



IN THE MUSEUM

New York State Museum

03.14.2018 | 100% Pre-SD | Envision Architects | Gallagher & Associates



Project Overview

Vision & Renovation

To meet its educational mission, the NYSM is undertaking a major renovation—the first since the Museum moved to the Cultural Education Center in 1976.

Across 40,000 square feet of gallery space, this renovation will

- **Incorporate cutting-edge** research collections, high-impact graphics, and interactive technology to tell the story of New York State as has never been done before.
- **Include and integrate many of the Museum’s existing, iconic exhibitions** and artifacts, such as the 9/11 Gallery, the Mohawk Iroquois Long House, Bird Hall, the Cohoes Mastodon, and others.
- **Include a flexible wall system** that shapes gallery spaces and supports new and existing exhibitions.
- **Provide an visitor-friendly environment** with clear orientation, wayfinding, and a compelling flow from one gallery to another, interpreting a path by which to best understand New York State history and culture.

The result of the renovation will be an impactful, memorable, and world-class educational experience for all visitors—one that reflects the ingenious, inclusive, and creative spirit of New York State.



Visitor Takeaways

New York is a unique state. Historically, culturally, politically, and scientifically, New York has made singular contributions that have lasting importance and impact across the state, the country, and the world.

New York is diverse. From its first human inhabitants more than 13,000 years ago to the immigrant populations who have come to call New York home over the past four centuries, New York is one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse places on Earth.

New York's history spans billions of years. From the glacial formation of landforms to complex ecosystems, plants, and animals, New York has been evolving over millennia and is a living learning lab for unfurling natural and human history.

New York's rich history is interconnected. The natural and human histories of New York State are integrated and interdependent. Each facet of our history impacts the others.



Target Audiences

- **Multi-generational families**, with members who are familiar with the history of New York and its heritage and want to share it with other family members.
- **School groups** who come for programming that aligns with New York State learning standards. Field trips should be both educational and fun—the new exhibitions and accompanying programming and educational materials will enhance, enrich, and complement school curriculums.
- **Single adult visitors and young local professionals** from the Capital Region who are looking for a meaningful cultural activity, one that is distinctive and a point of pride in the area.
- **Differently abled visitors** who come to the Museum for the engaging programs that provide a fulfilling museum experience through a variety of interactive tools, “touch tours,” and guides and interpreters.
- **Scientists, historians, and other researchers** interested in the Museum’s vast holdings, including the more than 16 million objects among the current collections of artifacts, archival records and documents, photographs, and ephemera.





Content Outline

Content Outline

AREA 1 | EMERGENCE OF A STATE

As the orientation point for the full Museum visitor experience, *Emergence of a State* establishes the core relationships between the natural world and humans and their impact on each other. Though humans are a small part of the region's entire chronology over 4.65 billion years, we impact New York's natural environment, its resources, and its growth as a state.

Key Takeaways & Learning Objectives

- Show geologic changes over time and how New York's geology is unique.
- Enable visitors to grasp New York's deep history, from before it was populated by humans.
- Connect natural and human changes over time.
- Explore how the changes—whether natural or humanmade—in New York's physical landscape affect both people and nature.



