

**African Burial
Ground National Monument**



TAI-HSUAN LIN

SOC147

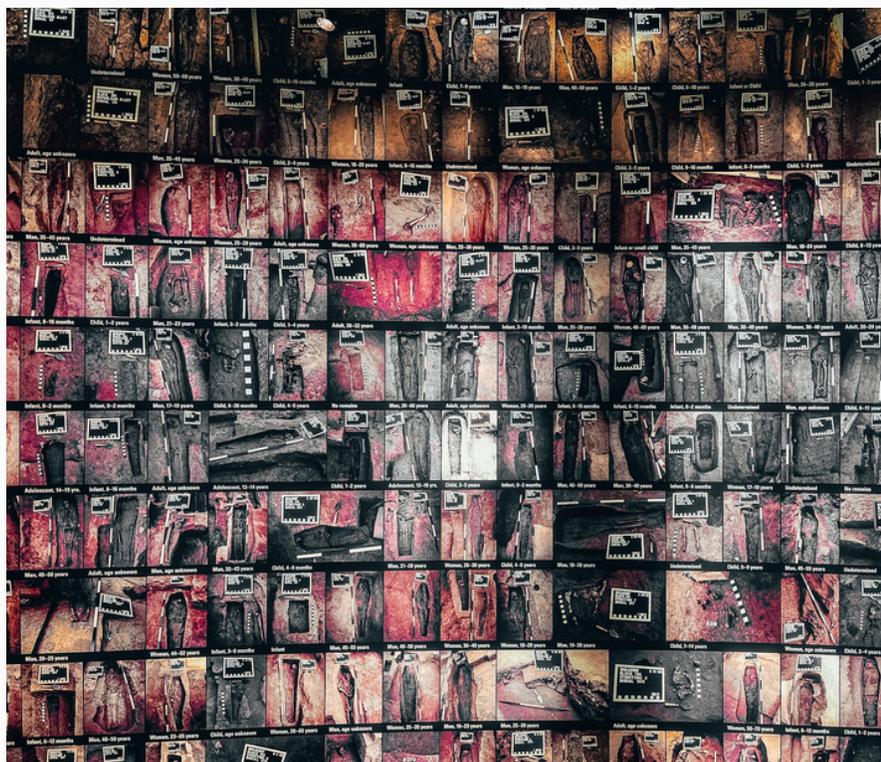
8 MARCH 2023

1. What is the history of this museum, and what was the reason it was placed in this community?



The African Burial Ground was placed in this community because it was the site of a long-forgotten cemetery where enslaved and free Africans were buried during the colonial period. The cemetery was in use from the late 1600s until 1794, and it is estimated that tens of thousands of Africans were buried there. The cemetery was forgotten and lost over time due to the expansion of the city and the construction of new buildings over the years.

In 1991, during the construction of a federal office building, archaeologists discovered the remains of over 400 Africans. The discovery of the burial ground and its subsequent preservation as a national monument was an important moment for the African American community and for the recognition of the contributions of enslaved Africans to the development of New York City and the United States as a whole. The African Burial Ground National Monument is now a powerful symbol of the resilience and determination of the African American community, and a reminder of the injustices and struggles that they have faced throughout history.





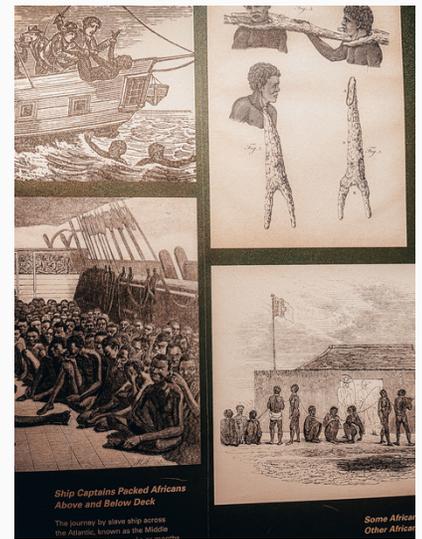
2. *What stood out as most prominent among the museum's exhibits?*

What made this the case for you?

One of the most prominent items on display is the wooden barrel. I can't choose a favorite because they are all amazing, but my eyes were drawn to the corner of the barrel. I remember seeing the "push" sign and thinking, "Oh, they want us to push," but it was so heavy that it couldn't be moved and was firmly stuck to the ground. When I realized this, I felt sad and couldn't help but wonder why people have to face such challenges. Memories flooded my mind, and I thought about issues like child labor, slavery, and gender inequality.

*"They are us. They are me; they are you."
- Kadiatou Diallo, October 4, 2013*

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



When I visited, there were no tours available at that time, and no one represent the museum. However, I was informed that it is possible to book a tour online in advance. Upon arrival, I was approached by people asking if I wanted to watch a movie about the site that they were playing. The movie provides a comprehensive overview of the history of the African Burial Ground and the significance of the site.



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

I think I have once again realized how important African American culture is to not just them, but to America and the world. Without their contributions, our world would not be the same. I feel humbled and grateful that I grew up in a family that didn't have to endure the struggles they did. I appreciate that they laid the foundation for culture, just as the quote says, "They are us, they are you, they are me."

