

National Cherry Blossom Festival



Welcome the return of spring and the annual blossoming of the Tidal Basin's cherry trees, a gift to the nation from the government of Japan in 1912, by exploring Asian art at the Freer and Sackler Galleries. This year's events include a daylong celebration and the launch of our new [Cherry Blossoms](#) book.

Celebrate the season by sending a free [cherry blossom e-card](#)!

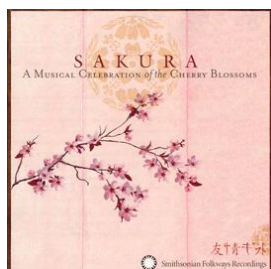


Cherry Blossom Celebration Free Family Festival

Saturday, March 28, 2015, 11 AM – 4:30 PM

[Freer and Sackler Galleries](#)

The Freer and Sackler Galleries celebrate the 2015 National Cherry Blossom Festival with a day full of Japanese art, anime and manga films, and family activities. The museum shop hosts a trunk show of vintage Japanese garments as well as a signing of the newly released book [Cherry Blossoms](#), featuring artworks from the Freer and Sackler collections.



[An Introduction to Japanese Music: "Sakura, Sakura"](#)

Online music and lesson plan | \$9.99 download

[Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#)

Featuring traditional Japanese folk songs, classical instrumentals, and live ensemble performances, this recording honors the musical gifts that were brought to the United States from Japan.



April Is . . . **JAZZ, Poetry, and Earth Day**

April is JAZZ Appreciation Month to celebrate America's innovative music genre. Check [here](#) for the calendar of events for JAZZ activities around the Smithsonian.

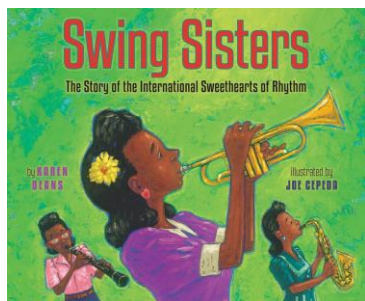
[Portrait Story Days: Duke Ellington](#) Free program

Saturday, April 11, 2015, 1 – 4 PM

[Portrait Gallery](#)

First floor, Education Center, Room E151

Young visitors and their families may drop in to listen to a story about jazz musician Duke Ellington during the Smithsonian's Jazz Appreciation Month and participate in a hands-on activity.



[Swing Sisters: The Story of the International Sweethearts of Rhythm](#)

Book Signing; books available for purchase

Sunday, April 12, 2015, 1 – 3 PM

[American History Museum](#)

Outside Mall Museum Store, 2nd floor Center

Author **Karen Deans** signs copies of *Swing Sisters: The Story of the International Sweethearts of Rhythm*. The talented Sweethearts of Rhythm ultimately became an international sensation. The rhythmic text and exuberant illustrations celebrate these courageous musicians who chipped away at racist and sexist barriers, and whose music reminded audiences how great it feels to be alive.



[Jazz in Flag Hall featuring the GWU Latin Jazz Ensemble](#)

Free concert

Thursday, April 16, 2015, 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 PM

[American History Museum](#)

Flag Hall, 2nd floor Center

Live jazz performances in Flag Hall every Thursday in April. Featuring three performances each Thursday, visitors can catch jazz performed by local musicians and groups. On April 16, there will be special performances by the George Washington University Latin Jazz Band, fondly known as "Los Gringos."

April is National Poetry Month



[And I Still Rise: Maya Angelou Remembered](#)

Free program. Register [here](#) or call 202-633-4844

Saturday, April 4, 2015, 2-4 PM

[Anacostia Community Museum](#)

April is National Poetry Month, and the museum celebrates the birthday of famed poet, novelist, and civil rights advocate, Maya Angelou with an original dramatic reading written by poet and essayist **Rickey Hood**, and featuring Hood and local actress **Marcia Cole**. The work is a conversation between the two that uses anecdotes from Angelou's life, excerpts from her novel *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, audio visual elements, and readings from her poems to create a visual narrative of pathos and introspection.