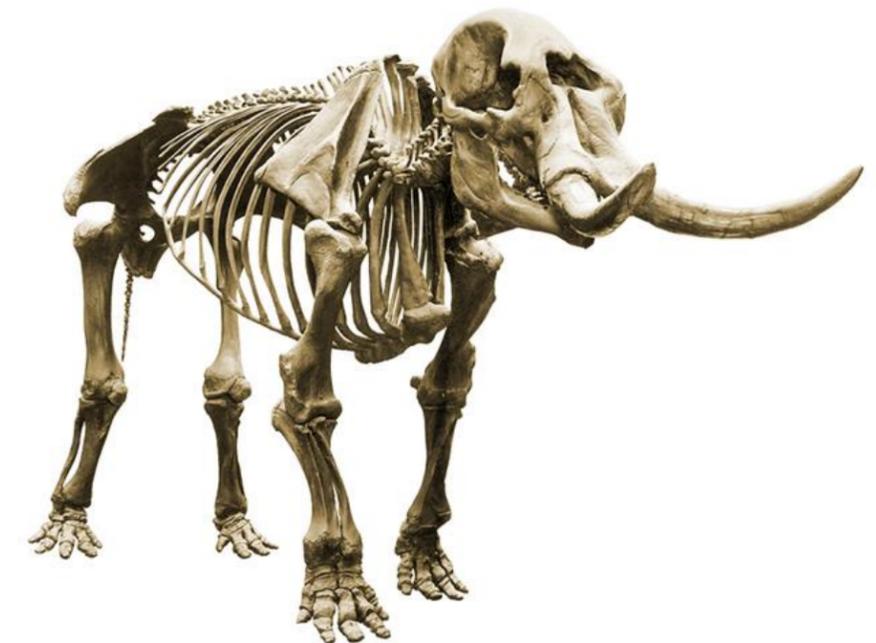
Content Outline

AREA 2 | A STATE OF CHANGE

Over billions of years, New York evolved from a place covered by salt water to a land mass with forests, freshwater, animals, and humans. In this gallery, we will focus on the natural world of New York and how it transformed into what we see today.

Key Takeaways & Learning Objectives

- Understand the evolution and timeline of the origins of life in New York State.
- Recognize how artifacts, fossils, and other objects tell us what we know about the origins of life and the beginning of human occupation of the State.
- Examine the history of collecting specimens, which has greatly impacted the way we observe and learn about the world around us.



Content Outline

AREA 3 | NATIVE PEOPLES OF NEW YORK

This gallery and its exhibition will convey the origins, complexity, and diversity of New York's Native Peoples and individual tribes, highlighting cultural, religious, and economic practices. The gallery wraps up with first contact with European explorers and colonists and explores how systems of trade and relationships impacted Native Peoples. This gallery will also include displays of contemporary pieces and works of art, conveying stories of Native Peoples in New York today.

Key Takeaways & Learning Objectives

- Trace the groups and specific behaviors and characteristics of the Native Peoples who moved across New York, where they settled, and how they lived.
- Explore how contact with Europeans affected the lives of Native Peoples.



Content Outline

AREAS 4–7 | THE EMPIRE STATE GALLERIES

The most compelling and powerful interpretation of New York’s history should emphasize ways in which the Empire State has been the major thrust for events and changes in the entire nation. In short, New York history is national history.

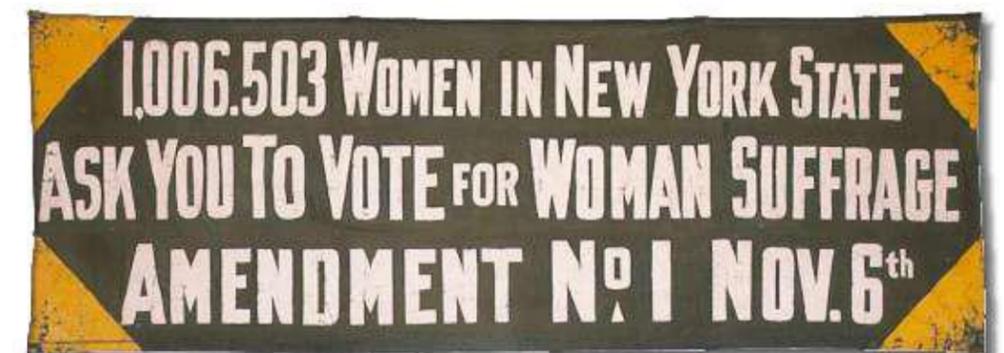
The Empire State Galleries include:

Colonial New York

Immigration, Culture, and Community

Politics & Activism

New York Now



Content Outline

AREA 4 | COLONIAL NEW YORK

Among the earliest European settlements in the United States, this gallery explores New Netherland and how it transitioned into Colonial New York, with a focus on New Netherland—a remarkably culturally and ethnically diverse place that sowed the seeds for modern-day New York.

Key Takeaways & Learning Objectives

- Visitors will learn the impacts of colonization, how it shaped the European settlement of New York, and what it meant for both the colonists and those colonized.
- Understand contact with Native Americans.
- See how New York's rich diversity is rooted in its colonial beginnings.
- Explore the influence of Dutch and other colonizing cultures in New York.



