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Our America

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### Second Museum Visit

1. The African Burial Ground National Monument at 290 Broadway is a museum that commemorates the lives and contributions of Africans and African Americans who were enslaved in New York City during the 17th and 18th centuries. The site was originally a burial ground for these individuals, but it was rediscovered in 1991 during construction work. The discovery sparked a movement to preserve and honor the history of this community, which led to the establishment of the museum in 2006. It was placed in this community because the burial ground was located in the same area, and it is a reminder of the contributions and sacrifices made by the enslaved people who helped build the city.

2. I consider that the most prominent exhibit at the African Burial Ground National Monument which stood out to me is the burial ground itself, which has been preserved and is visible through a glass floor. I think that this exhibit highlights the significance of the site and allows visitors to connect with the history of the enslaved community in a tangible way. Another prominent exhibit is a collection of artifacts found at the site, including pottery, beads, and other personal items. These artifacts offer insight into the daily lives of the people buried there and help to humanize them.

3. The staff at the African Burial Ground National Monument do represent the topic and group of people exhibited in the museum. Many of the staff are African American or have a personal connection to the history of slavery in the United States. This representation is important because it allows visitors to engage with the history in a more meaningful way and offers a different perspective on the topic.

4. One thing I learned during my visit was the extent to which slavery was a part of New York City's history. Although New York is often thought of as a progressive and diverse city, it played a significant role in the transatlantic slave trade and the enslavement of Africans and African Americans. This was challenging to confront, but it also highlighted the importance of acknowledging and learning from the darker aspects of our history.