Virtual Museum of African-American History Opens

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Virtual Museum of African-American History Opens

This week the Smithsonian Institution opened a new museum -- online. The National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Smithsonian's nineteenth and newest museum, opened on the Web as a virtual collection for scholarship and education. The NMAAHC's building on the Smithsonian Mall in Washington, D.C. will not be completed until 2012. This is the first time a major museum has opened a virtual presence before erecting the tangible structure.

The Web museum highlights a collection called "Let Your Motto Be Resistance," portraits and photographs of people who stood against oppression in various ways, from Frederick Douglass to Ella Fitzgerald to Malcolm X.

The NMAAHC website also has a "Memory Book," which enables site visitors to upload their memories in the form of stories, images, or audio recordings. An online map, which users can navigate, shows how these diverse memories are linked to each other and to content created by the museum to spotlight people, places, issues, and moments in African-American history. This virtual museum of African-American History is available at http://nmaahc.si.edu.