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Museum Informatics-LIS 258

Dr. Angel

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Interactive Technology

Event link and description

<http://www.coneyislandhistory.org/blog/news/april-21-immigrant-heritage-walking-tour-coney-island-english-and-mandarin>

The interactive event I chose to accompany my museum object is the Immigrant Heritage Walking Tour of Coney Island in English and Mandarin that takes place on April 21st, 2018. This event is sponsored by Coney Island History Project, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that “aims to increase awareness of Coney Island’s legendary past and to encourage appreciation of the Coney Island neighborhood of today.”¹ The event is also coordinated by the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, an organization that promotes the well-being of immigrant communities, and celebrates the history, traditions and contributions of New York City’s diverse immigrant communities.²

Interactive features

Tricia Vita and Sylvia Ching Man Wong, two representatives from the Coney Island History Project, will lead the walking tour. They will intend to create an intimate

¹ "April 21: Immigrant Heritage Walking Tour of Coney Island in English and Mandarin." Coney Island History Project. April 03, 2018. Accessed April 03, 2018. <http://www.coneyislandhistory.org/blog/news/april-21-immigrant-heritage-walking-tour-coney-island-english-and-mandarin>.

² "Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs." NYC. Accessed April 03, 2018. <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/index.page>.

and informative representation of life as an entrepreneurial immigrant. I believe this event will provide insight on themes such as inclusion, and immigration reform, regardless of one's current economical status. The event will also celebrate this year's Immigrant Heritage Week 2018. The walking tour will include stops along the boardwalk that emulate stories of struggle, success and achievement such as Nathans Famous, founded in 1916 by Polish immigrant Nathan Handwerker; Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park, and B&B Carousel, created in 1919 by German and Russian immigrants. This free, and wheelchair accessible tour, will allow the visitor to become more acquainted with Coney Island as a residential neighborhood, beach, and entertainment destination. The tour will also stress the historical significance of Coney Island's popularity during the first half of the 20th century.

Relation to my museum object

Coney Island is well known for its amusement parks and seaside resort. The attractions gravitated many artists to its site, such as my museum object's maker, photographer Stephen Salmieri. Inspired by a decaying area, still full of life, Salmieri started to document Coney Island in 1966 and continued his devotion to the subject for six years.³ Salmieri took photographs of the concession stands and its workers on the Bowery, and also random encounters with visitors enjoying their time at the beach. His use of photography also represents a form of map-making or topographical study of Coney Island's post war period, and its changing landscape.

³ "Coney Island-Stephen Salmieri." Accessed April 02, 2018.
<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/1651>.

The Coney Island History Project's walking tour would serve as a great complementary and interactive aspect to my museum object. The walking tour would provide an educational, personable, and raw experience for participants. Even though Coney Island has significantly changed since Salmieri completed his project, the tour would allow visitors to comprehend and connect with the subject matter in their unique own way. The tour leaders would contribute a historical foundation for the visitors to successfully place themselves in that era. The walking aspect of the tour provides a relatable experience and opportunity for the visitor to connect with the artist intention and process for making the photographs. Those navigating along the tour could then have a better understanding of the entrepreneurial spirit and community pride found in my museum object, *Coney Island 1969*.

Audiences

The walking tour would be most beneficial for young audiences who are physically fit. Since the event is physically demanding and may require standing for long periods of time, this event may be best for teenagers or young families. However, the walking tour is also wheelchair friendly and could be very beneficial to those with more life experience. I believe that this the tour has structure and a timeline, providing to ease feelings of hunger and fatigue, therefor, I feel young adults may enjoy the interactive tour the most.⁴ However, the Coney Island History Project does a good job creating an inviting environment to those looking to gain a appreciation for one of New York City's most eclectic historical sites.

⁴ Serrell, Beverly. (2015). "Who is the audience (and what do they want)?" In Exhibit labels: An interpretive approach, 49-68. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press