Founded in 1924, the Middle American Research Institute (MARI) at Tulane University is one of the nation's premier centers for research on Middle America. When Dinwiddie Hall, the building in which MARI is housed, was renovated, the institute got a new exhibition space. MARI director Marcello Canuto and his staff decided to take advantage of public interest in the Mayan long-count calendar ending in 2012 with their inaugural exhibit "Faces of the Maya: Profiles in Continuity and Resilience." Canuto hopes that this exhibit will serve as an introduction to the institute and keep people coming back.

“We are really excited about this inaugural exhibit,” Canuto says. “But the institute is a much larger place, and we are already planning new exhibits that will showcase the diverse and extensive nature of the institute's collections.”