

The Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture Opens

By Michelle R. McFarland

9/27/16

The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opened to the public on September 24, 2016, in Washington D.C.

The museum took 13 years to be built. It is clear the best was saved for last. This is the last building to be built on the mall and rightly so.

The history of the African American contribution to our country has been validated by the presence of this historic building.



The museum was established in 2003 during the Bush Administration. The curator is Mr. Lonnie Bunch.

The building is massive. There are five levels above ground and four levels below. There are 34,000 artifacts that date through several periods of history. The Jim Crow Era is represented by a railroad passenger car, an airplane used by the Tuskegee Airmen and Nat Turner's Bible to name a few as well as a shawl worn by Harriet Tubman.

The museum has many other rare objects that were collected by curators when the museum was first established.

There is also an Asylum Hill connection to the museum. The Hartford is a founding sponsor and has committed by contributing 1 million dollars over a five-year period. The Hartford is well respected for embracing diversity.

The museum will help to tell the stories and the history of so many people who made contributions to our country.