THE SMITHSONIAN IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Smithsonian began with a gift from James Smithson, an English scientist, to America in 1846. Since then, no other institution has the ability to inspire wonder through its collections and diffusion of knowledge.

This museum and research complex has a strong presence in San Francisco and the surrounding region through longstanding partnerships with affiliates, scholarly collaborations, loans of objects, traveling exhibitions and educational outreach.

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

The Smithsonian is America’s museum with a collection of 138 million art objects and artifacts. It shares these with institutions in San Francisco through traveling exhibitions (saa.si.edu) and loans.

*Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation*
MUSEUMS OF SONOMA COUNTY | 425 SEVENTH STREET | SANTA ROSA | THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2016

Moving past pop-culture stereotypes of Indian Americans, the exhibition explores the heritage, daily experience and diverse contributions of Indian immigrants and their descendants in the United States. The exhibition uses photography, narratives and multimedia to tell a uniquely American story. Curated by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

*IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas*
CLOVIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTER | 10309 NORTH WILLOW AVENUE | FRESNO | JANUARY 23–MARCH 27, 2016


*IndiVisible* details the history of Indian Americans and their contributions to the United States from the 1700s to the present. PHOTO PRITHVI SHARMA

*Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation* details the history of Indian Americans and their contributions to the United States from the 1700s to the present. PHOTO PRITHVI SHARMA

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*Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program*
CLOVIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTER | 10309 NORTH WILLOW AVENUE | FRESNO | MARCH 5–MAY 15, 2016

Through the photographs of Leonard Nadel and oral histories, *Bittersweet Harvest* tells the story of the Bracero program, the largest guest-worker program in United States history, which started in 1942 and ended in 1964. The program recruited Mexican men to work on American farms and railroads. The bilingual exhibition was organized by the National Museum of American History and funded by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

Cover: Detail, American Airlines San Francisco advertising poster. National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian
SMITHSONIAN EDUCATION

The Smithsonian has collaborated with partners in the San Francisco area to create innovative educational programs.

The California-based Zócalo Public Square and the National Museum of American History bring together leading thinkers and public figures to explore our nation’s past, present and future in What It Means to Be American, a public series in San Francisco and across the country through 2017.

At the de Young Museum, scholars have access through microfilm to collections at the Archives of American Art, including records from San Francisco Women Artists, one of California’s oldest arts organizations, painters Richard Diebenkorn and Wayne Thiebaud, among many others.

SMITHSONIAN SCIENCE

The Smithsonian and the California Academy of Sciences have created the Encyclopedia of Life (eol.org) and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (biodiversitylibrary.org), free resources that digitally document life forms on Earth. The San Francisco-based Internet Archive helped digitize the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center operates a laboratory at the Romberg Tiburon Center, the only coastal research facility located on the San Francisco Bay. For more than 15 years, Smithsonian scientists have researched the health of the bay’s ecosystems, developing a database to track 280 invasive species.

With the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the center also is measuring the rate of new invasions, which have been introduced through the ballast water on commercial ships, in all California ports and bays. These measurements are sent to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The center works with citizen scientists to test new ways to restore native oysters, sea grass beds and salt marshes to protect the San Francisco Bay against the rise of sea levels and to restore habitat for fisheries and birds.

SAN FRANCISCO IN THE SMITHSONIAN

Throughout the Smithsonian’s vast collection are important examples of San Francisco’s history, art and culture. Artifacts from the 1915 San Francisco world’s fair, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, which celebrated the city after the 1906 earthquake, can be found in the National Museum of American History, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Archives and Smithsonian Libraries.

Photographs of Alice Waters, the owner of Chez Panisse and a pioneer of California cuisine, and Domingo and Carmen Ghirardelli, founders of the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company, are at the National Portrait Gallery.

The work of San Francisco artists has been collected by the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden: Ansel Adams’ black and white photographs, Albert Bierstadt’s sweeping landscapes of the American West and Wayne Thiebaud’s cityscapes of classic San Francisco’s neighborhoods, such as Russian Hill.

Artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s Running Fence, an installation of white fabric supported by steel posts, is documented through photographs at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. This environmental piece, constructed in Sonoma and Marin counties, introduced a new way of seeing familiar landscapes.


The online exhibition, A Visual Journey: Photographs of Lisa Law, follows the 1960s counterculture that began in Haight-Ashbury.

Smithsonian Folkways includes recordings by Joan Baez, Carlos Santana and Jerry Garcia, among other musicians from the region.
SMITHSONIAN AFFILIATES

Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term, collaborative partnerships with museums and education and cultural organizations.

Blackhawk Automotive Museum
3700 BLACKHAWK PLAZA CIRCLE | DANVILLE, CA 94506
BLACKHAWKMUSEUM.ORG

The museum showcases automobiles that blend artistry and technology.

Chabot Space and Science Center
10000 SKYLINE BOULEVARD | OAKLAND, CA 94619 | CHABOTSPACE.ORG

The center offers hands-on, interactive exhibitions and planetarium shows that explore the mysteries of the universe and life on Earth.

Hiller Aviation Museum
601 SKYWAY ROAD | SAN CARLOS, CA 94070 | HILLER.ORG

The museum celebrates discovery and innovation, featuring more than 50 aircraft from more than a century of aviation history. It also houses the Smithsonian’s Maupin-Lanteri Black Diamond, built in California in 1911.

The Blackhawk Museum’s exhibition of International Automotive Treasures™ displays historically significant cars.

The Mexican Museum
FORT MASON CENTER | 2 MARINA BOULEVARD | BUILDING D
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123 | MEXICANMUSEUM.ORG

The museum’s collection includes Mexican, Latino and Chicano art, from precolonial to contemporary times.

Museum of the African Diaspora
685 MISSION STREET | SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105 | MOADSF.ORG

The museum chronicles the history, art and culture of the people who migrated from Africa across the globe and history.
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Learn more. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at enews.si.edu.

For more information, contact the Office of Advancement, 202.633.4300 or visit si.edu/giving.