



Smithsonian Institution

REVEALING ANCESTRAL CENTRAL AMERICA

**Cosponsored by the Smithsonian Latino Center
and the National Museum of the American Indian**

September 8, 2013, 10:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Rasmuson Theater
National Museum of the American Indian
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C.**

Join the Smithsonian Latino Center and the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) for a symposium to celebrate the current landmark exhibition *Cerámica de los Ancestros: Central America's Past Revealed*. This program features leading voices in the interpretation and recovery of the region's rich indigenous heritage. A book signing of the new Smithsonian publication, *Revealing Ancestral Central America*, edited by Rosemary A. Joyce, follows the symposium.

The symposium, exhibition, and book have their genesis in the Central American Ceramics Research Project, an initiative launched when visiting researchers from the Smithsonian Latino Center realized that the NMAI was quietly caring for one of the largest and most significant collections of Central American archaeology in existence, with approximately 17,000 objects from the region. Astonishingly, this includes more than 10,000 intact vessels, embodying countless untold stories. From figurines depicting powerful women in the Greater Nicoya region to finely decorated vessels of wealthy farming hamlets of the Ulúa Valley and the fantastical designs on Coclé, we can see that the peoples of pre-Hispanic Central America developed uniquely local identities and cultural traditions while also engaging in vital exchanges of ideas, goods, and technologies with their neighbors in all directions.

For the newly initiated or the most devoted aficionado familiar with the history and cultures of the region, the experience of participating in today's symposium, viewing the exhibition it celebrates, or reading the accompanying book is meant to engender new paradigms for understanding the pre-Hispanic past.

Live webcast at: <http://nmai.si.edu/multimedia/webcasts/>

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PROGRAM

- 10:30 am **Welcome** – Ann McMullen, Curator, National Museum of the American Indian
- 10:35 am **Opening Remarks** – Ranald Woodaman, Exhibitions and Public Programs Director, Smithsonian Latino Center
- 10:45 am **What Archaeology Reveals about Central America’s Past** – Rosemary A. Joyce (University of California, Berkeley). *Followed by Q & A, including response by Laura Wingfield (Emory University).*
- 11:30 am **Interethnic Relations and Multicultural Landscapes in Ancestral Central America** – John Hoopes (Kansas University). *Followed by Q & A, including response by Laura Wingfield (Emory University).*
- 12:15 pm **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 pm **Indigenous Heritage in Central America Today** – Victor Montejo (Jakalteq Maya; professor emeritus, University of California, Davis), James Lovell (Garifuna; independent cultural worker), and Georgina Hernández (founder, Museo de la Palabra y Memoria, El Salvador). Moderated by Ranald Woodaman. *Followed by Q & A.*
- 2:15 pm **Break**
- 2:45 pm **Preserving Central America’s Patrimony** – Christina Luke (Boston University), Fabio Amador (National Geographic), and Francisco Ulloa-Corrales (National Museum of Costa Rica). Moderated by Rosemary A. Joyce. *Followed by Q & A.*
- 3:30 pm **Closing Remarks** – Eduardo Díaz, Director, Smithsonian Latino Center
- 3:45 p.m. **Book Signing, Rasmuson Theater Lobby**

**This program received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool,
administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center**

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Fabio Amador directs the National Geographic Society/Waitt Grants Program. He is also an associate research professor of anthropology at George Washington University and Executive Director and President of Fundacion OLAS, an organization devoted to capacity building for Latin American scholars dedicated to the study and preservation of the submerged cultural heritage. He is an archaeologist specializing in the documentation and visualization of terrestrial and underwater biocultural heritage sites. He has worked in archaeological sites throughout the Americas and is presently conducting research on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Amador is also developing research projects with Cuban scientists for the study of underwater archaeological sites. His interest in Taino Indian culture (which spanned the Greater Antilles, including Cuba) is focused on the exploration of submerged cave systems where much ritual activity occurred. Previously, Amador was a professor of archaeology and a researcher for the Council for Scientific Investigation at the National University of El Salvador.

