



2009 National Conference Recap



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Smithsonian Affiliations National Conference. So much happened in just 3 short days! We don't want anyone to feel left out, so we've created a conference recap and included links to important information you may have missed.

Day 1, Sunday, June 7: The 2009 Smithsonian Affiliations National Conference opened with a bang at the National Museum of American History. During the Orientation session for new and existing Affiliates, the **Smithsonian In Your Neighborhood Facebook page** was announced. Be sure to become a fan! Prior to the welcome reception, guests had a guided tour of the exhibitions *America on the Move / On the Water*; *First Ladies at the Smithsonian*; and *the American Presidency*.



[Click here](#) for a pdf version of the Orientation session PowerPoint presentation.

[Click here](#) for information on exhibitions at the National Museum of American History.



Day 2, Monday, June 8: "Beyond artifacts, and beyond traveling exhibits, we see Smithsonian Affiliates as the lifelines to local communities, as learning labs where we can conduct research together, try out new teaching strategies, explore the horizons of new technologies, and distance learning, and pool our knowledge of local and national collections into a seamless whole," said Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture, Richard Kurin, during his keynote address about building communities of collaboration on the morning of the first official conference day. And in the afternoon, we tried something new with roundtable sessions dedicated to brainstorming ideas for new collaboration projects. Accessibility, Jazz, Distance Learning and Reciprocal Membership were the hot topics of the day.

[Click here](#) for a transcript of Richard Kurin's keynote address.



Read Julie Heath's presentation from the session "Serving While Preserving: Using Conservation in Educational Outreach [here](#).



Day 3, Tuesday, June 8: The final day of the conference may have been the most exciting of the three days! Behind-the-scenes tours, a second keynote address and the most anticipated session of the conference, *Funder Speed Dating*. And to top it all off, senators, representatives and Capitol Hill staffers joined Smithsonian Secretary G. Wayne Clough and Affiliates at the congressional reception.

Click here to view more Conference photos on our Flickr site. There are more photos to come, so keep checking back!

Browse through our conference guidebook **here**.

Here's what Affiliates said about the conference:

"THANK YOU so much for putting together such a terrific conference. It was invigorating and inspired many new ideas for me." – Patrick Grenier, Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden

"It was a wonderful conference, with great sessions and events. We always feel so taken care of, and come away with many new ideas. I so appreciate all your hard work for us!" – Judy M. Gantt, Global Health Odyssey Museum/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"The funder 'speed dating' event was very well done and incredibly helpful...it provided some new funding options that I had not thought of or heard of before." – Christopher Orwoll, Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center

"I took away more from this one than from any previous conference...The speed dating with funders was very, very rewarding and I plan to follow up immediately on much of what I gleaned from it...It was a good, content-rich experience, and you all, as usual, pulled it off with aplomb." –Kevin Grogan, The Morris Museum of Art



Photos by Ken Rahaim,
Smithsonian Institution