



Media only: Fleur Paysour (202) 633-4761
Abigail Benson (202) 633-9495

February 2012

Media website: <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

Chronology of Events

Dec. 16, 2003

President George W. Bush signs the legislation creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

October 2004

Founding 19-member NMAAHC Council appointed by the Smithsonian Board of Regents

March 14, 2005

Lonnie G. Bunch named founding director of NMAAHC

Jan. 30, 2006

Selection of the five-acre museum site on the National Mall near the Washington Monument

Oct. 1, 2007

Selection of Freelon Bond, pre-design and architectural programming consultants

Jan. 19, 2008

NMAAHC launches first “Save our African American Treasures” program in Chicago

Oct. 27, 2008

Pre-design: Master facilities programming

November 2008

Completion of the master exhibition planning, facilities planning and programming report

January 2009

Opening of NMAAHC Gallery at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History

February 2009

Architectural design competition begins

April, 2009

Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup selected as the architectural team for the museum

July 12, 2011

Construction firm, Clark/Smoot/Russell begins planning for the construction of the building

Feb. 22, 2012

Groundbreaking

###