

# **Smithsonian Institution Special Symposium: (Re)Presenting America: The Evolution of Culturally Specific Museums**

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **Xavier Becerra**

Representative Xavier Becerra of California's 31<sup>st</sup> Congressional District serves as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, is a member of the powerful Committee on Ways and Means, and is Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security. The first Latino to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Becerra has used his position to increase opportunities for working families, to improve the Social Security program for women and minorities, to combat poverty among the working poor, and to strengthen Medicare and ensure its long-term viability. Rep. Becerra is a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) where he served as Chair during the 105th Congress (1997-98). The Congressman is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Rep. Becerra serves on the Smithsonian Board of Regents and on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture Council. In 2003, Rep. Becerra introduced bipartisan legislation to establish a federal commission to explore the viability of creating a "National Museum of the American Latino" in Washington, D.C., and in 2008 former President George W. Bush signed the legislation into law. On May 5, 2011, months ahead of schedule, the National Museum of the American Latino Commission submitted its final report to Congress and President Barack Obama with its findings and recommendations regarding the creation of a national museum focused on American Latino history, art and culture. Moving forward with the recommendations of the May 2011 report, Rep. Becerra introduced bipartisan legislation with U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Majority Leader U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), and U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) to authorize the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries building on the National Mall as the designated location of a future Smithsonian American Latino Museum.

### **Claudine K. Brown**

Claudine Brown is the assistant secretary for education and access for the Smithsonian Institution. Responsible for defining the Smithsonian's education program, her focus is the Institution-wide plan for educational initiatives, assessment strategies, and funding for students in the K-12 range. Brown oversees two of the Smithsonian's educational organizations—the National Science Resources Center and the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies—and coordinates 32 education-based offices in museums and science centers. She also oversees the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, the Smithsonian Affiliates, and the Smithsonian Associates. Brown had been the director of the arts and culture program at the Nathan Cummings Foundation in New York since 1995. In 1990, she joined the Smithsonian to serve as director of the National African-American Museum Project. In this position, she coordinated the efforts of advisory committees that considered the role of the Smithsonian in the development of a national museum devoted to exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history, and culture. She developed the Institution's final study on the project and a program plan for the proposed museum. In 1991, she also became the deputy assistant secretary for the arts and humanities and developed policy for many Smithsonian museums. In addition to working in the museum and philanthropy communities, she has served for more than 20 years as a faculty advisor and instructor in the Leadership in Museum Education Program at Bank Street Graduate School of Education in New York City, giving her the opportunity to work with some of the pre-eminent museum evaluators, educators and thinkers in the field.

**Lonnie G. Bunch, III**

Historian, author, curator and educator, Lonnie G. Bunch, III is the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. In this position he is working to set the museum's mission, coordinate its fundraising and membership campaigns, develop its collections, establish cultural partnerships, and oversee the design and construction of the museum's building. Rooted in his belief that the museum exists now although the building is not in place, he is designing a high-profile program of traveling exhibitions and public events ranging from panel discussions and seminars to oral history and collecting workshops. As a public historian, a scholar who brings history to the people, Bunch has spent nearly 30 years in the museum field where he is regarded as one of the nation's leading figures in the historical and museum community. His previous positions include serving as president of the Chicago Historical Society, associate director for curatorial affairs at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, and curator of history for the California African American Museum, Los Angeles. He specializes in interpreting African American history in American museums and the black American experience in California. A prolific and widely published author, Bunch has written on topics ranging from the black military experience, the American presidency and all black towns in the American west to diversity in museum management and the impact of funding and politics on American museums. His most recent book, *Call the Lost dream Back: Essays on Race, History and Museums*, was published in 2010.

**Samuel Xavier Carnegie**

Samuel Xavier Carnegie is the Creative Director of Theater Programs at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. He is the director of the Joseph Henry program, including concepts and rehearsals, which uses theater to reintroduce the First Secretary of the Smithsonian to the world. He writes and directs the theater programs at the museum, and is also an actor, portraying historical characters, storytelling, and facilitating programs that occur on a daily basis.

