DR. KEVIN STRAIT

FREEDOM SOUNDS: AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC, IDENTITY AND CULTURE IN A NATIONAL MUSEUM

This presentation will explore the creation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, its various exhibitions including Musical Crossroads, and will highlight the processes of research, design, object procurement and installment from a curator’s perspective. Specifying the museum’s unique features and key acquisitions, this presentation will discuss how the complex, dynamic and global story of African American identity, history and culture is told to a national audience.

Dr. Kevin Strait is a museum curator at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. Since 2010, he has worked in the museum’s Office of Curatorial Affairs on the research, development and acquisition of objects for several of the museum’s permanent exhibitions. Dr. Strait is a graduate of Wesleyan University and received his Ph.D. in American Studies at the George Washington University.

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