

THE PRICE OF HISTORY: THE POLITICS OF EXHIBITING AND COLLECTING AT THE SMITHSONIAN IN THE BUSH YEARS

The Knox and Carlotta Mellon Lecture in Public History
Sponsored by the Department of History and the Center for Ideas and Society

Wednesday, November 5th, 4-6 pm
ARTS Screening Room

Marvette Perez, Senior Curator at the Smithsonian, will discuss the recent history and politics of collecting and exhibiting national histories at the National Museum. Post-9/11 patriotism coupled with a donor-driven celebratory approach to history has created a new Smithsonian. With a multi-million dollar building renovation and the enshrinement of the original “Star Spangled Banner” at its center, the collections of other American histories have been removed or relegated to the margins. Detailing these new Culture Wars, Perez will also discuss her involvement in curating a major exhibition on the Cuban performer Celia Cruz, the hip-hop collection, and other Latino and “ethnic” collections and exhibitions at the Smithsonian.



Marvette Perez is Senior Curator of Latino History and Culture, Department of Social and Cultural History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.