

The National Museum of the American Indian

1: What is the history of the national museum of the American Indian, and what was the reason it was placed in this community?

The national museum of the American Indian was built in 1916 and was open to public in 1994 in New York. When George Gustav Heye start traveling through North and South America he starts collecting native objects that his collection was assembled over 54 years, and then he decides to show those collection to the public and that is how he started the national museum of the American Indian. This museum is one the most extensive collection of the native American arts and artifacts in the world that reach to 12000 years of history and over 1200 indigenous cultures through the America. This museum has three locations that are in the Washington DC, in New York and in Maryland State. The one located in the New York state in the lower Manhattan has a two-story building with different brunches. In this building permanent and temporary exhibition and other public programs are being held. This museum is located in the lower Manhattan because this part of the New York city is one of the financial districts. Also, I think because New York state is one of the most touristic places and this museum represent the native exhibitions from North, South and central America. It also can be, that the location is very important as the museum is near to the Staten Island Ferry, Wall Street, 9/11, memorial, statues of liberty and Ellies Island.

2: What stood out as most prominent among the museum's exhibits? What made this the case for you?

When I visit this museum there were lots of things about this museum that are prominent for me. The first thing that I noticed was the exhibition that was much different than the other museums and all was new for me to see the art works of native American. The other important thing was that I saw ancient and new artifact in this museum. I saw how technology was used in this museum.

The most prominent was the show that was about native New Yorkers. Before visiting this museum, I thought who have been born in this state and call themselves new yorker, is true but after that show I learned about the original native new Yorkers. Learning about native American, watching arts and artifacts from native American from ancient period to the most recent was the most prominent for me.

3: Do the staff represents the topic or group of people exhibited in the museum? Why or why not?

The day that I visit this museum I noticed that security guards were everywhere in this museum, but I did not notice staffs to represents the topics, because I think there was no need for a staff to represent the arts or topics. Every art and artifact were labeled and the information about that specific artifact was written. If the visitors need any information, I noticed that staff was helping. I received help when I was watching an art piece that was made from materials like beads, she came and gave information about it and then she helped me to take a video from that art in a way to look like a waterfall.

4: What is something you learned or was challenging to you about this visit?

The most important thing that I learned was about the museum itself. I had passed this museum many times, but I had never entered to it, and I thought it may be the same as other museums. I learned about the native American and their arts and artifacts. I learned about native New Yorkers and who they are. I learned about tradition and customs of native Americans from different periods that were showed as art pieces in this museum. The new thing was developing stories, it was a kind of art that I had no experience of seeing it this way before. The banners that were in the hall of this museum was another thing that I learned from them. Totally I learned a lot about the history

and arts of the native American in this visit and I want to know more so I will visit again this museum later.