[Portrait Story Days: Walt Whitman](#) Free program

Saturday, April 4, 2015, 1 – 4 PM

[Portrait Gallery](#)

First floor, Education Center, Room E151

Young visitors and their families may drop in to listen to a story about the poet Walt Whitman during National Poetry Month and participate in a hands-on activity.

[Portrait Story Days: Langston Hughes](#) Free program

Saturday, April 19, 2015, 2 – 5 PM

[Portrait Gallery](#)

First floor, Education Center, Room E151

Young visitors and their families may drop in to listen to a story about poet Langston Hughes during National Poetry Month and create a hands-on activity.

[Portrait Story Days: Ella Fitzgerald](#) Free program

Saturday, April 25, 2015, 1 – 4 PM

[Portrait Gallery](#)

First floor, Education Center, Room E151

Young visitors and their families may drop in to listen to a story about the jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald during the Smithsonian’s Jazz Appreciation Month and participate in a hands-on activity utilizing materials of the educator’s choice.



For TEENS . . .

[ACM Youth Poetry Slam Competition](#)

Free program. Register [here](#) or call 202-633-4844

Saturday, April 25, 2015, 5 – 7 PM

[Anacostia Community Museum](#)

18 middle and high school student finalists recite their best work and compete for cash awards. Guest judges will be looking at each contestant's originality, style, and elocution . These teens are the best of the best from an open audition held at the Fort Stanton Recreation Center last December. Stop by the museum and support our young poets during this special **National Poetry Month** program!



[In Your Words: Imagined Journeys](#)

Free program; [registration required](#).

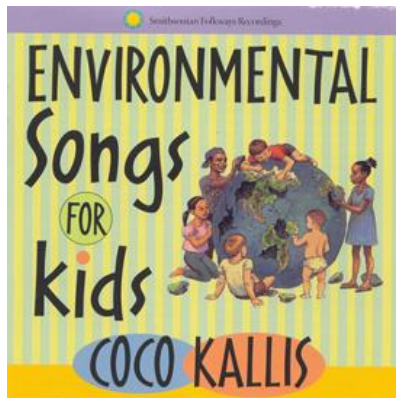
Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2 – 4 pm

[Freer and Sackler Galleries](#)

ImaginAsia classroom, sublevel 2

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then an art exhibition is worth endless inspiration. In *The Traveler's Eye: Scenes of Asia*, join staff of the Freer|Sackler and 826DC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting students' creative and expository writing skills, for a writing workshop. Inspired by artworks in the galleries, explore the past through the lens of other cultures and use memoir and journalistic techniques to compose short pieces. For ages 12–18.

April is Earth Day: Explore the Bio-Diversity of Flora and Fauna



[Environmental Songs for Kids](#)

Online music and history resource | \$9.99 download

[Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#)

Learning about the environment and how to preserve it is fun when you learn through singing. New compositions and environmental classics are sung by Vermont musician/schoolteacher Coco Kallis.

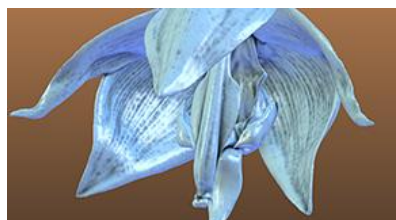


[Songs of Nature and the Environment](#)

Online music and history resource | \$9.99 download

[Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#)

Gerry Axelrod sings children's songs about nature and the environment.



[Orchids: Interlocking Science and Beauty](#) Exhibition

Open through April 26, 2015

[Natural History Museum](#)

Orchids: Interlocking Science and Beauty will explore the rich crossroads where orchid botany, horticulture, and technology connect. Featuring orchids from the [Smithsonian Gardens](#) Orchid Collection and the United States Botanic Garden Orchid Collection, the exhibit looks at how new ideas, technologies, and inventions change the way we study, protect, and enjoy orchids. Each new innovation is like a puzzle piece: it fills in gaps in our knowledge and creates a larger and more complex picture of orchids.



Community of Gardens

Community of Gardens is a digital, participatory archive hosted by Smithsonian Gardens and created by public input. By contributing images, videos, and stories to this website, your participation will help others to better understand the meaning and value of gardens to American life – today and in the future. *Community of Gardens* is the Smithsonian’s digital home for sharing and preserving the stories of gardens and the gardeners who make them grow.

