



October, 2016

Arts & Culture Program

Check out our latest events!

- ACES Arts and Culture Program Launches!
- Opening Dedication Ceremony of the National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC)

ACES Arts and Culture Program Launches!

This past September, the ACES team launched its newest initiative—"The Arts and Culture Program": - its mission is to educate students about how the arts interact with one's culture and provide opportunities for students to attend arts and cultural events at major performing and visual arts organizations in the DC metropolitan area. There are also opportunities to meet production staff, artists and participate in Q&A's after performances and ultimately, to encourage dialogue among ACES students to contemplate the value, power, and relevancy of the arts and the effect of culture on individuals, the community and society.

The ACES Family Attends the Dedication Ceremony of the NMAAHC

On Saturday, September 24, 2016, more than 20 ACES students/family members and staff attended the Opening Dedication Ceremony of the [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#) (NMAAHC). It was a momentous occasion as we stood amongst thousands who participated in this historic moment in our nation. This museum took 13 years to evolve- from the time officials finally approved the idea of an African-American museum in Washington in 2003, to the opening this September 24, 2016. It was momentous in that the opening came at the end of the first black president's second term in the White House, as well as at a time of racial crisis within our cities. The opening of the museum... "takes place at the end of the tenure of President Barack Obama and during a period where there is a need for clarity and understanding around issues of race." (*Smithsonian.com, September, 2016*)

We salute those who worked hard - our Presidents - past and present, our Congressmen and senators, Lonnie G. Bunch III (Founding Director) our leaders - dedicated women and men, Advisory Council, and donors, who were determined to make this museum a reality. As said so clearly by Lonnie Bunch, III, "The museum is truly a testament to the power of ideas and commitment to change".

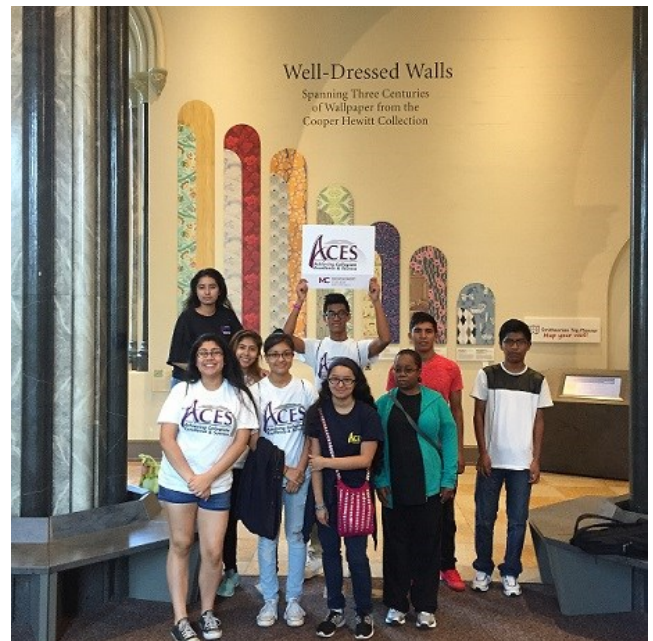
**ACES Students Visit Washington, D.C. and the
National Museum of African American History & Culture**



ACES students and staff at the Washington Monument



ACES students in front of the Lincoln Memorial



ACES students at the “Well-Dressed Walls” exhibit