Mission

Through incomparable collections, rigorous research and dynamic public outreach, we explore the infinite richness and complexity of American history. We help people understand the past in order to make sense of the present and shape a more humane future.
Anniversaries are more than milestones. They are crossroads at which we decide whether to live in the past or use our experiences to inform and empower our future.

For the National Museum of American History, 2014 marked not only our 50th anniversary but also the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner. The flag represents our nation’s struggles, perseverance, achievements and drive to turn the impossible into reality. Each time you see it, the Star-Spangled Banner speaks to you, whether an American or international visitor. It certainly spoke to Francis Scott Key two centuries ago when he wrote what later became our national anthem. Key may have been surprised to learn that, after 200 years, the flag still survives as one of the Museum’s — and nation’s — most revered and iconic treasures.

To mark the occasion, thousands of visitors joined the Museum on Flag Day, in person and online, for Raise It Up! Anthem for America. We celebrated with talented musical artists, a simultaneous singing of the national anthem, and a special display of Key’s original manuscript of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Over the next four years, we will host similar events reflecting the themes of new exhibitions opening on the three floors of the Museum’s west wing, which is undergoing an astounding change.

In 2015, Raise It Up! America Innovates will focus on American ingenuity and innovation.

Since the Museum opened 50 years ago as the Museum of History and Technology, it has examined both America’s achievements and what makes the nation innovative.

Its modern design in 1964 starkly contrasted with the grand neoclassical structures around it and made a bold statement. Following a national tragedy, it echoed the sentiments of President John F. Kennedy’s New Frontier: “I believe the times demand new invention, innovation, imagination, decision,” Kennedy said, upon accepting the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960. “I am asking each of you to be pioneers on that New Frontier.”

Half a century ago, the new Museum was looking toward the future. Today, it still is.

With the west wing’s first floor opening in July 2015, our curators, educators and designers are poised to deliver a remarkable space centered on American innovation. Creating exhibitions and programs with deeper, richer content continues to be made possible through our donors’ generosity. These individuals, corporations and foundations are moving us closer to our actual goal of $120 million and aspirational goal of $150 million, as part of the Smithsonian Campaign launched in October.

Our 2014 Highlights report details the many ways our supporters are helping us create transformative experiences.

The Museum now stands ready at a new crossroad. Join us as we engage visitors in the story of America’s past, while we explore the new ideas that shape our tomorrow. ★
A glimmering summer’s day in June served as the backdrop for *Raise It Up! Anthem for America*, marking the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner — the flag that inspired the national anthem. For the Flag Day occasion, the National Museum of American History welcomed musical performers and held a sing-along of the anthem for participants on the National Mall and around the world.
Electric guitar phenom Kristen Capolino revved up the crowd, and country singer-songwriter Carlene Carter charmed the audience with her vocals and acoustic guitar. Patriotic tunes by The United States Air Force Concert Band and the Singing Sergeants — the official chorus of the U.S. Air Force — added an extra burst of verve. Additional performances featured the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Quintet, Smithsonian Folkways’ Little Bit A Blues Band, a 400-person choir, and the Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Viewers from around the country watched the event televised by C-SPAN and livestreamed on ESPN3, Ustream and YouTube.

More than 115 National Audience Partners, including the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of State, helped spread the word about Raise It Up! Anthem-themed activities were held around the globe, from the Paul Revere house in Boston to the U.S. embassy in Mongolia. Americans across the country also registered to simultaneously sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” with those in attendance on the National Mall. Joining in honoring the flag was Macy’s, which committed to playing the national anthem at hundreds of its stores, enabling customers to participate in the singular, uniting moment that the sing-along represented.

