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**Holocaust Museum Houston to Host Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition
Exploring Indigenous Legacy of the Caribbean**

HOUSTON (October 15, 2024) . . . Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH), a Smithsonian Affiliate, will host “Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe ¡Taíno Vive!” November 1, 2024, through January 12, 2025. The exhibition from the Smithsonian presents the history of the Taínos, the Indigenous peoples of the northern Caribbean islands, and how their descendants are reaffirming their culture and identity today. Presented in English and Spanish, the exhibition was organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of the American Latino.

The exhibition explores the Taíno heritage of today and how their descendants are participating in a growing movement to reaffirm their Caribbean Indigenous identity and culture. The term Taíno refers to the diverse Arawak-speaking peoples of the Greater Antilles (Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico) and their descendants within and outside of the Caribbean. In 1492, the Taíno discovered Christopher Columbus, an encounter that set in motion a Spanish expansion that devastated the Taíno civilization and decimated their population. However, the exhibition reveals that in places like Puerto Rico, Cuba and Jamaica, historical records and regional traditions point to Indigenous survival and rich cultural legacies within and outside the Caribbean.

Visitors will learn about the Taíno survival journey through stories, contemporary crafts, musical instruments and utilitarian objects associated with aspects of Native day-to-day life. The exhibition includes a short video that showcases the impacts of colonial encounters in the Caribbean and the nexus of the first interactions between the new and the old world.

Audiences will discover examples of Indigenous musical instruments such as the maracas and the güiro, traditionally made from the *dritas* fruit of the Higuera tree, native to parts of Central America and Puerto Rico. Contemporary objects such as jícara bowls show the traditional eating and drinking utensils first used by the Taínos that were made from the fruit of the gourd tree.

“Like the Taíno during the takeover of the Caribbean, Jewish people survived potential

extinction by the Nazis and have worked to reclaim their property, culture and language,” said Linda L. Burger, Interim CEO of HMM. “Both groups can still be found in their homeland as well as in the diaspora, and can proudly state, ‘We are still here.’ Though both communities were devastated, they survived and continue to revitalize their respective treasured heritages.”

The exhibition received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the National Museum of the American Latino.

For more information about the exhibition, visit hmm.org/TainoVive.

HMM’s Lester and Sue Smith Campus is located at 5401 Caroline Street in Houston’s historic museum district. The Museum is closed Mondays except Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$22 for adults; \$16 for seniors (ages 65+), AARP members and active duty military; always free for children and students through age 18 and college students with valid student ID; and free to all visitors Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Bagel Shop @ The Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Parking is available in the Museum’s adjacent lot for \$8 for a four-hour period. Tickets are available exclusively online. For more information, visit hmm.org/visit.

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) | Smithsonian Affiliations (SITES | Affiliations) are critical national outreach units at the Smithsonian Institution. For more than 70 years, SITES has been connecting Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes and maintains the Smithsonian’s long-term partnerships with museums, educational organizations and cultural institutions in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Panama. Together, SITES and Affiliations share the Smithsonian’s vast resources with millions of people outside Washington, D.C. Visit sites.si.edu and affiliations.si.edu for more information.

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1996 by Houston-area Holocaust Survivors, their descendants and members of the community, is accredited by The American Alliance of Museums. The Museum is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and honoring the survivors’ legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, we teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.

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