Eduardo Díaz is the director of the Smithsonian Latino Center and a 30-year veteran of arts administration. The Latino Center works to increase and enhance Latino presence, research, and scholarship at the Smithsonian Institution by sponsoring, developing, and promoting exhibitions, collections, research, and public programs that focus on the Latino experience. Díaz is an advisor to the Smithsonian's Secretary and Under Secretary for History, Art and Culture as well as to Congress and other government agencies on a range of cultural development issues related to Latino communities in the United States and their impact on diverse countries of origin. Díaz is responsible for the management and delivery of exhibitions, public and educational programs, and the Latino Center's Latino Virtual Museum. During his tenure, he has spearheaded several projects including the exhibitions *Panamanian Passages* and *Southern Identity: Contemporary Argentine Art*. Current initiatives include the Central American Ceramics Research Project, the Taino Legacy Project, the DC Latino History Project and Unruly Crossings.

Georgina Hernández is a Salvadoran anthropologist with a Ph.D. in Latin American Studies. She earned a degree in social anthropology from the Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador and did her graduate study at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and the Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail. She was a founding member of Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen (Museum of the Word and Image), a cultural organization dedicated to "researching, rescuing, preserving, and showing to the public elements of the culture and history of El Salvador." Hernández has curated numerous exhibitions such as *The Footprint of Memory* and *Memory of the Izalco* that explore identity and the process of memory. She developed a museum education program and produced a variety of pedagogical tools. Hernández was formerly the director of the Salvadoran National Office of Cultural Spaces and Development.

John Hoopes is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas and the former director of the university's Global Indigenous Nations Studies Program. Hoopes specializes in the archaeology of southern Central America and northern South America. He has been conducting

archaeological fieldwork in Costa Rica since 1978, when as an undergraduate at Yale University he worked on a project sponsored by the National Museum of Costa Rica in the Línea Vieja region where Minor C. Keith built his famous railroad. His doctoral research at Harvard University was conducted with Professor Payson Sheets at sites near Lake Arenal. Hoopes has since done research at sites near Golfito on the Pacific Coast. His current project, with archaeologists Silvia Salgado and Mónica Aguilar of the University of Costa Rica, focuses on the ruins of Nuevo Corinto, a pre-Hispanic settlement near Guápiles in the Caribbean lowlands. Hoopes is the co-editor of two books, *The Emergence of Pottery: Technology and Innovation in Ancient Societies* and *Gold and Power in Ancient Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia*, and the author of dozens of articles on the archaeology of Central America.

Rosemary Joyce is a professor of anthropology and former chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of California at Berkeley. She is one of the world's leading experts on Honduran archaeology and once served as an Assistant Director of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University and Director of the Hearst Museum at Berkeley. She has served as an officer of the Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association, on committees of the Society for American Archaeology and the Archaeological Institute of America, and is a member of the Society for Historical Archaeology. Her research includes comparative study of collections of Honduran archaeological materials in museums in Europe, the United States, and Central America, and historical research on the origins of museums in systematic collecting of objects beginning in the sixteenth century.

James Lovell is an accomplished Garifuna musician from Dangriga, Belize, Central America. Based in Brooklyn, New York, since 1990, Lovell teaches music theory and instruments to children living in the East Bushwick and Ocean Hill neighborhoods in Brooklyn, at the Biko Transformation Center. He has worked and collaborated with many African musicians also living in New York City, which inspired him to experiment with a new concept of his own musical roots. He coined the term “AfriGarifuna” to describe his fusion of various West African rhythms with the traditional music of the Garifuna people.

Christina Luke is a senior lecturer in the Writing Program and Archaeology Department at Boston University. She earned her doctorate in Anthropology from Cornell University. Her work focuses on cultural heritage policy and management as well as the study of archaeological landscapes in Central America. She has worked on programs with the Cultural Heritage Center of the Department of State, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Cultural Heritage Center at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. She is chair of the Cultural Heritage Policy Committee of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA); and Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Field Archaeology*.

