

### The VITAL Lab Team

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The VITAL Lab is a multidisciplinary research and development facility at Ohio University that specializes in creating interactive virtual environments for educational purposes.

As part of the technical and design team of the Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum, the VITAL Lab has developed innovative methods for presenting the Smithsonian Latino Collections.



*LVM Lobby in Second Life,  
Courtesy of the Smithsonian Latino Center.*



*LVM Sound Studio in Second Life,  
Courtesy of the Smithsonian Latino Center.*

*"The Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum in Second Life is not only the digital future of the Smithsonian Institution; it is the new frontier in immersive education. For the Smithsonian alone, this is a first of its kind, representing immersive learning, online community and collaboration among its diverse community of creators, developers, educators, scholars and researchers,"* -- Melissa Carrillo, Creative Director of LVM, Smithsonian Latino Center

### Example innovations in this project:

Users can experience Latino-style dancing in a themed music lounge, or don a skeleton costume and join the Day of the Dead celebration.

A dynamic tour guide is presented as a heads-up display that helps visitors navigate and displays additional information about their surroundings.

Interactive databases connect visitors with vast collections, allowing them to conduct research of their own.



*LVM Lobby in Second Life,  
Courtesy of the Smithsonian Latino Center.*

### contacts

<http://vital.cs.ohiou.edu>