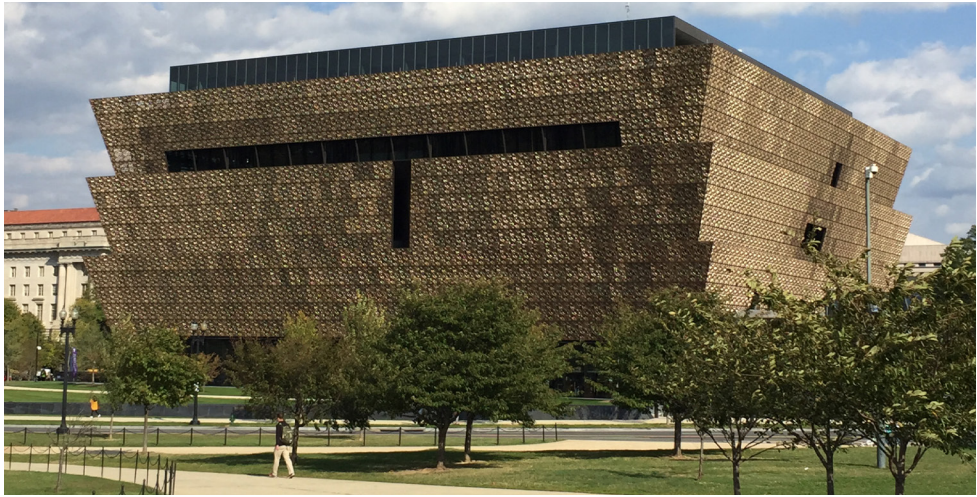


# RITE NOW @ ROP



Allowing young people to experience history first-hand is a central tenet to many educational programs throughout the country. Silver Oak Academy has been a champion of experiential learning for its students since its inception. Through strong partnerships, SOA offers its students unique opportunities to learn about history, their heritage and themselves.

Through a partnership with the Catoctin Furnace Society, students have participated in a multi-year restoration project of the buildings located at the historic furnace itself. In addition to their work persevering history, students have learned about the pilgrimage of African Americans fleeing their former lives as slaves. SOA students have also taken part in event reenactments and oral/written presentation on the history of the Catoctin Furnace.

Recently, eight SOA students had the opportunity to tour the new African American Museum in Washington, DC. The activity, supported by the Student Government Association, was made possible by a generous donation from the Catoctin Furnace Society. The museum opened September 24 to overwhelming demand and acclaim with over 100,000 people visiting in the first 10 days. The students who toured the museum joined thousands of other supporters in walking galleries that tell the story of African American history, culture and community. Many of the students were able to track their family names back to the early settlers and track their migration throughout the country. The youth returned to campus with a renewed sense of pride in their heritage and an eagerness to share their experience with other students, faculty and staff.