



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 4, 2016
Photos Supplied Upon Request

Contact:
Steve Sharp
Agua Caliente Cultural Museum
760.833.8167
ssharp@accmuseum.org

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Exploring African-Native American Identity Opens at Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

PALM SPRINGS, CA, January 4, 2016 -

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum will open the Smithsonian traveling exhibition ***IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives*** in the Americas on **Tuesday, January 19, 2016** with a public Opening Reception from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Admission is free.

This exhibition focuses on the seldom-viewed history and complex lives of people of dual African American and Native American ancestry. Through the themes of policy, community, creative resistance and lifestyles, the exhibition tells stories of cultural integration and diffusion as well as the struggle to define and preserve identity.

IndiVisible, produced by the National Museum of the American Indian in collaboration with the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), remains on view through November 1, 2016 and will then continue to travel to museums around the nation.

Since the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas, the lives of Native and African peoples have been closely intertwined. From pre-colonial times, they intermarried, established communities and shared their lives and traditions. But racially motivated laws oppressed and excluded them. Blended tribes worked to preserve their land and rebelled against displacement. Their survival strategies included involvement in social movements, joining together to fight oppressive conditions and regaining economic sustainability. Their unique African-Native American cultural practices through food, language, writing, music, dance and the visual arts have thrived.

"The topic of African-Native Americans is one that touches a great number of individuals through family histories, tribal histories, and personal identities," said **Kevin Gover (Pawnee)**, director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

"We find commonalities in our shared past of genocide, alienation from our ancestral homelands, and the exhibition acknowledges the strength and resilience we recognize in one another today."

"We are proud to have contributed to this important and thoughtful exhibition," said Lonnie Bunch, director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. "African American oral tradition is full of stories about 'Black Indians,' with many black families claiming Indian blood."

The exhibition was curated by leading scholars, educators and community leaders including Gabrielle Tayac, (Piscataway), Robert Keith Collins, (African-Choctaw descent), Angela Gonzales (Hopi), Judy Kertész, Penny Gamble-Williams (Chappaquiddick Wampanoag) and Thunder Williams (Afro-Carib).

African-Native Americans from across North America share their perspectives in a 10-minute video in the exhibition.

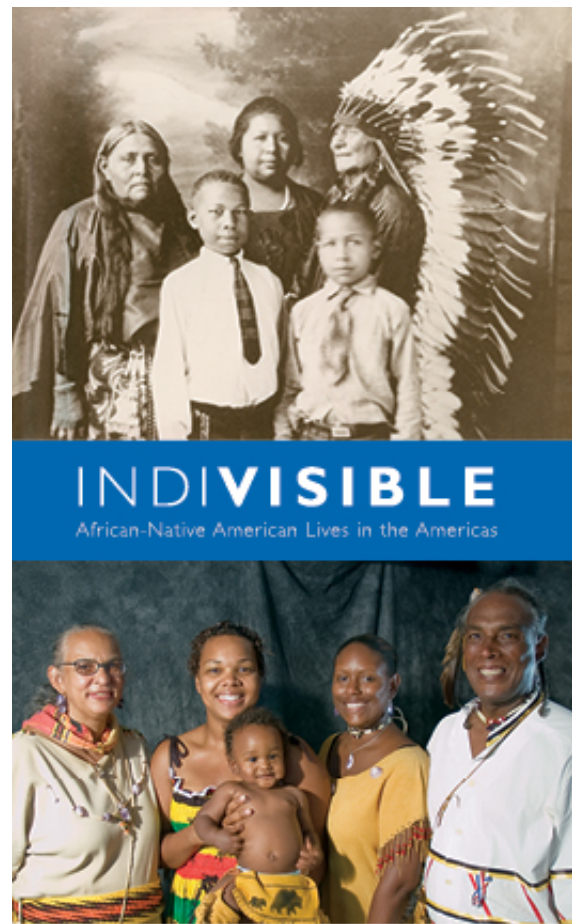
The accompanying exhibition book, *IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas*, edited by Tayac, features 27 essays from authors across the hemisphere sharing first-person accounts of struggle, adaptation, and survival and examines such diverse subjects as contemporary art, the Cherokee Freedmen issue, and the evolution of jazz and blues. The illustrated 256-page book is available online at www.americanindian.si.edu/bookshop.

An online version of the exhibition and full national tour schedule are available at www.americanindian.si.edu/exhibitions/indivisible.

Support for the exhibition is provided by the Akaloa Resource Foundation and the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian 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 National Museum of African American History and Culture was established by an act of Congress in 2003, and is being erected on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Currently, the museum is presenting exhibitions, producing publications, hosting public events, and offering an array of interactive programs and educational resources at the museum on the Web at www.nmaahc.si.edu.



SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at www.sites.si.edu.

###

About Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

In 1991, a modest museum of less than 1,600 square feet was founded to collect and preserve stories and artifacts of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and share them with local residents and visitors alike. Today, the museum programming provides a thriving resource for Native and non-Native people and a dynamic forum for permanent residents and visitors of all ages.

Museum offerings that serve over 28,000 adults and children each year include quality exhibitions at the Museum, at off-site locations, and online; stimulating and enlightening lectures; classes and demonstrations that feature hands-on experiences with Native skills and crafts; a six-day Native film festival and other cultural special events; library and archives research opportunities; Museum tours; guided cultural hikes; and presentations for students in schools, and for civic and business organizations.

For teachers, students, artists, scholars, and collectors the Museum's holdings provide unique research and archival resources - from recordings of a tribal *net* (ceremonial and political leader) to the documentation of ongoing challenges made to tribal land and water rights. Free online resources are available on the Museum Web site at www.accmuseum.org.

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit institution. In keeping with its mission, the Museum inspires people to learn about the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and other Native cultures through exhibitions, collections, research, and educational programs.

In recognition of its role as a regional and national resource, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum was the first Native American museum to be part of the prestigious **Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program**. The association with Smithsonian Institution provides opportunities for a mutual sharing of resources in collections, scholarship, programming, and technical expertise, and entitles the Museum to bring world-acclaimed Smithsonian exhibitions to the Coachella Valley.

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is located at 219 South Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs. The Museum is open September through May -- Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and June through August - Friday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission to the Museum is free.

Administration Offices of the Museum are located at 901 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite C-204, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Additional information is available at 760.778.1079 or visit www.accmuseum.org.

#

Add any trademarks here

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, 901 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite C-204, Palm Springs, CA 92262

[SafeUnsubscribe™ ssharp@accmuseum.org](mailto:ssharp@accmuseum.org)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by ssharp@accmuseum.org in collaboration with