**G. Wayne Clough**

Wayne Clough is the 12th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum and research complex. The Smithsonian includes 19 museums and galleries, 20 libraries, the National Zoo and nine research centers. Since becoming Secretary in July 2008, Clough has taken the Smithsonian in new directions. A comprehensive strategic plan—the first of its kind for the Smithsonian—creates a new framework for goals, enterprises and operations. The Smithsonian now focuses on four grand challenges—Unlocking the Mysteries of the Universe, Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet, Valuing World Cultures, and Understanding the American Experience. Clough is responsible for an annual budget of \$1 billion with about 6,000 employees. As a federal trust, the Smithsonian receives about 70 percent of its funding from the federal government and generates funding from contributions and business activities such as museum shops. Since Clough became Secretary, more than 300 exhibitions have opened across the Smithsonian. He has overseen the opening of major permanent exhibitions, including the Star-Spangled Banner at the National Museum of American History; the Hall of Human Origins at the National Museum of Natural History; and the new wing at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center. Before his appointment to the Smithsonian, Clough was president of the Georgia Institute of Technology for 14 years. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Georgia Tech in 1964 and 1965 and a doctorate in 1969 in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Clough was a member of the faculty at Duke University, Stanford University and Virginia Tech. He served as head of the department of civil engineering and dean of the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech and as provost at the University of Washington.

### **Bunky Echo-Hawk**

Bunky Echo-Hawk (Pawnee/Yakama), who will perform at the reception following the symposium, is a multitalented artist whose work spans both media and lifestyle. A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts, he is a fine artist, graphic designer, photographer, writer, and nonprofit professional. He is also a traditional singer and dancer. Throughout his career, Echo-Hawk has merged traditional values with his lifestyle and art. He has exhibited his work in major exhibitions throughout the United States and internationally in New York City, Chicago, Denver, Santa Fe, and Frankfurt, Germany, to name a few. His poetry has been published in magazines and anthologies throughout the country, and his plays have been performed and produced across the nation. In 2006, Echo-Hawk co-founded NVision, serving as Executive Director until 2009. NVision is a nonprofit collective of Native American artists, musicians, community organizers, and nonprofit professionals who focus on Native American youth empowerment through multimedia arts.

### **Kip Fulbeck**

Kip Fulbeck is a pioneering artist, spoken word performer, and filmmaker. He has been featured on CNN, MTV, The Today Show, and PBS, and has performed and exhibited in more than twenty countries and throughout the U.S. He is the author of several books including *Mixed: Portraits of Multiracial Kids; Part Asian, 100% Hapa*; and *Permanence: Tattoo Portraits*, as well as the director of a dozen short films including *Banana Split* and *Lilo & Me*. Fulbeck teaches as a professor of art at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received the university's Distinguished Teaching Award and has been named an Outstanding Faculty Member five times. In recognition for his work promoting multiracial awareness, he was awarded the inaugural Loving Prize at the 2009 Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival and also named a Cultural Pioneer at Harvard University. A complete overachiever despite being only half-Chinese, he is also an avid surfer, guitar player, ocean lifeguard, pug enthusiast, and the 2011 Masters Swimming national champion in the 50 freestyle.

### **Kevin Gover**

Kevin Gover (Pawnee) is director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. A former professor of law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in Tempe, affiliate professor in the university's American Indian Studies Program, and co-executive director of its American Indian Policy Institute, Gover received his bachelor's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University and his law degree from the University of New Mexico. Before joining the university faculty, Gover served as assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1997 to 2000. A presidential appointee, he was responsible for policy and operational oversight of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where he oversaw programs in Indian education, law enforcement, social services, treaty rights, and trust asset management. Gover also practiced law for more than 15 years in Albuquerque and Washington. He was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Princeton in 2001.

### **Philip Kennicott**

Philip Kennicott is chief art critic of *The Washington Post*, which he joined in August 1999. He has served as chief classical music critic for the *Detroit News* and the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, where he also worked for two years as an editorial writer. Before that he was a New York-based editor at *Musical America* and *Chamber Music* magazines. In 2000, he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for editorials opposing a conceal-carry gun referendum in Missouri (which failed despite heavy support from gun-rights organizations). In 2006, he was an Emmy Award nominee for a web-based video journal about democracy and oil money in Azerbaijan. He has also won a Cine Golden Eagle for his video work. In 2010 he won the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors general commentary award. Kennicott now writes extensively

about architecture and the intersection of architecture and culture. Kennicott graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in philosophy from Yale in 1988. Prior to Yale, he spent two years at Deep Springs College, in California. Kennicott, who blogs at <http://philipkennicott.com>, is a monthly columnist for *Gramophone* and a frequent contributor to *Opera News* and other musical publications.

