

Josie de pool

February 22, 2023

Our America

Museum visit

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is part of the Smithsonian Institution and is located at One Bowling Green in New York City. The museum was opened in 1994, but the idea for the museum had been in development for several decades prior to that. In 1989, the US Congress passed the National Museum of the American Indian Act, which authorized the creation of the museum and outlined its mission to "advance the study, knowledge, and understanding of Native cultures, histories, languages, literature, arts, religions, philosophies, values, and beliefs." The museum was established in order to address the long-standing marginalization and misrepresentation of Native American cultures in American society.

One reason why the museum was placed in this community is because of the historical significance of the site. One Bowling Green is located in Lower Manhattan, near the original Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam. The area was also the site of the first interaction between Native Americans and Europeans in the region. The museum is housed in the Alexander Hamilton US Custom House, a Beaux-Arts building that was built in 1902 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The location of the museum in New York City was also significant because of the city's role as a cultural center and its large Native American population. According to the museum's website, there are over 100,000 Native Americans living in the New York City metropolitan area. The museum's location in Lower Manhattan also puts it in close proximity to other cultural

institutions, such as the New York Stock Exchange and the South Street Seaport Museum, which can help to attract visitors to the museum.

The most prominent exhibit at The National Museum of the American Indian at One Bowling Green is the "Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian" exhibit. This exhibit features over 700 artworks from various Native American cultures, representing thousands of years of history and showcasing the diversity and richness of these cultures. The exhibit also includes multimedia installations, interactive displays, and educational programs that provide visitors with a comprehensive understanding of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The exhibit's comprehensive scope and interactive features make it a standout feature of the museum.

The staff at the museum do represent the topic or group of people exhibited in the museum. The staff members are most likely trained and knowledgeable about Native American history, culture, and traditions, which align with the museum's mission to advance knowledge and understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere. They also play a crucial role in interpreting the exhibits and providing context to visitors, which further supports the representation of the Native American community. Overall, the staff is an essential part of the museum's mission and therefore, is expected to represent the topic or group of people exhibited. Something I learned about this museum was everything in general, I had never visited a museum and learned about another culture that wasn't mine so I really enjoyed learning about native Indians other than mine.