



Smithsonian Institution

Curator Biographies:

Cerámica de los Ancestros: Central America's Past Revealed



Ranald Woodaman, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs, Smithsonian Latino Center

Since August, 2007, Ranald Woodaman has served as Exhibitions and Public Programs Director at the Smithsonian Latino Center. His work at the Smithsonian includes the exhibitions *¡Azúcar! The Life and Music of Celia Cruz* (2005); *Mexican Treasures* (2007); *Posters from the Division of Community Education (DIVEDCO) of Puerto Rico, 1949-1989* (2008); *Panamanian Passages/Pasajes Panameños* (2009); and *Southern Identity: Contemporary Argentine Art* (2010); the online exhibitions *A Vision of Puerto Rico: The Teodoro Vidal Collection* (2006) and *Mexican America* (2006); as well as work with the National Museum of American History's Latin Jazz oral history project and the Program in Latino History and Culture. Currently, Woodaman is managing several Smithsonian initiatives, including the Central American Ceramics Research and Exhibition Project, the Latino DC History Project, and the Caribbean Indigenous Legacies Project.



Alex Benitez, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University

Alex Benitez is an archaeologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. He was awarded a B.A. degree in Anthropology from the University of Arizona, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. He has conducted extensive archaeological research in the U.S. Southwest and the Central Highlands region of Mesoamerica. Since 2009, he has directed the Smithsonian Latino Center sponsored Central American Ceramics Research Project at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



Ann McMullen, Curator, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

Ann McMullen is Curator and Head of Collections Research and Documentation at the National Museum of the American Indian. She holds a doctorate in Anthropology from Brown University and her research and publications have focused on Native North America; material culture, traditions, innovation, and commercialization; Native interaction networks; the history of collecting and museums, and the history of the NMAI and the Museum of the American Indian. Since 2003, she has led NMAI's efforts to develop a new collections information system, update and enhance collections information, and bring NMAI collections information to the Web. She has also authored several of the NMAI's policies on managing and expanding its world-renowned collections.