The Star-Spangled Banner continues to tell the story of a young nation’s hope for liberty and its enduring resolve. In 1813, the experienced flag maker Mary Pickersgill was commissioned to sew this future national treasure for Fort McHenry in the city of Baltimore, where she resided. The 37-year-old widow worked diligently with her daughter, two nieces and an African-American indentured servant, all of whom were teenagers, to complete the project. Following the fort’s bombardment by the British in 1814, during the War of 1812 (1812-1815), a lawyer named Francis Scott Key was moved to pen “The Star-Spangled Banner” when he saw that the...
American flag, now permanently displayed at the Museum, was still waving. Key was just a few miles away aboard a British vessel during the battle where he was negotiating the release of an American prisoner. The flag was ultimately donated to the Smithsonian Institution in 1912 by descendants of Lt. Col. George Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore.

Maryland’s then-Governor Martin O’Malley reflected on the flag’s creation and the hard-fought battle, as he spoke before the Raise It Up! crowd.

“Just as the flag was made stronger by the individual threads, so, too, is our country today made stronger by the individual threads of each of our stories.”

Raise It Up! also marked the first time in history that Key’s original manuscript was united with the iconic flag.

“The marriage of that tiny document in Key’s own hand and the giant flag in the Smithsonian’s beautiful flag chamber is a once-in-a-lifetime thrill,” said Burt Kummerow, president of the Maryland Historical Society, which made the loan possible for a special exhibition (June 14-July 6) at the Museum.

In addition to the festivities was the evaluation of the Star-Spangled Banner’s physical condition. The flag was carefully assessed in February for the first time since its painstaking seven-year conservation treatment was completed in 2006. To ensure a safe environment for preservation, oxygen levels are kept low in the state-of-the-art flag chamber, which was comparable to working at a 10,000-foot elevation during the flag’s examination. The Star-Spangled Banner’s fibers proved to be in a condition similar to when last tested — welcome news during such a momentous anniversary year.

★

Conductor Eric Whitacre leads United States Air Force Concert Band on National Mall

“The Star-Spangled Banner,” 1814. Manuscript by Francis Scott Key. MdHS, 54315

“Just as the flag was made stronger by the individual threads, so, too, is our country today made stronger by the individual threads of each of our stories.”

Gov. Martin O’Malley
For 15 men and women this summer, being welcomed as new citizens by a fashion legend and businessman was a story to pass down for generations.

At the Museum’s 2014 naturalization ceremony, designer Ralph Lauren was awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal, presented by the Smithsonian’s then-Secretary G. Wayne Clough. The medal recognizes Lauren’s lifetime contributions to American entrepreneurship, artistry and creativity. It was the Ralph Lauren Corporation that played a critical leadership role 15 years ago in helping to preserve the Star-Spangled Banner. The organization’s major contribution was part of the “Save America’s Treasures” initiative established by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton during her time as first lady.

Clinton was on hand to deliver keynote remarks. She was joined by Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, who administered the Oath of Allegiance, and Senator Lisa Murkowski, who led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The event was held in partnership with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency.

With his family in the audience and marked emotion, Lauren spoke to the new citizens about memories of his immigrant parents preparing for their citizenship exam and the opportunities afforded to him by this nation.

“I’ve always been inspired by America ... because I believed in it,” explained Lauren. “You are very lucky to be here.”
Inspired Learning: Energizing America’s Classrooms

Can a museum help improve the teaching of history in schools across the country? The National Museum of American History has set out to answer this question by energizing and transforming the way dedicated history teachers across the United States engage their students.

The average American eighth grader spends only 3-5 hours a week studying social studies. As a result, the Museum is striving to help make every minute count at multiple grade levels. Through the generous support of A. James Clark and the Clark Charitable Foundation, the Museum has begun to reach into the nation’s classrooms to help change the way history is taught and comprehended. Since its founding in 2011, the A. James Clark Excellence in History Teaching Program has trained more than 8,000 teachers in 13 states across the country and equipped them with skills and resources to inspire their students.

The program centers on two free, hands-on efforts: the Teach It Forward Institutes and the Let’s Do History Tour. Teach It Forward works with a select group of experienced D.C., Maryland and Virginia area K-12 teachers to bring American history to life by integrating inquiry, object-based learning and other active learning techniques into their instruction. Teachers then return to their districts and “teach it forward” by training their colleagues.

