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The National Museum of the American Indian at One Bowling Green

The National Museum is a part of the Smithsonian Institution and is dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of Native American culture and artifacts. The idea for the museum dates back to the early 1980s when Congress passed the National Museum of the American Indian Act, which authorized the establishment of a museum to house the collections of Native American artifacts and artwork held by the Smithsonian Institution. The Act also called for the creation of an advisory board made up of Native Americans to oversee the development of the museum. The museum's creation was a long and complicated process that involved consultation with Native American communities throughout the United States and negotiations with the New York City government to secure a location for the museum. The decision to place the museum in Lower Manhattan was due in part to the area's historic connections to Native American communities. The museum is located near the site of the former Dutch trading post of New Amsterdam, which had a significant trade relationship with the Lenape people, who were the original inhabitants of the area. The museum officially opened to the public on October 26, 2004, and has since become a popular destination for visitors to New York City. The museum's collection includes over 800,000 artifacts and works of art, including objects from Native American communities throughout the Americas. The

museum also hosts a range of exhibitions, educational programs, and public events aimed at promoting a greater understanding of the history and cultures of Native American peoples.

The staff at the National Museum of the American Indian come from diverse backgrounds and do not exclusively represent the groups of people exhibited in the museum. The museum's staff includes curators, educators, researchers, administrators, and other professionals who are experts in a wide range of disciplines related to the study of Native American cultures and histories. While some staff members may be members of Native American communities, the museum also employs individuals from a range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. However, the museum is committed to ensuring that the perspectives and voices of Native American people are represented in its exhibitions and programs.

An interesting fact is that the museum's building, located at One Bowling Green in Lower Manhattan, was originally constructed in 1907 as the United States Customs House. The building is considered one of the finest examples of Beaux-Arts architecture in the United States and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. The building's impressive architecture and historic significance make it a unique and fitting location for the National Museum of the American Indian.