



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

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David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins

Exhibition Team Biographies

Michael Atwood Mason, Ph.D.

Dr. Mason, an anthropologist and the assistant director for exhibitions at the museum, served as one of the co-curators of *African Voices* and *Ritmos de Identidad* exhibitions at the Smithsonian Institution, and he has managed the development of many other permanent and temporary exhibitions at the museum. Trained as a cultural anthropologist, he has been studying the cultures of the African Diaspora since 1987. His book, *Living Santería: Rituals and Experiences in an Afro-Cuban Religion*, was published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in 2002.

Junko Chinen

Junko (pronounced “june-coe”) earned her master’s in museum studies from The George Washington University in 1998 and has worked in the Department of Public Programs for 10 years. As a project manager for the Office of Exhibits, she is expected to be involved in critical developments in upcoming projects.

Michael Lawrence

Serving as chief of design in the Office of Exhibits at the museum, Michael is an exhibit design professional with a degree in fine arts from Case Western Reserve University and a master’s in architecture from The Catholic University of America. Among other projects, he is the design liaison with the Office of Education for the upcoming Center for Natural History Learning.

Elizabeth Musteen

Acting as a project manager in the Office of Exhibits at the museum, Elizabeth’s portfolio includes the renovation of the museum’s *Behring Family Rotunda*, the highly acclaimed *Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals*, the award winning *Kenneth E. Behring Family Hall of Mammals*, the *Butterflies + Plants: Partners in Evolution* exhibit and the 23,000-square-foot *Sant Ocean Hall*. She earned her bachelor’s degree in history and art history from Drury University in Springfield, Mo., and a master’s in museum studies from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Meg Rivers

Graduating with a bachelor’s degree in archaeology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Meg became interested in museums, leading her to attend The George Washington University for a master’s in museum studies. She is now an exhibition specialist who will be working with permanent exhibits while project-managing temporary ones that explore the intersection between art and science.

Christyna Solhan

Currently an exhibition assistant in the Office of Exhibits at the museum, Christyna’s background includes a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently pursuing a master’s in hominid paleobiology from The George Washington University and working to develop her skills in exhibit development and project management on upcoming exhibitions at the museum.