Let’s Do History is a nationwide professional development tour where Museum staff members travel to six school districts each year to deliver 12 hours of high-energy, hands-on training to elementary and secondary school teachers over two days. Teachers go behind the scenes for Q&A sessions with Museum curators and actors portraying historical characters, such as abolitionist John Brown, via live videoconferencing, and receive free teaching resources. The 2014 Let’s Do History Tour visited Seattle, WA; Tempe and Tucson, AZ; Carson City, NV; Anchorage, AK; and Old Town and Rockport, ME. Participating teachers were genuinely excited about the training they received and were able to apply their new knowledge in the classroom. “The program energized my desire to really teach history and bring it alive!” explained one teacher.

In 2014, the Museum announced a major financial gift from the Clark Charitable Foundation that funds the program for at least seven additional years, reaching thousands more...
teachers and millions of students across the country. A portion of the foundation’s donation also funds an endowment to support the A. James Clark Director of Education and Outreach at the Museum. In this position, Carrie Kotcho serves as the Museum’s lead connection to the nation’s K-12 educational community while overseeing the Clark Program.

“We want classrooms to be places where students do more than master content,” said Kotcho. “We want to help teachers and their students develop and hone the interdisciplinary skills they need to understand the connections between the past, present and future: critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration.”

The A. James Clark Excellence in History Teaching Program is poised to make a lasting and meaningful impact on teachers and their students. It has set a new standard for educational outreach and has become a signature program that bolsters the Museum’s role as a leader in history education.

“The program energized my desire to really teach history and bring it alive!”

- LET’S DO HISTORY TOUR PARTICIPANT, ALABAMA
As the Museum reflects on its first 50 years, it is dedicated to sharing the nation’s complex and inclusive history in innovative ways to inspire the American people. By framing this dialogue around key ideas and ideals that have propelled the country since its founding, the Museum stimulates Americans to reflect on a fundamental question that touches everyone: “What kind of a people do we want to be?” The renovation and reinstallation of the west wing is at the heart of this important effort, examining the interplay between innovation, democracy, the peopling of this country, and American culture. In preparation for the opening of new exhibitions, curators are actively collecting and selecting objects, shaping new programs, creating partnerships, and capturing stories to be featured. A quinceañera dress, a 1907 Double Eagle gold coin, Thomas Jefferson’s portable desk on which he drafted the Declaration of Independence.
Independence — they all demonstrate how the Museum’s unparalleled collections animate the nation’s history unlike any other institution.

Each new space in the wing will have a central theme. The first floor, opening in 2015, will focus on innovation with exhibitions that explore the history of American business and showcase hot spots of invention, as well as the impact of everyday objects on daily life. On the second floor, opening in 2017, exhibitions on democracy, immigration and migration will examine the nation as one that Americans continue to build together. In 2018, the third floor will highlight culture as an essential component of the American identity. The renovation — including exhibitions, programs and endowed positions — will total $120 million, yet the Museum aspires to raise $150 million. Donors such as A+E Networks, which will help build On With the Show! on the wing’s third floor, and provide in-kind video and media for the new exhibition, are critical to the success of this project.

“Our goal,” said the Museum’s Elizabeth MacMillan Director John Gray, “is to make history essential by presenting the compelling ideas and ideals of America and animating them through transformative experiences designed to inspire participation in our American democracy.”

“I believe this new museum will do that which causes us all to celebrate: It will excite a thirst for knowledge.”

-PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
at the 1964 dedication of the Museum of History and Technology, what is today the National Museum of American History

West Wing Highlights in 2015

Invention

The wing’s first-floor concourse will hold a display of technological breakthroughs from various eras, as the result of a partnership with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that includes a festival at the Museum in fall 2015. Inventions of members from the National Inventors Hall of Fame, including Ralph Baer, will be showcased. Baer, recognized as the father of video games, donated his workshop to the Museum to serve as the first floor’s landmark object.

