

Remarks by Gary T. Johnson, President, Chicago History Museum,  
at the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, June 8, 2012

Thank you, José López for your warm introduction and for the gift of the woodcut from the Maestro himself, Antonio Martorell, one of Puerto Rico's greatest artists.

Governor Quinn, Mayor Emanuel, Congressman Gutierrez, members of the Illinois General Assembly and the Chicago City Council who are with us today, friends from the Chicago Park District – which does so much to support our museums – and board and staff colleagues from IPRAC:

Estoy aquí de parte de todo el equipo de museos en Chicago. Es un honor estar aquí con ustedes hoy para celebrar la apertura de la exposición de Antonio Martorell y la admisión de su Museo en nuestro grupo de museos – Museums in the Park. ¡Felicitaciones!

(I am here on behalf of the whole museum team in Chicago. It is an honor to be with you today in order to celebrate the opening of the Antonio Martorell exhibition and the admission of your museum to our group of museums – Museums in the Park. Congratulations!)

I've learned something over the years about these collaborations. Yes, the other members of Museums in the Park and our staff already are collaborating with you to share some of our best practices and ideas.... But I also know, because I have seen it happen before, that we will learn even more from you. We look forward to our partnership!

José López was absolutely right in saying that I have a personal connection with your neighborhood and your museum. In the 1800, my Norwegian great-great-grandparents immigrated to the Humboldt Park neighborhood. They ran a fish store just over on Potomac Avenue and they lived here when the beautiful building that is now your museum was built by Jens Jensen.

So, while I am learning so much from you about Puerto Rican arts and culture, I feel that your neighborhood is my neighborhood, and your museum is my museum. My goal is that **everyone** in the greater Chicago area will feel the way I do, that your neighborhood is their neighborhood, and that your museum is their museum. Thank you!