Explore [Community of Gardens](#).



Wildlife Careers Online videos

FONZ and the [National Zoo](#)

want to know what it's really like working at the National Zoo? Then come along with us as we go behind the scenes in our video podcast series, *Other Duties as Assigned: The Secret World of Zoo Jobs!*

In each video, a different staff member will take you behind the scenes of his or her job and answer questions asked by curious students as we explore the complexities of animal care and wildlife conservation. Join Kenton Kerns, Sarah Putman, Jen Daniels, and Craig Saffoe to learn more about what it really means when you say "I want to work at a Zoo."



Meet the Fabulous Frogs of Panama Online resource

Amphibian Rescue & Conservation Project
[Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute](#)

Meet the Fabulous Frogs of Panama!

Panama is home to nearly 200 species of amazing frogs. Come meet some of them [here](#) and learn more about the research, rescue and conservation work of Smithsonian scientists in the tropical rain forests of Panama. Panama's frogs are in peril. A fungus is wiping them out around the world. Frogs are also hurt by people’s actions that disturb habitat, pollute rivers, or spread disease. As a Girl Scout, be a frog ambassador: spread the word, then take positive action! Don’t catch or buy frogs for pets, or release unwanted pet frogs into the wild. Enjoy them in their natural habitats instead.

Take a virtual tour of our new exhibit, [Fabulous Frogs of Panama](#). Or learn how to tell a toad from a frog and more fun activities [here](#).

The Smithsonian Celebrates Asian Pacific Americans in May

Check our [Heritage Month calendar](#) for the full list of programs for adults and family audiences.



[Korea Day: A Family Festival](#) Free festival & film

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 11 AM – 4 PM

[Freer and Sackler Galleries](#)

Meyer Auditorium

The Korean Film Festival kicks off with a full day of Korean cultural activities for the whole family. Explore the richness of Korean culture through hands-on activities, an animated film, gallery conversations, cooking demonstrations, and dance performances.

Create a traditional Korean kite (*yeon*) and decorate it with your favorite springtime motifs. Fly your creation outside after your visit to the museums.

[Korean Kite Making](#) Free festival

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 11 AM – 4 PM

[Freer and Sackler Galleries](#)

ImaginAsia Classroom



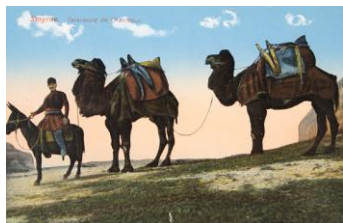
[Garden Fest: Sumi-e Japanese Brush Painting](#) Free program

Friday, May 8, 2015, 10 AM – 3 PM

[Freer and Sackler Galleries](#) and [Smithsonian Gardens](#)

Enid A. Haupt Garden

During the Smithsonian [Garden Fest](#), learn and practice the Japanese brush painting technique known as *sumi-e*. Experiment with ink gradation and color to create four flowers that symbolize empowering qualities.



[ImaginAsia: Great Adventures](#) Free program

Sunday, March 15, 2015, 2 – 4 pm

[Freer and Sackler Galleries](#)

ImaginAsia classroom, sublevel 2

Embark on a voyage of new discoveries across China, Japan, India, and the Middle East. This drop-in workshop offers a self-guided tour and hands-on activities related to the exhibition *The Traveler's Eye: Scenes of Asia*. All ages are welcome; best for ages 8–14 with adult companions.



[ImaginAsia: My Travel Storybook](#)

Free program; registration required

Saturday, May 23, 2015, 1 – 4 PM | Sunday, May 24, 2015, 1 – 4 PM

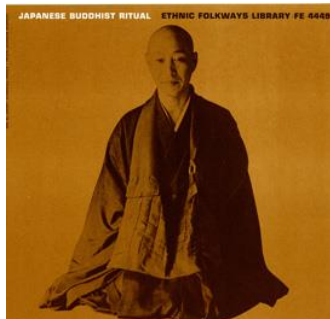
Saturday, May 30, 2015, 1 – 4 PM | Sunday, May 31, 2015, 1 – 4 PM

[Freer and Sackler Galleries](#)

Sublevel 2

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, join the staff of the Freer|Sackler and Sushmita Mazumdar, lead artist of Studio Pause, for a bookmaking workshop. Start with a guided tour of *The Traveler's Eye: Scenes of Asia*, and then share your stories of travel and heritage to create a handmade book.