Food

In 2015, the Museum will open a demonstration kitchen within the west wing to host daily learning activities, discussions on topics ranging from agriculture to the environment, and special cooking programs for visitors. Because of the kitchen’s webcast-ready capacity, the Museum will be able to stream programs across the country and around the world. In addition, this new space — the Wallace H. Coulter Performance Plaza — will be an important part of the first annual Smithsonian Food History Weekend in 2015. Each fall, the Museum will bring together some of the nation’s culinary leaders and scholars to inspire visitors to understand the role they play in shaping the future of food in America.
Looking Forward: West Wing Highlights

New Exhibitions

Three new signature exhibitions will anchor the first floor’s renovated spaces. The Mars Hall of American Business will feature American Enterprise, the Smithsonian’s first-ever exhibition on business history. The Gallery of Numismatics will be home to The Value of Money, which will showcase the richness, depth and diversity of the National Numismatic Collection. Finally, the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Hall of Invention and Innovation will feature Places of Invention, which explores the role of place in sparking invention and innovation, and also the new space Inventive Minds, highlighting inventors documented by the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

Interactive Spaces

New interactive learning spaces will include Draper SparkLab, where children ages 6-12 can discover their own creativity and inventiveness, and better understand the central role invention plays in American history. The Patrick F. Taylor Foundation Object Project will engage visitors with activities and objects that changed American lifestyles. In addition, the Wegmans Wonderplace will stimulate an interest in American history among children ages 0-6 by using the Museum’s extensive collections and multisensory experiences to nurture creativity and critical thinking.
When visitors walk through the halls of the Museum, they are immersed in a setting that tells a uniquely American story. The people and events of history come alive, offering messages that resonate today and instilling a new understanding of American history among millions of men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds. Such an experience is made possible by years of intensive planning among dedicated curators and designers, and the outstanding donors across the nation who supplement the funds allocated annually by Congress.

Many Voices, One Nation, set to open in 2017, is an example of how integral the Museum’s donors are to its exhibitions. Early support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Zegar Family Foundation, and Marjie and Steve Alloy in 2014 has proven invaluable in helping curators continue to develop content and meet critical design deadlines. The thought-provoking look at immigration to the United States and migration within the country will cost approximately $20 million. Expenses include design, fabrication and installation, as well as programming and the establishment of two curatorial endowments. The generosity and extraordinary foresight of the exhibition’s founding donors will also leverage additional private support. Ultimately, these important gifts will help tell powerful stories that will leave an indelible impression on millions of visitors for decades to come.
History in the Making

Last October, the Museum celebrated the launch of the Smithsonian Campaign with a unique progressive dining experience themed History in the Making. The largest in history for a cultural institution, the three-year campaign is integral to the Museum’s west wing transformation and the Smithsonian’s efforts to spark discovery, tell America’s story, inspire lifelong learning, and reach people everywhere.

A behind-the-scenes glimpse of how exhibitions come together kicked off the evening for guests who sipped cocktails and sewed a star onto a replica Star-Spangled Banner in the Museum’s fabrication shop. Board members and donors then moved to Flag Hall where they savored a fusion dinner featuring Asian, Creole, Mexican and Eastern European influences. There, beneath the warm glow of a canopy of string lights, what appeared to be a large, well-known portrait of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams came to life. Each Founding Father shared his thoughts on the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, then, while in character, joined some of the dining guests for further enlightenment.

The evening neared an end with the distinctive sounds of Grammy-winning musician Brian Setzer, who donated his signature orange Gretsch guitar following his performance. Setzer is best known for his music in the ’80s with Stray Cats and in the ’90s with The Brian Setzer Orchestra.

“What an honor it is to be in the Smithsonian just for playing the music that I love,” said Setzer.

The occasion culminated on the first floor with decadent desserts and popular ’60s music from the decade that saw the Museum’s doors open.

“What an honor it is to be in the Smithsonian just for playing the music that I love.”

