

The National Museum of the American Indian

By: Justice Gordon

I visited the National Museum of the American Indian, which I had never been to before. The history of this museum began when a mining engineer came and began collecting Native American artifacts while working in Arizona. Soon after, a devoted and eager collector founded the Museum of the American Indian in New York City in 1916. The museum was placed in this community in New York because native Americans came here. The geographical features of New York made the area a strategic stronghold for any group of Native Americans that was able to establish themselves there.

This museum has shown me how American Indians have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began. There were different stories to read and watch. These stories told/taught me how American Indians have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began. These stories also revealed the deep connection between Americans and American Indians. They also displayed how Indians have been embedded in unexpected ways in the history, pop culture, and identity of the United States. This museum also expressed how American Indians are facing hardships due to environmental challenges. American Indian peoples have thrived in, respected, and protected the environments that make up their homelands.

The Native New York exhibit stood out to me a lot as a New Yorker. This exhibit stood out to me because it really depicted what makes New York a native place. These stories of Native New Yorkers provide an expanded understanding of the region's history and reveal that New York is and always has been truly a Native place. In my opinion and from what I observed, the staff doesn't truly represent the topic or group of people exhibited in the museum. This is because

they themselves are not indigenous. They did, however, know a lot about the exhibits and artifacts and were very helpful.