All materials included. For ages 8–14 with adult companions. Registration is required and will be available soon.



[Japanese Music from Smithsonian Folkways](#)

Online music and history resource | \$.99 download per song

[Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#)

Inhabitants of the islands that make up current-day Japan have performed music since prehistoric times. Archaeological evidence shows the use of several musical instruments during religious ceremonies and daily entertainment. Listen to examples of the many musical styles of Japan with your troop. It will help you get ready for the Cherry Blossom Festival and could give you inspiration for your musician badge!

Girls Rock Math and Science



[National Math Festival](#) Free program

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10 AM – 4 PM

[Natural History Museum](#)
Ground floor, Q?rius

Come participate in the first National Festival dedicated to discovering the delight and power of mathematics in everyday life. Math is everywhere and integral to the scientific research process that takes place every day at the Natural History Museum and at Smithsonian sites around the globe. Check the full schedule [here](#).



[National Math Festival: Design a Kolam](#) Free program

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 2 – 4 PM

Freer and Sackler Galleries
ImaginAsia classroom, sublevel 2

During the first annual National Math Festival, discover the curved loops and geometric symmetry of *kolam*, a South Indian style of painting that uses rice flour to make intricate designs. Watch a professional artist create a *kolam* and learn about its historical and mathematical importance. Then, experiment making your own using popular motifs, such as flowers and animals. All ages welcome; best for ages 8–14 with adult companions.

For more information, visit mathfest.org.



[Innovation Family Festival](#) Free program

Saturday, May 2, 2015, 11:30 AM – 5 PM

[American Art Museum](#)
Kogod Courtyard

Celebrate creativity, invention, and thinking outside the box—or container! Explore how containers are put to work, from shipping art and precious gems, to eco-friendly plant beds, to space suits. Make new containers from old ones in the cardboard playground or watch containers being made in a 3-D printer.



[Genes in a Bottle](#) Free program

Friday, May 1, 2015, 10:30 AM – 12 PM

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 2 – 4 PM

Friday, May 8, 2015, 10:30 AM – 12 PM

Friday, May 15, 2015, 10:30 AM – 12 PM

Friday, May 22, 2015, 10:30 – 4 AM

Friday, May 29, 2015, 10:30 AM – 12 PM

[Natural History Museum](#)

Hall of Human Origins

See your own DNA! Take part in a molecular biology activity and create a necklace pendant made up of your own DNA. Activity runs about every 20 minutes. Note: This activity is not appropriate for children under 7. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



[Hear My Voice: Alexander Graham Bell and the Origins of Recorded Sound](#)

On exhibition through October 25, 2015

[American History](#), 2nd floor East

Learn about the history of early sound in America. Hear some of the earliest sound recordings ever.



Online resources

Looking for classroom and home [science resources](#)? We've compiled some of our favorites for you all in one place. Find book recommendations, lessons in music history, first person narratives and more on the American History Museum's [History Explorer](#).



Online resources

Check out the [Smithsonian Science Education Center](#) for more ideas. And yet more to do at the [Smithsonian Quests](#) Digital Badging resources.



[Skin & Bones](#) FREE mobile app

[Natural History Museum](#)

Related exhibition: *Skin & Bones*

The free app is available for download in the [App Store](#) and reinvents how visitors to the museum can experience the historic “[Bone Hall](#),” an exhibit of almost 300 skeletons. In the app, 13 different skeletons on display come to life through the advanced technologies of 3-D augmented reality and 3-D tracking. The app adds details to many of the specimens to show how they move or look in life or how their skeletons work.

From History . . . to Badges



[A Girl Scout Badge Guide from the National Museum of American History](#)

Online and in-museum activities that may help your troop earn badges.

War on Poverty



[National Youth Summit on the War on Poverty](#)

Webcast for High School Students | Register [here](#)

April 28, 2015, 1 PM EDT

Webcast will be archived for later viewing.