- Brian Setzer

Senior Textile Conservator and Chief Conservator of the Star-Spangled Banner Suzanne Thomassen-Krauss helps Barry M. Meyer stitch a star onto a replica of the banner, as wife, Wendy, and fellow board member A. Scott Berg look on.
Raise It Up!

16 new renditions of the national anthem recorded by celebrity artists for the flag’s anniversary

2.7 billion worldwide media impressions generated by Raise It Up!

115+ Raise It Up! national audience partners

100+ anthem-themed parties across the globe

60 million impressions on Twitter

Smithsonian Channel’s “A Star-Spangled Story: Battle for America.” Special thanks to The Biscuit Factory.
11 million+ total onsite and online visitors

2,799 new objects

3 million American treasures

94,800+ likes on Facebook

3 million visits to K-12 online resources
A Life Told Through Objects
*Camilla’s Purse* examined the life of Camilla Gottlieb, a Holocaust survivor. Purse contents, such as an identification card and traditional Jewish wedding contract, represent her family life before Germany invaded Austria in 1938. Gottlieb was liberated from a concentration camp and later moved to the United States. In 1964, her family fully learned of her war experience when, upon Gottlieb’s passing, her purse was found.

★

Exhibition Openings

**A Life Told Through Objects**

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» The Early Sixties: American Culture and Science artifact walls opened

» Continuity and Change: Fifty Years of Museum History opened

» World’s Fair diorama displayed

» Puppetry in America artifact wall (second rotation) opened

» 1965 Mustang was on view

This red chiffon gown was worn by first lady Michelle Obama during her husband’s second-term inaugural balls. It was on a one-year loan during the Smithsonian’s centennial of the *First Ladies* exhibition.

Making a Modern Museum:
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Museum of American History opened
Military Culture

You don’t typically expect American men and women in uniform to serenade you. Featuring live performances by signature military music units, as well as the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, the Star-Spangled American Music Series illuminated the country’s musical heritage. It also drew large crowds and inspired spirited dancing. Who knew the U.S. Air Force Strings could easily transition from Flight of the Bumblebee to Billie Jean?

- **Spark!Labs** opened in Kansas City, MO; Pittsfield, MA; and Gurgaon, India
- Lemelson Center collaborated with *Smithsonian* magazine and the Arthur C. Clarke Center for Human Imagination on the **2014 The Future Is Here festival**, “Science Meets Science Fiction: Imagination, Inspiration, and Invention”
- **Harvest of Empire** documentary was screened

- **Raise It Up! Anthem for America** celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner
- **James Smithson Bicentennial Medal** was awarded to cultural icon Ralph Lauren
- **Francis Scott Key’s original manuscript** of today’s national anthem was loaned and exhibited with the Star-Spangled Banner for the first time
- **Raise a Glass to History** welcomed mixologists from 15 cities to create flag-inspired cocktails
- **Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra** presented **On the Road: A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald**
- **Star-Spangled Banner Forever Stamp** was unveiled in partnership with United States Postal Service

The Museum partnered with WETA television and the National Endowment for the Humanities for a **live webcast featuring filmmaker Ken Burns** and a discussion of his latest project, *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*. The second annual **Winemakers’ Dinner** hosted vintners and members of winemaking families connected to early ’60s history.

- **National Numismatic Collection** staff began “rapid capture digitization,” allowing visual, textual and other data from objects to be gathered quickly and made available digitally
- **Innoskate** skateboarding festival visited Lakeland, FL, and Seattle, WA
- **National Youth Summit** webcast focused on Freedom Summer, the 1964 youth-led effort to end disenfranchisement and educational inequality in deep South
- The Smithsonian Associates presented its **first sleepover for children** ages 8-12 and their chaperones
- Annual **FOOD in the Garden** series examined connections between land and water, people and food
- Museum launched **What It Means to Be American**, a national, multi-platform conversation
Vietnam: 50 Years Later
Before his death in Vietnam, Army Lt. Eugene Moppert and his platoon served as pen pals to several fourth graders in New Jersey. Some letters to the students, newspaper clippings and Moppert’s coffin flag were part of a Vietnam War donation. In one letter to a teacher, Capt. Harwood T. Nichols wrote, “The utter innocence and honesty of the children is enough to reconfirm any man’s faith in the goodness of human nature and the future of America.”