### **Richard Kurin**

Dr. Richard Kurin serves as the Smithsonian Institution's Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture with responsibility for most of its museums, among them the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the Freer and Sackler Galleries of Asian Art, the National Museum of African Art, the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and the soon to be built National Museum of African American History and Culture. He also oversees several research and outreach programs including the Smithsonian's cable television channel. A former Fulbright-Hays fellow who has conducted most of his research in India and Pakistan, Kurin has a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Chicago, and taught at Johns Hopkins University Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. He served as the Director of the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage for more than two decades where he oversaw the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, the Ralph Rinzler Archives, and other educational and cultural policy initiatives. In addition to winning many awards, Kurin is the author of several books including *Reflections of a Culture Broker*, *Hope Diamond*, and his latest, *Saving Haiti's Heritage: Cultural Recovery after the Earthquake*, and more than one hundred other publications. He served on the U.S. Commission for UNESCO and helped develop the Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, an international treaty on safeguarding the world's living cultural heritage now ratified by more than 130 nations. He currently leads U.S. efforts to rescue and recover Haiti's cultural and artistic heritage following the devastating 2010 earthquake.

### **Konrad Ng**

Dr. Konrad Ng was appointed director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program in 2011. As director, Ng is responsible for initiatives, public programs, and exhibitions about the Asian Pacific American experience, and works with all Smithsonian museums and centers to support Asian Pacific American research, collections, outreach, and educational activities. Prior to joining the Smithsonian Institution, Ng was a professor in the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Academy for Creative Media where he taught courses on the art and history of cinema and digital media. His scholarly and professional work explores how Asian and Asian American communities use cinema and digital media to engage in cultural preservation, political representation, and community mobilization.

### **David W. Penney**

Dr. David W. Penney, an internationally recognized scholar in the field of Native American art and culture, is the first associate director of the National Museum of the American Indian's new scholarship department. Penney manages the offices of history and culture, Latin America, collections research and documentation, contemporary art, and repatriation. Penney joined the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1980 as curator of Native American Art, was promoted to Chief Curator in 1996 and ultimately served as Vice President of Exhibitions and Collections Strategies from 2003 to 2011. At the Detroit Institute of Arts Penney directed the creation of one of the finest Native American collections in the country. Spanning 3,000 years of history, it includes several masterworks from the renowned Chandler Pohrt Collection of Woodlands, Great Lakes, Prairie and Plains culture artistry, newly installed in a 6,000-square-foot permanent gallery. Curator of many exhibitions of note, Penney is also the author of numerous publications. His most recent work includes an essay, "Indigenous Terrain," in *Infinity of Nations*, which

was published in conjunction with the National Museum of the American Indian exhibition of the same name. Penney is an adjunct professor of Art History at Wayne State University, a position he has held since 1988. He received his Ph.D. in art history and archaeology from Columbia University and his Bachelor of Arts degree in art history from New York University, where he graduated *summa cum laude*.

#### **Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr.**

Dr. Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., is president and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI), located in Birmingham, Alabama. Pijaux began his tenure at BCRI in July 1995. BCRI is a state-of-the-art, multimedia facility housing exhibits of historical events from post-World War I racial segregation to present-day racial progress. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Pijaux received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana; and a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Under his leadership, BCRI achieved full accreditation from the American Association of Museums in July 2005. The Institute has received two consecutive national awards, presented at the White House by First Lady Laura Bush, for community service—the Coming Up Taller Award in 2007 and the inaugural National Medal for Museum Service in 2008. In April 2007, the Institute was named an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. In 2006, Pijaux, who is a member of a number of cultural and civic organizations, was named Alabama Tourism Executive of the Year. Pijaux is the immediate past president of the Association of African American Museums.

#### **Clement Alexander Price**

Dr. Clement Price is Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History, Rutgers University-Newark Campus, and Director of the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, an interdisciplinary academic center that, through public partnerships and programming, offers the Newark metropolitan area the finest thinkers and artists engaged with key issues of modern life. Price is the foremost authority on the black New Jersey past by virtue of his *Freedom Not Far Distant: A Documentary History of Afro-Americans in New Jersey* (1980), *Many Voices, Many Opportunities: Cultural Pluralism and American Arts Policy* (1994) and numerous other scholarly works. He is a trustee of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, president of the Newark Education Trust, chairman of the Save Ellis Island Foundation, a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and serves on the advisory council for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Price was appointed by President Barack Obama in July 2011 to serve as vice chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Along with the late Giles R. Wright, he is the 1981 co-founder and co-organizer of the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious conferences in observance of Black History Month in New Jersey. He is co-editor with Lonnie Bunch and Spencer Crew of the book, *Slave Culture: The WPA Slave Narratives*, which will be published by Greenwood Press in 2013.

