

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2021

Lonnie G. Bunch III
Secretary
The Smithsonian Institution
PO Box 37012
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Dear Secretary Bunch:

The 116th Congress saw the passage of the creation of two new Smithsonian Museums into law. It comes with great excitement and comfort to have a partner at the helm who oversaw the creation of the extraordinary Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture that opened its doors in September 2016. Further, we applaud you for how quickly your team has begun to work to lay the foundation for both the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino.

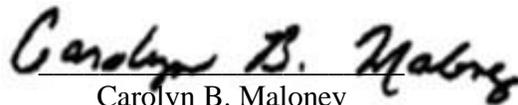
As we continue to move through this process, we want to take this opportunity to re-emphasize Congressional intent as stated in the authorizing legislation that both the National Museum of the American Latino and Smithsonian American Women's History Museum be located on or near the National Mall, to the maximum extent practicable. From our perspective, the National Mall is the two-mile park from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, bounded on the north and south by Constitution and Independence Avenues.

With more than 25 million people visiting the National Mall each year, it comes as no surprise that many Smithsonian Institutions have claimed this area as their home and best for the diffusion of knowledge. The addition of the two new Museums on the Mall will further the Smithsonian's mission by showcasing and highlighting the untold and overlooked contributions to our nation of both women and Latinos. It is fitting that these two museums be prominently located in the two-mile area we describe above as that will help ensure that more visitors will be able to enjoy and learn from them.

We appreciate your consideration of Congressional priorities as the Smithsonian works to establish these important museums. We look forward to working together and having a continued dialogue on how best to meet this intent.

Sincerely,


Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/

Member of Congress

cc: Smithsonian Board of Regents

**Reemphasizing Congressional Intent on Site Location for
Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino and
Smithsonian American Women's History Museum,
Additional Signatories**

James P. McGovern

Salud Carbajal

Gwen Moore

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Sylvia R. Garcia

Juan Vargas

Grace F. Napolitano

Alan Lowenthal

Ruben Gallego

J. Luis Correa

Pete Aguilar

Jerry McNerney

Kathleen M. Rice

Joaquin Castro

Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Darren Soto

Jackie Speier

Dwight Evans

Veronica Escobar

Jimmy Gomez

Jahana Hayes

Mike Levin

Lucy McBath

Amata Radewagen

Frederica S. Wilson

Norma J. Torres

Jaime Herrera Beutler

Anthony G. Brown

Jan Schakowsky

Ritchie Torres

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Linda T. Sánchez

Marc A. Veasey

Sheila Jackson Lee

Julia Brownley

Jennifer González-Colón

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Brenda L. Lawrence

Katherine M. Clark

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Dina Titus

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.

Grace Meng

Marie Newman

Suzanne Bonamici

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark Takano

Emanuel Cleaver, II

Karen Bass

Teresa Leger Fernandez

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Jim Costa

Barbara Lee

Madeleine Dean

Stephen F. Lynch

Tom O'Halleran

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Smithsonian American Women's History Museum,
Additional Signatories**

Thomas R. Suozzi

Debbie Dingell

Adriano Espaillat

Nikema Williams

Henry Cuellar

Judy Chu

Marilyn Strickland

William D. Keating

Frederica S. Wilson

Bobby L. Rush

Rashida Tlaib

Raul Ruiz

Raul M. Grijalva

Eric Swalwell

Yvette D. Clarke

David Trone

Brian Fitzpatrick

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.

Lori Trahan

David N. Cicilline