INDIVISIBLE
African-Native American Lives in the Americas

SYMPOSIUM
3:00  6:00 PM • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009
ELMER AND MARY LOUISE RASMUSON THEATER
“There still exists a largely invisible story of America—how African and Native peoples came together across space and time to create shared histories, communities, and ways of life. Through centuries of struggle, slavery, and dispossession, then by self-determination and freedom, African American and Native American peoples have become, more often than publicly recognized, indivisible.”

—GABRIELLE TAYAC (PISCATAWAY)
SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE
3:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Lonnie G. Bunch, III, director, National Museum of African American History and Culture

OPENING PRAYER
Amityah Elayne Hyman

INTRODUCTIONS AND FRAMING STATEMENT
Kevin Gover, director, National Museum of the American Indian

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE ANCESTORS
Penny Gamble-Williams, executive director, Ohke Cultural Network, Inc.

THE DYNAMICS OF COMMON UNITY BETWEEN AFRICANS AND NATIVE AMERICANS: EVIDENCE FROM AFRICAN–NATIVE AMERICAN NARRATIVES
Robert Keith Collins, San Francisco State University

RACIAL LEGIBILITY: PUBLIC POLICY AND THE TRANS/FORMATION OF “BLACK” AND “INDIAN” IDENTITY
Angela A. Gonzales, Cornell University

“AND MUSTEE IS MY NATION”: REFLECTIONS ON NARRATING CONTESTABLE IDENTITIES
Judy Kertész, North Carolina State University

“ONE OF THE LONGEST UNWRITTEN CHAPTERS”: THE INTERRELATED HistORIES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND NATIVE AMERICANS
Tiya Miles, University of Michigan

INDIVISIBLE: MANY HANDS, MANY VOICES
Gabrielle Tayac, historian, National Museum of the American Indian

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH PRESENTERS
Kevin Gover, moderator

CLOSING COMMENTS AND REMARKS
Kevin Gover
**BIOGRAPHIES**

**LONNIE G. BUNCH, III**

**ROBERT KEITH COLLINS African and Choctaw descent**
Dr. Collins is an assistant professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University. His expertise includes research in African and Native American interactions in North and South America, as well as in person-centered ethnography and the formation of public and private identities. Collins also specializes in Choctaw language and culture and has authored several book chapters on black Choctaw lived experiences.

**PENNY GAMBLE-WILLIAMS Chappaquiddick Wampanoag**
Ms. Gamble-Williams is an educator, artist, and community activist and the executive director of Ohke Cultural Network, Inc., in Maryland. She conducts teacher training and works with children of all ages using storytelling, art, music, and movement to teach Native and African American histories. She produces and hosts a radio talk show called the “Talking Feather,” which explores the history and culture of Native Americans, African Americans, and indigenous peoples around the world.

**ANGELA A. GONZALES Hopi**
Dr. Gonzales is an assistant professor of development sociology and American Indian studies at Cornell University. Her latest research explores the creation and manifestation of conceptual categories of race. Earlier work included community-based research of sociological processes underlying identity, development, and community health on Indian reservations. Dr. Gonzales strives to refine our understanding of the processes and outcomes of social change affecting Native peoples, tribes, and nations.

**KEVIN GOVER Pawnee**
Mr. Gover is director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian and former professor of law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (ASU). He also served as co-executive director of ASU’s American Indian Policy Institute. Before joining the university faculty, Mr. Gover was assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior, where he oversaw programs in Indian education, law enforcement, social services, treaty rights, and trust asset management.

**AMITIYAH ELAYNE HUMAN**
Retired after twenty-five years of ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Amitiyah Elayne Hyman is now a creative in residence in Greenbelt, Maryland. Her studio is her home; her media are film, print, fabric, and her garden. A mixed-blood woman of Native, African, and Euro descent, she walks the spirit path of her ancestors. Sitting at the crossroads, Amitiyah interprets from the spirit world and translates for the physical world, changing contaminated words into clear words.

**JUDY KERTÉSZ**
Ms. Kertész is a Ph.D. candidate in the history of American civilization at Harvard University and assistant professor of history at North Carolina State University. Her work focuses on colonial, revolutionary, and antebellum U.S. cultural history; American Indian histories and cultures; American nationalism; material culture; African American studies; and tribal sovereignty issues.
Meet the Curators: *IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas*

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon • Room 4018–19, Fourth level
National Museum of the American Indian
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC

Join the *IndiVisible* curators for a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at their work on this remarkable project and a lively, informative discussion of the challenges and rewards inherent in the richly complex subject the exhibition presents. Free and open to the public.

The Museum extends a special thank you to our participating partners, The Links, Incorporated, Eastern Area and the Capital City Chapter.
Island Smith at his desk, ca. 1935. Smith, an Afro-Creek herbal doctor who practiced in Oklahoma in the early 1900s, drew his spiritual power from both African and Native American traditions. Courtesy Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society.
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Established in 1989, through an Act of Congress, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is an institution of living cultures dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere. The museum includes the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall; the George Gustav Heye Center, a permanent museum in lower Manhattan; and the Cultural Resources Center, a research and collections facility in Suitland, Maryland.

Located on the National Mall at 4th Street and Independence Avenue SW, between the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building, NMAI is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The museum is closed on December 25.

To become a Member of the National Museum of the American Indian, please visit www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/give or call 1-800-242-NMAI (6624).

Visit NMAI’s website at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu

Cover (top): Comanche family, early 1900s, Courtesy Sam DeVenney; cover (bottom): Mashpee family, 2008, Photo by Kevin Cartwright.