

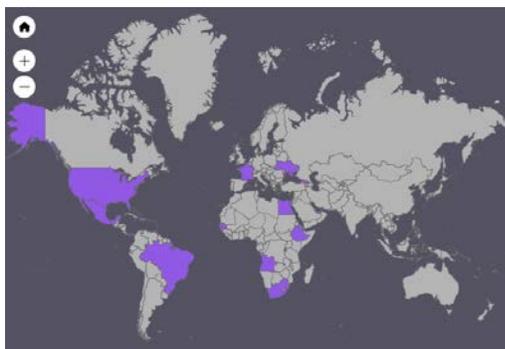
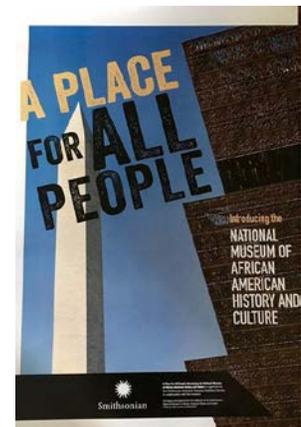


Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture Launches Web-Based Initiative to Celebrate its Inaugural Year (September 2016 – December 2017)



The Grand Opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on September 24, 2016 was a global moment in history. It showcased and honored the work of institutions and individuals dedicated to preserving the many contributions of the African Diaspora to the American story.

In accordance with the inaugural year celebration, beginning September 2016 through December 2017, NMAAHC launched the *Lift Every Voice (LEV)* global initiative to highlight organizations co-celebrating the Grand Opening of the newest Smithsonian Museum.



The robust response to the LEV resulted in over 850 celebrations in 22 different international sites, across 20 countries, with many more expected throughout NMAAHC's inaugural year. The LEV is designed to showcase the depth and breadth of African American history and culture across the nation and around the world by encouraging partnering organizations to share the great work being done in their communities, both nationally and internationally. NMAAHC institutional partners, such as museums, libraries, HBCU's, historic sites and cultural centers were encouraged to register their activities for inclusion in the web-based LEV directory.



We invite you to join the museum's *Lift Every Voice* initiative and use the opening year of NMAAHC to Lift Your Voice and tell the nation about the great work you are doing to celebrate African American History and Culture. The LEV provides an unparalleled co-branding and cross-promotional opportunity for NMAAHC partners. Consult the Lift Every Voice [global directory of celebrations](#) to discover upcoming events in your hometown or local region. Registered events may occur any time within the museum's inaugural year (September 2016 through December 2017).

“The African American experience is the lens through which we understand what it is to be an American.”

Lonnie G. Bunch, III
Founding Director, NMAAHC

Click the link below to read [“NMAAHC opens with pride, the President and throngs who’d traveled from near and far”](#) (a synopsis culled from [VOANEWS.COM](#), The Washington Post, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution)