CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES
THE 17TH CENTURY IN NEW YORK
Overall Gallery Experience:

Through images, documents, objects, archaeology, oral histories, and personal and family stories drawn from the record, this exhibition will illustrate the 17th-century cultural landscape, European settlement on Indigenous lands in what is now New York, and how this region in that era connects to a larger global history.
THRESHOLD
Influences of Native and European peoples

This area straddles the threshold between the First Peoples and Confluence of Cultures galleries—physically and symbolically linking the spaces and guiding visitors.

Carved bone comb
Boughton Hill site (Ganondagan)
ca. 1650–1700

EUROPEANIZED MOHAWK IMAGE
from Johannes Megapolensis's pamphlet about the Mohawk people (1640s)

THIS AREA IS IN DEVELOPMENT.
“Why Here?”
The importance of natural resources

New York’s waterways and their tributaries have long facilitated human movement, settlement, and access to resources. These resources were used and nurtured by Native peoples of the region—and caught the attention of European explorers, and in particular the entrepreneurial Dutch. A trade economy took root.

**Axe head**
ca. 1600–1650

**Cooking kettle**
Brass, Amsterdam
c. 1600–1700

**Triangular arrow points**
Cut from copper or brass kettles
c. 1600–1650

**Beads for trade**
Glass, Amsterdam
c. 1600–1650

Naturalistic open dioramas and wall treatments will depict landscapes with native flora and fauna, and serve as the backdrop for stories of human interaction.
‘What was New Netherland?’
Orange line indicates the approximate extent of New Netherland
“On the island of Manhate, and in its environs, there may well be four or five hundred men of different sects and nations: the Director General told me that there were men of eighteen different languages...”

Fr. Isaac Jogues, 1646
"LIFE in NEW NETHERLAND"

Where and when was New Netherland? What was everyday life like?

What was work? What was fun and entertainment? What did people eat and drink? What was life like for Native peoples managing their own affairs and in relation to the Europeans? Women? Slaves? Rich people? Poor people?

Strongbox, Iron, ca. 1700
Roemer stem, Glass, 1600s
Tobacco pipe bowls, Fort Orange, ca. 1630-1660

Bronze cannon, 1630
Delft plate
Fort Orange, ca. 1660s

Homeport, L. F. Tantillo
“SLAVERY IN NEW NETHERLAND”
“Persistence of Culture”

The complex, diverse society that was New Netherland didn’t cease when the English took over in 1664.

Elements of this melting-pot culture persisted into a new era. From foodways to language to social customs to furniture, architecture, and art, we will explore what elements of culture persisted, why, and how.

Armorial window,
Stained glass, ca. 1800s

Kas, wood, ca. 1750

Seal of New York City

THIS AREA CONNECTS TO THE PLANNED ETHNOLOGY GALLERY, WHICH WILL PICK UP AND DEVELOP THE THEME OF PERSISTENCE OF ASPECTS OF NATIVE CULTURE.
AREA 3 ELEVATION—IN DEVELOPMENT
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