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SOC147: Our America
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The National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian was created in partnership with the native peoples and their allies, the national Museum of the American Indian fosters a rich shared human experience through a more informed understanding of native peoples. In 1896 George Gustav Heye (1874-1957) A mining engineer, began collecting native American artifacts while working in Arizona. Soon an avid collector, Heye founded the Museum of the American Indian in New York City in 1916, and it opened to the public in 1922 at Audubon Terrace. He also established a research branch in the Bronx, where collections were available for research and study. After Heye's death, The Museum of the American Indian fell on hard times financially, and several proposals were pursued for maintaining the collection, including transfer of the American Museum of natural history in New York and a purchase by businessman H. Ross Perot.

The National Museum of the American Indian in New York City, the museum is part of the Smithsonian and it's free to enter. It provides an excellent overview of native American tribes both before and after European invasion of the Americas up to the present day. The major criticism I have about the national Museum of the American Indian is that it doesn't mention the unknown intentional genocide of the Native Americans brought about by European diseases, such as smallpox and measles in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was near this Annihilation of the Native American population that allowed the Europeans to so easily colonize the Americas.

I was on the ground floor for a good hour and a half. My feet started to swell for some apparent reason so I had to leave but it offers some great insights into the first nations who lived in Manhattan, their culture, and how they contributed to New York City. The National Museum of the American Indian is a huge museum. Very nicely done, the main exhibition is a broad collection of art and artifacts from indigenous cultures across north and south America. I also enjoyed the exhibit of the native peoples of New York. I noticed the discovery and would love to bring my granddaughter to this museum as well as go back myself and bring others with me to learn more about America's history and the native cultures. So many beautiful artifacts, customs and exhibits, very cool gift shops attached with good cookbooks, beautiful jewelry, etc.

Excellent and compassionate storytelling of the usual complex colonization process. Unlike some, these stories are unfamiliar to me. The beautiful contemporary clay sculptures, the update of galleries is quite commendable. I really enjoyed the quote native New Yorker gallery, it's interactive, engaging and well curated. The museum deserves so much more positive attention than what it is receiving. It's extremely well organized and is dedicated to raising awareness about native population throughout the Americas, not just the present day United States. The exhibit bits on everything from art and history to a memorial for a native American veterans, and has wealth of physical items, artwork and other media, the museum does a good job with treating everything with respect, i.e., low light, no camera flash on the exhibits, honoring the historical and present the lives of the population represented therein. Nicely spaced out and well presented

the irony of the fact that this museum of the indigenous people is built on a former customs hall for the conquerors.

My experience here was good and interesting. As for the guards ,they weren't so friendly, actually they didn't speak or smile at all to me, I didn't notice who represented the groups of people in the exhibit. I couldn't really see their face, do to the dim lighting. Beautiful building housing a fascinating and well presented exhibition. I learned a lot taking these criticisms about the national Museum of the American history seriously should have these artifacts and my impression is the curators understand this dilemma and address it responsibly, welcoming other perspectives. I believe you cannot protect and respect what you don't know, perhaps the same is true with the native experience, this is an opportunity to teach those who may or may not know or understand history.

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