**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Focus:** The 40th Annual Adams Morgan Day’s “Know Your Neighborhood” Activities.

DC Public Library, the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum and American University collaborate to celebrate the culture and history of the neighborhood at the 40th anniversary Adams Morgan Day festival, September 9, 2018. The institutions are sponsoring performances, displaying pop-up exhibits about the neighborhood’s history and using a multimedia hotline and Humanities Truck to share historic neighborhood photos and oral histories. **Photo of Truck and Interviews Available.**

**Media Contact:** Carol Miller, 202-306-0130, carolmiller100@gmail.com

**“Know Your Neighborhood” History Activities at Adams Morgan Day 40th Anniversary**

**DC Public Library, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, American University**

**and Local Partners Bring Neighborhood History to the Street, September 9**

**WASHINGTON, September 4, 2018** —To honor the 40th Anniversary of the [Adams Morgan Day Festival](http://www.admoday.com/), a series of activities to “Know Your Neighborhood” will be featured at the event. Festival visitors can learn about the neighborhood’s past by viewing photographs at the new “Humanities Truck,” listen to oral histories and watch live interviews with neighborhood activists Marie Nahikian, Topper Carew, and Ronald and Mary Pierce.

The content of these activities planned as part of the festival is drawn from several recent exhibits and projects, including the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum’s “A Right to the City” exhibition about neighborhood organizing, and historic photos spanning 40 years of Adams Morgan Day festivals from DC Public Library’s Nancy Shia Collection. The event will also launch the [Humanities Truck](https://communityphonebooth.net/dc/2018/08/adams-morgan-day-w-truck/), an experimental recording and exhibition space on wheels from American University that can share neighborhood history in new ways.

Several local groups are coming together to highlight the history of Adams Morgan through exhibitions, activities, voices and performances. The coalition includes the DC Public Library, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum and American University. “In honor of the decades of creativity, activism and diversity of Adams Morgan that continue to shape the community today, we thought it important to engage the public with historical resources and activities at the city’s longest running neighborhood festival,” said Michele Casto, special collections librarian at DC Public Library.

“This is the first public showing of our Humanities Truck, with our storytelling system to bring history into public streets,” said Dr. Benjamin Stokes, assistant professor in the School of Communication at American University. The truck combines large screens with public programming, including a playful activity for festival attendees to visit key locations and text a hotline to receive historic photographs and learn about the sites.

DC Public Library is celebrating the culture of the neighborhood and the city by sponsoring some of the performers on the festival stages and at space adjacent to the Humanities Truck. This “Know Your Neighborhood” stage will highlight the Latino heritage of the neighborhood through music, dance and storytelling, and also feature live on-stage interviews with significant Adams Morgan activists of the 1960s, ‘70s and ‘80s. “The Library has been engaged in ongoing initiatives showcasing local music and neighborhood history and we are excited to work with partners to bring music, dance and storytelling to Adams Morgan Day,” says Casto. The Columbian rhythms of La Marvela, the poetry and storytelling of Quique Aviles, and the dancers and drummers of Vava United School of Samba will perform. Hola Cultura, a D.C. Latino arts and cultural nonprofit organization, will join the Library to offer tours highlighting the Latino history of the neighborhood. The Library has also partnered with festival music organizer Songbyrd Music House, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and Multiflora Productions to sponsor music that reflects Adams Morgan as a cultural crossroads, bringing global sounds to all the festival stages.

The collaborative exhibits and performance space at 18th Street NW and Belmont Street NW will explore new ways to engage the public in local history. Visitors to the Humanities Truck can see historic photographs of the neighborhood over the years on one of the truck’s screens. Visitors can also win prizes by following the History Map Postcard developed collaboratively by American University and the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum. “We’re providing a fun and creative way for people to meaningfully engage with the neighborhood’s rich—but too often overlooked—history,” says Dr. Samir Meghelli, chief curator at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum.

Bringing stories of neighborhood organizing and activism from the “A Right to the City” exhibition to the festival is one way the Museum will be continuing its five decades of community-building work. The festival kicks off a larger collaboration that will bring elements of the “A Right to the City” exhibition to DCPL neighborhood libraries this fall.

Event plans are listed on the official Adams Morgan Day festival website: <http://www.admoday.com>, [Facebook.com/AdamsMorganDay/](https://www.facebook.com/adamsmorganday/) and [@AdamsMorganDay](https://twitter.com/search?q=%40adamsmorganday&src=typd) #AdMoDay18.

Learn more about the “Know Your Neighborhood” History Exhibits and Activities at [https://www.dclibrary.org/knowyourneighborhood](https://www.dclibrary.org/knowyourneighborhood" \t "_blank)

Learn more about the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum’s “A Right to the City” exhibition: [http://anacostia.si.edu/Exhibitions/Details/A-Right-to-the-City-6222](http://anacostia.s.edu/Exhibitions/Details/A-Right-to-the-City-6222)

Learn more about the interactive storytelling hotline developed by the School of Communication at American University and the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum: <https://communityphonebooth.net/>

###