

The Bracero History Project Presentation
Thursday, September 20, 2007
10:30-11:30AM
Bell Tower, Room 1808, Student Life Conference Room

The Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning has been made aware of an opportunity to collaborate on an oral history project entitled, The Bracero History Project, with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

The Bracero History Project is a coordinated effort by the Smithsonian to collect, document, exhibit, and share a complex and sometimes controversial history of the Bracero program (1942-1964).

The goal of their efforts is to create a national consortium of museums, universities, and cultural institutions to focus on this critical piece of history; shedding insight on the social and cultural aspects, how it affected the families, the towns in Mexico, their children and their communities.

Currently they have partnered with the [Center for History and New Media](#) at George Mason University, the [Institute of Oral History](#) at the University of Texas at El Paso, and the [Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America](#).

Today we are honored to have with us Steve Velasquez, *Associate Curator, Division of Home and Community Life, National Museum of American History*

Steve is an Associate Curator for the Division of Home and Community Life. As collections manager he is caretaker for furniture, toys, lighting devices, and domestic life, Latino and ethnic/immigration collections. Steve's background is Latin American Archaeology, collections management and material culture studies. As curator his research interest include Latino identity and Latino/Hispanic material culture, Latin American material culture, Latin American and Southwest archaeology, Spanish America Colonial History, and immigration/migration.

Recent exhibits and project experience include, *Mexican Treasures of the Smithsonian* (sponsored by the Smithsonian Latino Center). Past projects include *AZUCAR! The Life and Music of Celia Cruz*, *A Collector's Vision of Puerto Rico*, *Julia Child's Kitchen at the Smithsonian*, and the Toluca Valley Archaeology Research Project.

Steve started as an intern in the National Museum of Natural History in 1995 and joined the National Museum of American History as a collections manager for a large Puerto Rican collection in 1997. He is currently co-curator for the Bracero Oral History Project.