The Program in Latino History and Culture (PLHC) was established in 2004 to increase Latino visitation, create public programs, maintain a Latino presence on the NMAH Web site, and support and enhance scholarship and collections acquisition on Latino aspects of American history and culture. The Smithsonian Latino Center provided the seed money in support of the Program.

In 2011, PLHC received a Latino Initiatives Pool award of $26,500. Thanks to this award the program has been able to attract new visitors to the museum, present engaging programming, and provide opportunities for our visitors to learn about Latino history and culture.

Since its reopening in November 2008, NMAH has welcomed over 4 million people. We have transformed our visitors’ experience through daily museum theater and hands-on interactive opportunities. The Latino Initiatives Pool award gave NMAH the opportunity to expand these programs, incorporating Latino themes and providing learning experiences to all our visitors.

**John Santos Sextet during Jazz Appreciation Month**

The Program in Latino History and Culture, the NMAH Jazz Appreciation Month Program (JAM), and the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) joined forces once again to present world acclaimed musician and teacher John Santos on Friday, April 15 at Baird Auditorium. John presented his newest work called Filosofía Caribeña with a stellar steady line up made up of Saul Sierra on bass, Dr. John Calloway on flute and piano, Melecio Magdaluyo on saxophones, Marco Diaz on piano and trumpet, David Flores on drumset, and John Santos on percussion, and a special guest, singer Jerry Medina. Filosofía Caribeña is a cross-disciplinary project that aims to illuminate Afro-Latino presence, identity, and the marvelous, undeniable, and unheralded historical connections between Black and Latino.
communities. It is a significant work that peacefully and joyfully celebrates life, honors the elders and ancestors, human rights, liberty, love, and resistance to colonial mentality.

This concert served as the opening performance of the Congreso Internacional Musica, Identidad y Cultura en el Caribe “El Jazz desde la Perspectiva Caribeña.”

During the morning of April 15, John Santos conducted a workshop for local music teachers and amateurs on the history and rhythms of Afro Latino percussion. Felix Contreras, percussionist and NPR journalist facilitated the workshop. John and Felix demonstrated sounds using the museum’s teaching collection.

The workshop was attended by approximately 30 people and the concert by 360.

**Museum Theater**

This Fall during Hispanic Heritage Month, the museum presented La Buena Vida, a short theater presentation based on the life and work of New Mexico’s Fabiola Cabeza de Baca. Ms. De Baca was a teacher, home economics specialist, and cultural broker who collected and authored many books and cookbooks about rural New Mexican life in the early 20th-century. Visitors had a chance to discuss agriculture, home economics, and hear about the power of personal stories as they became part of the live studio audience at Fabiola Cabeza de Baca’s 1930s and 1940s radio broadcasts. She was born in New Mexico in 1894.

Attendance to La Buena Vida program was approximately 1,540 people.
The Legacy of Operation Pedro Pan

On May 3rd, the museum, in collaboration with SLC, presented a round table conversation about the legacy of Operation Pedro Pan. This operation was the largest recorded exodus of unaccompanied minors in the Western Hemisphere. From 1960 to 1962 more than 14,000 unaccompanied Cuban children were brought to the United States through a US government program. The conversation featured different perspectives on the topic, from the lived-experience, to the academic, to the legal implications. Presenters included Jacqueline Bhabha, lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, and Director of Research at the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard; Maria de los Angeles Torres, director and professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Illinois in Chicago; Dick Lobo, director of the International Broadcasting Bureau of the U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors; Emilio Cueto, attorney now retired; and Eloisa Echazabal, Assistant to the Campus President at Miami Dade College (MDC) Medical Campus.

Attendance was approximately 65 people

Internship

Funding received in FY2011 supported one paid internship. The intern worked on several projects: to facilitate and provide historical contextual information regarding Fabiola Cabeza de Baca and New Mexico and to research potential future historical theater characters. Special attention was paid to researching the lives and impact of two early Latina labor leaders: Emma Tenayuca form Texas and Luisa Capetillo from Puerto Rico. Internship duties also included the implementation of the Immigration cart and the Day of the Dead cart.

Internships provide a great opportunity for young Latino/as to learn about the Museum field, and specifically the work at NMAH as it relates to the goal of PLHC.