#### **Helen Hatab Samhan**

Helen Hatab Samhan has 35 years of experience in non-profit advocacy, research, and cultural outreach work about Arab Americans and U.S.-Arab relations. She was an early supporter and founding board member of the Arab American National Museum and currently serves as Senior Outreach Advisor to promote Museum programs and exhibits around the country. Samhan recently retired from 25 years of service at the Arab American Institute in Washington, D.C., where she was executive director and established a number of research and leadership programs. Samhan publishes and lectures extensively in the field of Arab American ethnic studies, presents educational workshops, and has appeared at congressional hearings and in the media on subjects dealing with Arabs and Muslims in America. She

studied at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, where she received a master's degree in Middle East Studies.

### **Dwane Starlin**

Dwane Starlin, who enacts the role of Joseph Henry, First Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (1846-1878), during the symposium, is a long time professional actor, musician, and licensed tour guide in the Greater Washington-Baltimore area. He currently works full-time at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History portraying Joseph Henry. Starlin also performs one-man shows as Mark Twain, John Philip Sousa, and Clarence Darrow. He has appeared as a principal in two productions at the Washington National Opera.

### **Ray Suarez**

Ray Suarez has more than thirty years of varied experience in the news business. He came to The NewsHour from National Public Radio where he had been host of the nationwide, call-in news program "Talk of the Nation" since 1993. Prior to that, he spent seven years covering local, national, and international stories for the NBC-owned station, WMAQ-TV in Chicago. He is the author of numerous books, most recently of *The Holy Vote: The Politics of Faith in America*, which examines the tightening relationship between religion and politics in America. Suarez currently hosts the monthly radio program "America Abroad" for Public Radio International, and the weekly politics program "Destination Casa Blanca" for Hispanic Information Telecommunications Network, HITN TV. Suarez, who holds a B.A. in African History from New York University and an M.A. in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago, was a co-recipient of NPR's 1993-94 and 1994-95 duPont-Columbia Silver Baton Awards for on-site coverage of the first all-race elections in South Africa and the first 100 days of the 104th Congress, respectively. He was honored with the 1996 Ruben Salazar Award from the National Council of La Raza, and the 2005 Distinguished Policy Leadership Award from UCLA's School of Public Policy. *The Holy Vote* won a 2007 Latino Book Award for Best Religion Book.

### **Beth Takekawa**

Beth Takekawa is Executive Director of the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (The Wing), a community-based cultural institution in Seattle's Chinatown/International District, the only pan-Asian Pacific American museum in the nation, and the first Smithsonian Institution affiliate in the Pacific Northwest. Takekawa was hired as the Museum's Associate Director in 1997 and in 2008 became Executive Director. She has more than 25 years experience in community economic development, working in the private, public and nonprofit sectors in program development, finance and administrative management. Takekawa is appointed by the governor as a commissioner on the Washington State Arts Commission and serves on the boards of the Downtown Seattle Association and International District Emergency Center. She is a 2011 Salzburg Global Seminars Fellow, one of 56 leaders from museums and libraries worldwide invited to the Salzburg, Austria, convening to discuss the era of participatory culture. Beth was a National Planning Committee member for the Minidoka Internment National Monument, a national historic site remembering the U.S. government's World War II incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry. She completed her music degree at the University of Minnesota and Hunter College in New York City.

### **David Hurst Thomas**

Dr. David Hurst Thomas is a curator of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History and adjunct professor at Columbia University and the City University of New York. A California native, Thomas received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from the University of California-Davis. The author of numerous books, monographs, and scientific articles, he is well known for his archaeological

work on Native American sites and at the Franciscan mission on St. Catherine's Island off the coast of Georgia. In 1989, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Thomas is a founding trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian.

### **Carlos Tortolero**

Carlos Tortolero is the Founder and President of the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) in Chicago, the only Latino museum accredited by the American Association of Museums. The Museum, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012, has become a national model for its exhibits, performances, arts education programs, advocacy of cultural equity issues, and as a model for how museums need to change in today's society. Twenty exhibitions organized by the NMMA have traveled across the country and eight have traveled to Mexico. Tortolero is one of the nation's leading critics of the failure of large museums to serve diverse communities and the need for these museums to return cultural treasures to their respective countries. From 1975-87, Tortolero worked as a teacher, counselor, and administrator in the Chicago Public School System. He has served on numerous boards including the University of Illinois, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Smithsonian Latino Center. Tortolero has written many articles and is also co-author of *Mexican Chicago*, a photo history book of the Mexican community of Chicago. He has won numerous awards including the Illinois Humanities Council Public Humanities Award and has been named one of the top 100 Latino leaders in the country by *Latin Leaders Magazine*.