[American History](#)

In 1962, author Michael Harrington, in his book *The Other America*, estimated that about one fourth of the population of the United States was living in poverty. In January 1964, President Lyndon Johnson proposed “an all-out war on human poverty,” pledging “the most Federal support in history for education, for health, for retraining the unemployed, and for helping the economically and the physically handicapped.” Many of the programs that the War on Poverty created—including Headstart, Medicare and Medicaid—are familiar to us today. But are they working, fifty years later? Did we “win” the War on Poverty? What does poverty look like today? Do we need another War on Poverty? And what can young people do about the issue? We’ll discuss these questions with experts and students at the 2015 National Youth Summit.

One World Many Voices



[“Na Leo Hawai’i”](#)

Online music and history resource

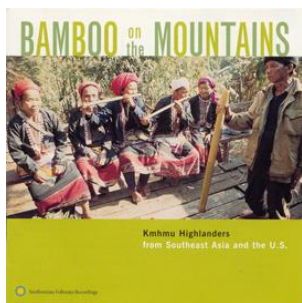
[Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#)

In early Hawai’i, *mele*, or chant, was the most important means of remembering myths and stories. Today, Hawaiians continue to use music to define themselves and celebrate *aloha ‘aina*, or the love of their land. Listen to these traditional songs with your troop to help you get a Musician badge. Afterwards, write your own song that tells a story in order to practice for your Screenwriting badge.



FREE online resources

Explore the Smithsonian’s online interactive multi-media [Endangered Languages Story Map](#) of sounds, music, photos, and videos of language and culture in action. Encounter speakers of endangered languages from around the world, and learn about what they are doing to save their languages and cultural heritage and why it matters.



[“Connecting Cultures: Music of the Mekong River”](#)

Online music and history resource

[Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#)

The Mekong River flows from the melting glaciers of the Tibetan Plateau, in China's Qinghai Province, to the Pacific Ocean in southern Vietnam some 3,000 miles away. The river passes through steep mountain gorges, daunting rapids, and immense plains in six nations. Invite your troop to sit down and experience the diverse music of the more than 60 million people who live in the Mekong basin. Use this activity to help you earn your Musician badge!

Preview of Coming Attractions

Folklife Festival



[49th Smithsonian Folklife Festival: June 24-28 and July 1-5](#)

Free festival

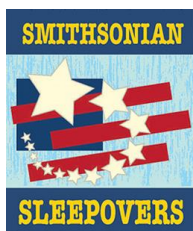
[Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#)

Outdoors in front of the Smithsonian's American Indian Museum

The **Smithsonian Folklife Festival** is an exposition of living cultural heritage annually produced outdoors on the National Mall* in Washington, DC, by the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. The 2015 festival features Peru, one of the most culturally and ecologically diverse countries in the world. The Festival will feature more than 100 Peruvian artisans and cooks, musicians and dancers, as well as artists and tradition bearers from the Peruvian American diaspora. Special evening events such as concerts and dance performances begin at 6:30 p.m. Check [here](#) for schedule.

ADA25

Inclusion of girls with different abilities is a Girl Scout value. Learn the history behind this value. Passage of the **Americans with Disabilities Act** in 1990 was a landmark moment in civil rights. It brought wide-spread examination of inclusion of people with disabilities in American life. Learn the stories of people who brought about this change and whose lives and the lives of so many other people were enriched by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Smithsonian explores the impact of the ADA through displays, films, talk, and activities in late July. More information is coming soon.



[Smithsonian Sleepovers](#)

[The Smithsonian Associates](#)

A night of adventure at Smithsonian museums for children 8 to 12 years old with adult chaperone. Fee \$135 / \$120 for Smithsonian Associate members.



Imagine rolling out your sleeping bag at the home of the Star-Spangled Banner or beneath a 50-foot whale. That's exactly what kids and their grown-up companions can do when they attend a Smithsonian Sleepover. The American History Museum or the Natural History Museum is all yours during a night of fun that features tours, games, crafts, and more. Which adventure will you choose?

Check available dates for [American History](#) and [Natural History](#).

