cultural artifacts and materials.

## **Exhibitions**

Current exhibitions based on the legacy collection and focusing on African American history and culture include:

- “Word, Shout, Song: Lorenzo Dow Turner Connecting Communities through Language,” about African cultural continuities in Brazil and the U.S. Sea Islands on view Aug. 9-March 27, 2011
- “Separate and Unequaled: Black Baseball in the District of Columbia,” a condensed version of the larger earlier exhibition on view indefinitely
- “East of the River: Continuity and Change,” featured at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., and on view indefinitely

Future exhibition subjects include an examination of the community and creative expression east of the river, urban waterways with a focus on the Anacostia River and relationships between merchants and residents in Washington, D.C.’s Wards 7 and 8.

## **Education**

The education department presents stimulating public programs that explore family and community history and social and cultural issues. Central to its offerings are guided exhibition tours, which are available to families, school groups, organizations and other groups by request. In addition, the education department offers educational activities in published form and on the Internet. Professional training sessions, many of which can be taken for CEU credits, provide teaching strategies and resources on a variety of subjects. Art workshops, a nature-trail tour and video showings are also available throughout the year.

The Museum Academy Program is a three-tiered program that includes an after-school and summer program for elementary school students, a career awareness program for middle school students and an internship program for high school youth. Instituted in June 2001, this program is designed to foster positive development through discovery, documentation and creative expression based on the students’ knowledge of community history. The Museum Academy Program enables the museum to offer continuous age- and interest-appropriate opportunities in arts and culture, museum careers and specialized training for children and youth.

## **About the Museum**

The Anacostia Community Museum is located at 1901 Fort Place S.E. in Washington, D.C., the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Information: (202) 633-4820; tours: (202) 633-4870; website: <http://anacostia.si.edu>. Follow us on Twitter @AnacostiaMuseum and like us on Facebook @Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum. Free summer weekend transportation to the museum from the National Mall is available. The schedule can be viewed at the museum’s website or at [anacostia.si.edu/shuttle](http://anacostia.si.edu/shuttle).

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