Support the museum! Donate $10 by texting NATIVE AmericanIndian.si.edu.
Welcome to NMAI New York

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), George Gustav Heye Center in New York City features the lifeways, history, and art of Indigenous peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere. The museum, housed within the historic Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, is one of three sites that make up the museum.

The New York museum is named after George Gustav Heye, who founded the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, in 1916 after amassing one of the world’s largest collections of Indigenous objects. In 1989, the museum became part of the Smithsonian Institution and today the collections total nearly one million objects.

Most visitors begin their visit by entering the museum’s second-level Rotunda. From here, they can access Visitor Information and the East, South, and West Galleries. The museum’s Level 1 features the Diker Pavilion for Native Arts and Cultures, a premier exhibition and performance space. Also on Level 1 is the imagiNATIONS Activity Center, a family-friendly, interactive learning environment focused on Native innovations that shape the modern world.

Tours of the exhibitions, as well as tours of the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, a National Historic Landmark, take place throughout the week. Please ask a volunteer at the Visitor Information Desk or consult the website calendar. For group tours, call 212-514-3794 or email NMAI-NY@si.edu. All tours assemble at the second-level Welcome Desk.

PROGRAMS, THEATER, AND FILMS

The museum features Native presentations, drama, dance, musical performances, demonstrations, readings, panel discussions, and seminars throughout the year, including:

- Winter Blast (January)
- Children’s Festival (May)
- Native Sounds Downtown (June–August)
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (September)
- Día de los Muertos (Late October/Early November)
- Native Art Market (December)

MUSEUM STORE

Recently enhanced and expanded, the Museum Store (Level 2) features more items from a wider representation of Native groups than ever before.

The retail space offers apparel, art, literature, jewelry, food, and more for all ages. The store space historically served as the Cashier’s Office of the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House.
The Museum Store offers apparel, art, literature, jewelry, food, and more for all ages. Visit the South Gallery to see the spectacular permanent exhibition Infinity of Nations. Featuring more than 700 masterworks from Native cultures throughout the Americas, the exhibition highlights the historic importance of these iconic objects.

The East and West Galleries feature rotating exhibitions that celebrate both Native history and contemporary culture.

In the imagiNATIONS Activity Center, learn which foods first cultivated by Native people we eat today. Discover items in your medicine cabinet derived from Indigenous knowledge of plants. Collaborate with others to survive the winter in the Cropetition game. And more!

The Diker Pavilion for Native Arts and Cultures features rotating exhibitions about the arts and lifeways of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas.

The Auditorium, accessed from the west stairs on the first level, plays host to cinematic events and screenings, panel discussions, and concerts.

A student explores the Decode the Codex interactive, which features illustrations from the earliest known medical book of the Americas.

Hip-hop artist Frank Waln (Sicangu Lakota) performs in the auditorium at NMAI New York.