

National Park System Advisory Board
EXPLORING AMERICAN LATINO HERITAGE

May 21, 2014

Status of Activities

American Latino Heritage Expert Scholars Panel:

On Saturday, February 15, 2014, Panel members Antonia Castaneda and Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, the NPS, along with many local partners, hosted the San Antonio Latino Legacy Summit at the historic Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center Theater, located in the historic Westside neighborhood of San Antonio, Texas. As in LA, the goal was to introduce the Theme Study and engage in a conversation about preservation and Latino heritage. Discussion has begun for a third Summit to be held in Denver, CO and New York, NY in 2014. Luis Hoyos, Committee Co-Chair, Elaine Jackson-Retondo NPS Cultural Resources and a CA SHPO representative presented a two hour session on the Theme Study and its application to the California Preservation Foundation meeting in Asilomar. The session gave the audience indications of how the theme study has been useful in academia (Cal Poly courses) as well as a template for the development of the California's survey of American Latinos in the state. The Co-Chairs and NPS staff have met to plan the next meeting of the scholars which will take place no later than June, 2014.

Cultural Resources:

Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry Murals, Detroit Industry of Arts in Detroit, Michigan, a key Latino Heritage site reviewed by this Board at the January 2014 Board meeting was designated as a National Historic Landmark by Secretary Jewell on April 23, 2014.

HABS/HALS (HPD) Documentation of Forty Acres (Cesar Chavez Site) – The large-format photography of the site is complete. The as-built measured drawings, being produced in AutoCAD to HABS standards by a team of students from the College of Environmental Design, Cal Poly Pomona, are being finalized.

Theme Study Bridge Document – The NHL program is in the planning stages of a bridge document to support the American Latino Theme Study. This document will help link the study to property types.

Interpretation, Education & Volunteers (IE&V):

Heritage Education Services and National Trails – The Intermountain Region is preparing an itinerary to add to the NPS *Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary Series* featuring historic places along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail in New Mexico and Texas. Itinerary will include links to appropriate websites describing sites to see along El Camino Real in Mexico

Archeology to Link Students to Arizona's Latino Heritage – Latino history is being presented to students through participation in an archeological excavation and non-traditional hands-on activities in Tucson.

Itunes Educational Media Development And Latino Heritage Course – Building and maintain a digital connection with audiences through the development of rich interactive digital content on the American Latino Heritage through a partnership with the University of South Florida’s FCIT to undertake the preparation and management of on-line resources including digital ITunes University course and resources for K-12 schools.

National Council of LaRaza’s Annual Lideres Summit, Los Angeles:

IE&V is working to plan pre-summit activities for Summit Team Leaders at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area including tours of Latino historic sites to provide service-learning opportunities. 500 youth are expected to attend workshops and other activities aimed to celebrate Latino contributions to our country. There are also early planning efforts to develop a Historic Preservation Latino Youth Ambassador program with NCLR.

Environment of the America’s and the National Park Foundation:

IE&V is currently working with these organizations to repurpose a bilingual coloring book for kids on national parks entitled “Conoces Tus Parques (Get to know your Parks).

Women’s History Month in 2014:

Visitors at 50 national parks throughout the country had the opportunity to view the official launch of the documentary film, “Secret Soldier: the Story of Loreta Velazquez, American Civil War Soldier and Spy.” An educational website www.rebeldocumentary.com was launched March 1.

Exhibit to showcase ALHI:

IE&V worked with the Division of Cultural Resources and American Latino Research and Training Center to create a traveling 5-panel exhibit and it is now in fabrication.

Resource Education Guide:

This document based on the American Latino Theme Study has been completed and has been sent to an editorial team for review.

American Latino Heritage Google Site:

IE&V staff is working with Wooten High School’s Academy of Information Technology to create an internal-use google site that facilitates NPS support for the American Latino Heritage Program by sharing successes, lessons learned, documents, toolkits, events and useful information across all levels of the service to these stories and places relevant to the American public.

Immigration Narrative & Smithsonian:

This project with the National Museum of American History is to transform the teaching of immigration and migration in American classrooms by working with teachers, museum educators and park rangers alongside scholars to create classroom materials that will bring the “Our American Journey” project’s 21st century narrative of immigration and migration to American classrooms across the nation.

Farm Workers Movement 2015:

Explore ways of connecting with diverse college students from rural farm communities to identify ways that we can support digital media projects as tools for outreach, advocacy and awareness raising of farmworker issues.

Spanish Mission Travel Itinerary:

The Archeology Program is working with Heritage Education Services and the University of Arizona to produce a Spanish Missions Travel Itinerary for Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. This Project is in the beginning stages. The itinerary will be added to the NPS *Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary Series*

Next Steps

The Panel expects to host another 3-5 Forums on the Theme Study, provide input to preservation officers on priority sites for designation, identification of additional research areas, coordination with other Latino Heritage efforts including the proposed Smithsonian museum, providing input on interpretive materials at NPS sites, work collaboratively with the IE&V division on its many ALH program initiatives and identifying tools and funding to help Latino communities develop the capacity to attain historic landmark designations. The Panel is expected to meet in June, 2014.