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## African Burial Ground

The African Burial Ground is a historic site located in the Civic Center neighborhood of Manhattan in New York City. The site was discovered during an archaeological survey in 1991 and dates back to the 17th and 18th centuries. It was used as a burial ground for enslaved and free Africans during a time when New York City was a major port for the transatlantic slave trade. The exact number of individuals buried at the African Burial Ground is unknown, but it is estimated to be in the tens of thousands. The burial ground was in use from the late 1600s until 1794, when the New York State Legislature banned the use of burial grounds in Manhattan. After its discovery, there was controversy over what to do with the site, with some people advocating for development and others for preservation as a historic site. Eventually, it was decided to preserve the site and build a memorial to honor those buried there.

The African Burial Ground was located in the Civic Center neighborhood because it was outside the city limits at the time and considered unsuitable for development due to its marshy terrain. It served as a burial ground for marginalized groups, including Africans and Native Americans. As the area was developed over time, the burial ground was forgotten until its rediscovery in the 1990s.

Things that stood out the most of the bodies were newborns and children. It was heartbreaking to witness how many young lives had to be given away just because simple medical care was lacking for the African American slaves during that time. This tragedy could have been easily minimized

The Staffs in the exhibit were from variety of cultural background. There were Caucasian, African American, and Hispanic staffs and they all had different role. Therefore, I would not necessarily claim that the staffs represent the topic or group of people exhibited in the museum.

When I was looking at the skeletal structures of the slaves I learned that the stress from heavy lifting objects can stress a body and change the bone shape and structure. For example, thickened ridge can form on a bone when muscles are heavily stressed, as with constant lifting, bony attachments begin to grow. It was disturbing to learn how much stress these individuals went through.