Ravi Coltrane donated items that once belonged to his father, John Coltrane, including a saxophone and the original score of A Love Supreme, during the 50th anniversary of the album by the same name.

Stars from The Wonder Years (1988-1993), including Fred Savage, were on hand to donate items from the hit series set in the 1960s. The Jets jacket belonging to Savage’s character, Kevin, was saved for years by the actor’s mother, Joanne.

Nisei Soldier Congressional Gold Medal displayed
A ceremony and panel discussion marked the end of a seven-city tour of the Nisei Soldier Congressional Gold Medal awarded in 2010. The medal recognizes the heroic wartime contributions of three U.S. Army units where 19,000 second-generation Japanese Americans (Nisei) volunteered during World War II. During the war, more than 110,000 ethnic Japanese faced internment resulting from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066.

Collections & Acquisitions

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- Renée Fleming’s Super Bowl XLVIII dress, worn for national anthem performance, was donated

- Talk show host Wendy Williams donated items from her television show

- Brian Setzer’s (Stray Cats, Brian Setzer Orchestra) Gretsch guitar was acquired

- Objects representing career of painter and muralist Judith Baca were acquired

- Future Farmers of America jackets were donated, including one from former President Jimmy Carter
Objects and archival materials related to LGBT history were collected, including script copies from the hit show *Will & Grace* (1998-2006). The sitcom’s creators, Max Mutchnick and David Kohan, were on hand for the event.

Jan Demczur used this squeegee to escape an elevator with five other men on the World Trade Center’s 50th floor. It is among 27 artifacts on loan to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, which opened in 2014.

Museum staff members share their talents and knowledge across many platforms. Their work can be found in new books, such as *The Smithsonian First Ladies Collection*; in scholarly publications, including the *Annals of Science*; and on new musical releases such as *Dmitri Shostakovich: Chamber Symphonies, Opp. 73A & 110A*.

The Museum actively promotes exhibitions, programs and scholarship to the media, and staff members are frequently seen on television. In 2014, curators and the Museum were featured on:

» *Jeopardy!*
» *PBS’ Newshour*
» *America’s Test Kitchen*
» *H2’s 10 Things You Don’t Know About*
» *C-SPAN 3 American History TV*
» *Smithsonian Channel documentaries*
» *Travel Channel’s Mysteries at the Museum*

The communications team generated more than 20,500 news stories, with 5 billion potential views, in such outlets as:

» *Associated Press*
» *The Wall Street Journal*
» *The New York Times*
» *USA Today*
» *Los Angeles Times*
» *TheGuardian*
» *The Washington Post*
» *Chicago Tribune*
» *The Huffington Post*
» *Vanity Fair*
» *Town & Country*
» *Washingtonian*

» *X-Men* movie items were collected

» *Day of the Dead* display opened

» *1900 Blüthner grand piano* was acquired and placed on view

» *Alexander Calder’s Gwenfritz stabile* was rededicated

» Calvin Cafritz and Elizabeth MacMillan
  Director John Gray
Smithsonian Council for American History

The National Museum of American History gratefully acknowledges members of the Smithsonian Council for American History for their enthusiastic commitment throughout the year. The Council is a membership group for individuals who make unrestricted contributions of $1,000 or more to support a variety of the Museum’s critical needs, from the preservation of national treasures to the presentation of world-class exhibitions and educational programs. Council members receive an array of exclusive opportunities in appreciation for their generosity.

