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Grand Opening Family Festival on Saturday, July 1

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery's Grand Opening Family Festival, sponsored by Target, will take place on Saturday, July 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. This festival is free and open to the public. Visitors will experience actors impersonating individuals from the museums' collections, gallery tours, free ice cream at the G Street entrance and live music on every floor of the building. There will be a free two-way shuttle bus from the Smithsonian Folklife Festival to the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Times and locations are subject to change and must be confirmed prior to publication.

Musical performances will include jazz, fife and drum, barbershop, Native American folk, bluegrass, blues and salsa. A sampling of musical groups will include the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, the 257th National Guard Army Band, the Harmony Heritage Singers, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, Charlotte Blake Alston and John Blake Jr., the Brewery Troupe's Crowtations, Ulali, Sin Miedo and the Doug McKelway Band.

Hip-hop, flamenco, tap and modern **dance performances** from Full Circle Productions, Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble, Tappers with Attitude and Washington Reflections also will be featured during the festival, as well as a Poetry Slam featuring the DC Poetry Slam Team.

Demonstrations by artists will include Gerald Barnes (basket weaving), Lucious Webb (twig sculpture), Jimmy Powers (stained glass) and Maria Simonsson (fiber sculpture).

Actors impersonating individuals such as George and Martha Washington, Uncle Sam, Marilyn Monroe, Andy Warhol, Charlie Chaplin and others will roam the galleries that day.

Target also will sponsor an evening gala at the Reynolds Center on Wednesday, June 21.

The museums' National Historic Landmark building, a dazzling showcase for American art and portraiture is located at Eighth and F Streets N.W., in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district. The newly renovated building features dramatic architectural elements, including two city-block long skylights, a curving double staircase, porticos modeled after the Parthenon and vaulted galleries illuminated by natural light. Museum hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Web site: www.reynoldscenter.org. Images for media use are available at <http://newsdesk.si.edu/photos>.

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