Cool Spaces for Creative Girls



[Q?rius](#) is a first-of-its-kind interactive environment that's part lab, part collections vault, part DIY garage, part hangout, and all fun. *Curious Scouts* can conduct cool investigations using real objects, unleash their creativity, awaken new interests, build inquiry skills for life, and share moments of real discovery.

Q?rius is a FREE ongoing interactive experience at the Smithsonian's [Natural History Museum](#). Sign up for [email alerts](#).



[ARTLAB+](#) After school open studio

Do you HOMAGO? (hanging out, messing around and geeking out)

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

The **ARTLAB+** program is a free afterschool program where teens can socialize with friends; explore digital media and technical tools; and take workshops to develop their interests and skills. Mentors encourage teens to explore their own interests, create their own learning trajectories, and foster their own values. ARTLAB+ strives to be a radically inclusive space, where teens can learn from each other's differences in a welcoming and safe environment. [Find out more about us.](#)



Groups are required to schedule entry time to the [Imaginations Activity Center](#). Groups may only register for Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, in one-hour increments (i.e., 10–11 a.m.; 11 a.m.–12 p.m., etc.). Groups must be pre-K to 6th grade only, and are limited to 30 students per hour, with a requirement of one chaperone for every five students. To reserve a group entry time, contact Group Reservations at [202-633-6644](tel:202-633-6644). Please remember to bring your confirmation letter on the day of your visit.

We invite you to come and explore! The center always has something new, hosting a regular schedule of storytellers, artists, and other unique performers and activities. Please check the museum's online calendar for details, or stay current with the latest events on the NMAI blog. Knowledgeable museum staff will be available to help answer questions, conduct special programs, and provide additional resources.

Make the most of your visit to the Smithsonian



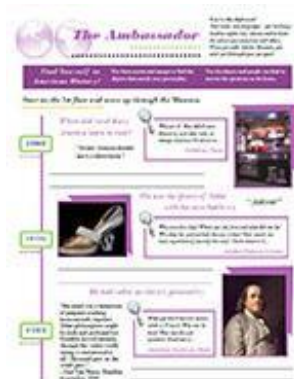
[Smithsonian Education News](#) Online resources

Looking for something? If it's lesson plans or web features aligned to all the standards of learning, the Smithsonian Education database can help. More than 2,000 items! Search by keyword, grade level, or alignment to individual state or Common Core Standard. Subscribe [here](#).



[Make the Most of It](#) Online resource of tips for museum visits

There is no magic formula for visiting museums. A spur-of-the-moment trip can be just as rewarding as a planned visit. But if you have the time, some things that you can do before, during, and after the visit may help to enrich the experience. Here are a few tips to help make your visit to any museum an enjoyable learning experience.



[Find Yourself in American History](#) FREE downloadable self-guides

What is your American History personality? Are you an **AMBASSADOR**?

They made friends a camp. How did President Carter help bring about peace in the Middle East? With whom did he work? Learn about them in . . . [The American Presidency](#) exhibition, [American History](#), 3rd Floor Center



[A Family Visit to the Smithsonian](#) Online Resources

Journey with one family as they visit several Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo. See how they *made* and *captured* their memories. They spent a week looking closely, sharing ideas, and just getting familiar with museums and exhibits. **Use these ideas to plan a troop visit during winter break.**



Smithsonian Tours App

The new [Smithsonian Tours App](#) is now here! This free app features all of the museum hours and information, maps and floor plans, events, exhibitions, museum attractions, and where to shop and eat so you can get the most out of your trip to Washington, D.C. and the National Mall.

An upgrade of just \$0.99 unlocks the full suite of material, and includes other tours, augmented reality, "Greatest Hits" (artifacts and Smithsonian features too good to miss), and "Postcards" (a way to take snapshots with photo overlays like the Hope Diamond or a stegosaurus.) In addition, this upgrade includes the new Garden Lover Tour, specifically designed by education specialist Cynthia Brown and her team at the Smithsonian Gardens. The app is available for download at the App Store or Google Play.

Remember to check the [Smithsonian's special page for Girl Scouts](#).

Discover ▪ Marvel ▪ Confront ▪ Remember
Question ▪ Amaze ▪ Imagine ▪ Share ▪ Inspire
at the **Smithsonian!**