(Members as of February 28, 2015)

John B. Adams, Jr.
Anonymous*
Anonymous
James K. Asselstine and Bette J. Davis*
Doctors Christopher J. and Kristy Z. Baker
Susan and Thomas Baxter*
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Behring*
Candice Bennett and William Hewitt*
A. Scott Berg
Bram Bluestein and Ilene Gordon Bluestein*
Ms. Lynne Breaux and Mr. Peter Arapis
Jere and Bonnie Broh-Kahn*
Ellsworth H. Brown, Ph.D.
Kathryn C. Brown
Marilyn L. Brown and Douglas N. Morton

Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D.
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Albert and Edwina Carlson
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Gordon and Dona Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Crisp III*
Damon and Marci Dillon
Sanjay B. Dixit, M.D.
Anthony and Darian Downs*
Loyd Ellis
Peggie Ann Findlay**
Sarajane Foster*
Greg Frost Sr. and Devon Frost
Michael and Karen Fuljenz
Jeff and Mary Lynn Garrett*

* Famed artist and producer Quincy Jones and Council member Shirley Loo at members-only screening and reception of Jones’ Keep on Keepin’ On

** Council member Peggie Ann Findlay stitches a star onto a replica of the Star-Spangled Banner
SPARKS FLY IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

Marriage proposals are not intended benefits of becoming a member of the Smithsonian Council for American History, but for Marci Dillon, it was a special perk. In September, her now husband, Damon, dropped to one knee on the roof terrace of the Museum’s administrative offices. But getting Marci there took creating an elaborate story with the help of newly formed allies on the Museum’s staff. With stunning views of the Washington Monument and National Mall, Damon easily sealed the deal.

Marci’s passion to preserve history through the Council was an important factor in Damon’s choice of venue. “[The Museum] has always held a special place in my heart so being there made it extra special,” Marci wrote to the Museum soon after the proposal. “It is especially exciting for my family with whom I would visit the Smithsonian each year when I was growing up.”

The couple wrapped up the occasion at the annual FOOD in the Garden event in the Museum’s Victory Garden, under the setting sun of a Washington evening. *

★ Marci and Damon Dillon at 2014 FOOD in the Garden

* Founding Member
^ National Committee Member

Karyn C. and George McC. Gill
Drs. Mark Graham and Laneta Dorflinger*
Peter and Rhondda Grant*
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Calvin and Marilyn Gross
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Ms. Judy C. Woodruff and Mr. Albert R. Hunt
The Smithsonian gratefully acknowledges the individuals, companies and foundations that made possible numerous activities of the National Museum of American History through major gifts in 2014.

(As of January 31, 2015)

Clark Charitable Foundation
A. James Clark
Draper

Tom and Priscilla McMahan
Paul Neely

LeRoy Neiman Foundation

A+E Networks
Wallace H. Coulter Foundation
Sue Van

Barry and Wendy Meyer Foundation

★ Dedicated Supporters

★ Nancy Lee and Jonathan Kemper in the Museum’s fabrication shop during the cocktail hour of the History in the Making dinner

★ Guests enjoy desserts and conversation at the History in the Making dinner
LeRoy Neiman painted them all in his trademark style that recreated great moments and depicted extraordinary figures with vibrant colors that burst off the canvas. During his lifetime, the artist enjoyed great success and, with his wife, established the LeRoy Neiman Foundation to perpetuate his legacy and philanthropic spirit, and to share the impact of his life, ideals and artwork.

In 2014, the foundation made a generous pledge of $2.5 million to grow the infrastructure and programming for Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), which is supported by private gifts and the Jazz Appreciation Month Endowment Fund. The fund was established in 2013 by the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation and supports the annual, month-long, international JAM celebration coordinated by the Museum.

The LeRoy Neiman Foundation’s gift will also make possible the redesign of the Museum’s first floor café, which will be renamed the LeRoy Neiman Jazz Café and will feature the artist’s Big Band painting. Neiman’s 9’x13’ painting depicting 16 legendary jazz artists from Billie Holiday to Louis Armstrong will inspire visitors and preserve Neiman’s extraordinary artistic legacy.
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