Ann McMullen is curator and head of collections research and documentation at the National Museum of the American Indian. She holds a doctorate in Anthropology from Brown University and her research and publications have focused on Native North America; material culture, traditions, innovation, and commercialization; Native interaction networks; the history of collecting and museums, and the history of the NMAI and the Museum of the American Indian. McMullen was curator of the *Cerámica de los Ancestros: Central America's Past Revealed* exhibition and curator for the Central American Ceramics Research Project. Since 2003, she has led NMAI's efforts to develop a new collections information system, update and enhance collections information, and bring NMAI collections information to the Web.

Victor Montejo is a Jakalteq Maya originally from Guatemala. Previously a professor and chair of the Native American Studies Department at the University of California, Davis, Dr. Montejo now lives in Guatemala. He was formerly Minister of Peace in the Guatemalan Republic. Montejo also served as a member of the Guatemalan National Congress from 2004 to 2008. An internationally recognized author, Montejo's major publications include *Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village*; *Voices from Exile: Violence and Survival in Modern Maya History*; *Maya Intellectual Renaissance: Critical Essays on Identity, Representation and Leadership*; *Popol Vuh: Sacred Book of the Mayas*; and *Q'anil: Man of Lightning*. His current projects focus on indigenous migration and transnationalism, as well as in developing a curriculum in Native knowledge and epistemology in his new manuscript, *Mayalogue: An Interactionist Theory of Indigenous Cultures*.

Francisco Ulloa-Corrales is an archaeologist in the Department of Anthropology and History of the National Museum of Costa Rica. He specializes in the Formative Period of southern Costa Rica. Corrales studied archaeology at the University of Costa Rica and received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. In 1989–90, he was awarded a Hubert Humphrey Fellowship to undertake research at the Smithsonian Institution. He has worked at archaeological sites in Central and Southeast Costa Rica and is presently conducting research in the Diquis Delta on sites with the well-known stone spheres. He is currently coordinating an effort to have these stone spheres declared World Patrimony and placed on the UNESCO list. Corrales was also director general of the National Museum of Costa Rica between 2003 and 2008, and he served as the Costa Rica representative to the Central America Museum Network for seven years.

Laura Wingfield has worked for two decades in museums with collections which focus strongly on the art of the Americas, particularly Central America: the Duke University Museum of Art (now the Nasher), Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum, and the Denver Art Museum. In 2009 she completed her dissertation at Emory University on the ceramic figures of Greater Nicoya, today's southwestern Nicaragua and northwestern Costa Rica, looking at works from these three institutions as well as others throughout North America, Central America, and Europe, including the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of Natural History. In the last decade, she has spoken on these figures as well as the jade and volcanic stone artworks of Greater Nicoya down to Panama at national and international conferences, and she is currently researching the textiles of Central America for an exhibition on textile traditions of the Americas past and present, to open in 2017 at the Carlos Museum, her home institution.

Ranald Woodaman is Latino cultural worker who has served as Exhibitions and Public Programs Director at the Smithsonian Latino Center since August, 2007. His work at the Smithsonian includes the exhibitions *¡Azúcar! The Life and Music of Celia Cruz* (2005); *Mexican Treasures* (2007); *Posters from the Division of Community Education (DIVEDCO) of Puerto Rico, 1949-1989* (2008); *Panamanian Passages/Pasajes Panameños* (2009); *Southern Identity: Contemporary Argentine Art* (2010), and *Cerámica de los Ancestros: Central America's Past Revealed* (2013); the online exhibitions *A Vision of Puerto Rico: The Teodoro Vidal Collection* (2006) and *Mexican America* (2006); as well as work with the National Museum of American History's Latin Jazz oral history project and the Program in Latino History and Culture. Currently, Ranald is managing several Smithsonian initiatives including the Latino DC History Project and the Caribbean Indigenous Legacies Project. Outside of the Smithsonian, he led the community-curation and design of exhibitions documenting the history of LGBTQ Latinos in D.C. at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. in 2008 and 2009.