Use contact artifact

Content Outline

AREA 5 | THE EMPIRE STATE: IMMIGRATION, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

As visitors come through *Colonial New York* into *Immigration, Culture, and Community*, the flow and movement of people across New York transforms to become the flow and movement of ideas, innovations, and ways of living. As New York grows and becomes more populous, what are the major milestones or turning points that make it the place it is today? Here we focus on the history and narratives revealing the uniqueness of the state.

Key Takeaways & Learning Objectives

- Appreciate the “melting pot” influence of different cultures and ethnicities across New York.
- Connect manufacturing and other economic opportunities in New York to immigration stories.
- Understand New York’s emerging impact on the nation and the world.



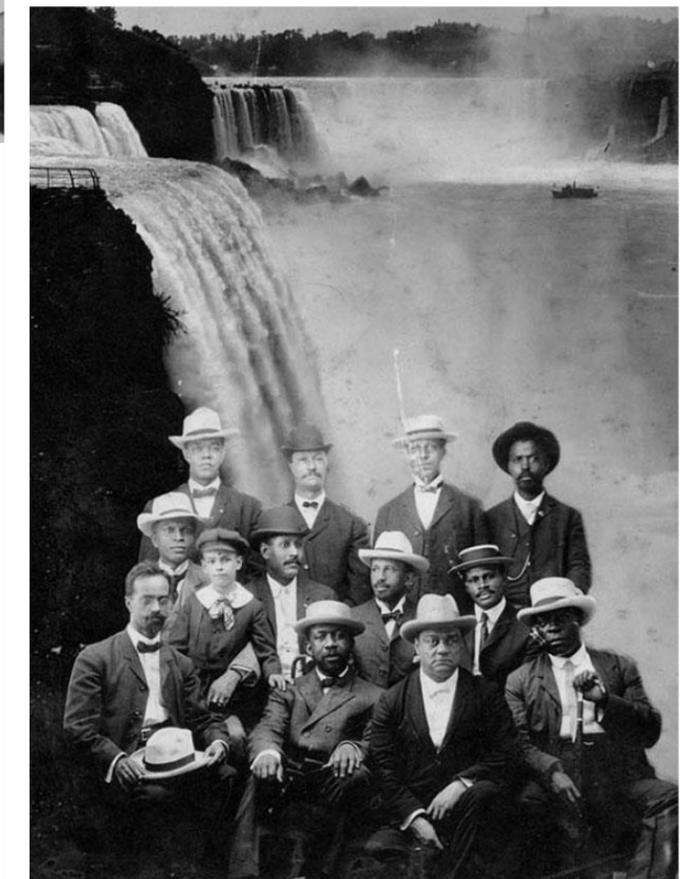
Content Outline

AREA 6 | THE EMPIRE STATE: POLITICS & ACTIVISM

What does it mean to be a politician or activist in New York? How do you govern a brand-new country within a new political system? From the formation of the first governing system in America to our continuing social struggles and triumphs, New York continues to play a pivotal role on the local, state, national, and global political stages. The state's influence can be felt throughout the nation and the world, by spread of news and other forms of expression.

Key Takeaways & Learning Objectives

- Discover New York “firsts” and impacts in governance, politics, and activism.
- New York State was at the forefront of advancing rights of workers, immigrants, women, and minorities.
- New York State was—and continues to be—a major influence as a center of journalism, publishing, and other media platforms.



Content Outline

AREA 7 | THE EMPIRE STATE: NEW YORK NOW

For centuries, New York State has been an incubator for ideas and innovations in politics, art, music, science, social issues, and activism. In this gallery, visitors will see the impact of the words, works, and actions of New Yorkers who continue to make their mark on U.S. and global history and culture.

Key Takeaways & Learning Objectives

- See, hear, and know the diverse New Yorkers today who are impacting life in the state and nation.
- Experience real-time views of New York State, today.
- Understand that the Museum is a live institution that explores New York State history, art, ethnography, and science by collecting objects and images of New York today.

These are the stories of New York Now.





Concept and Visitor
Experience Plans

Concept Diagram

Key

- 1. Emergence of a State (3,500 sf)**
 - The Land: Flora and Fauna
 - The People: From First Peoples to Today

- 2. A State of Change (12,500 sf)**
 - Ancient Seas
 - Forests of Life on Land
 - Evolution of Animals
 - Arrival of First Peoples

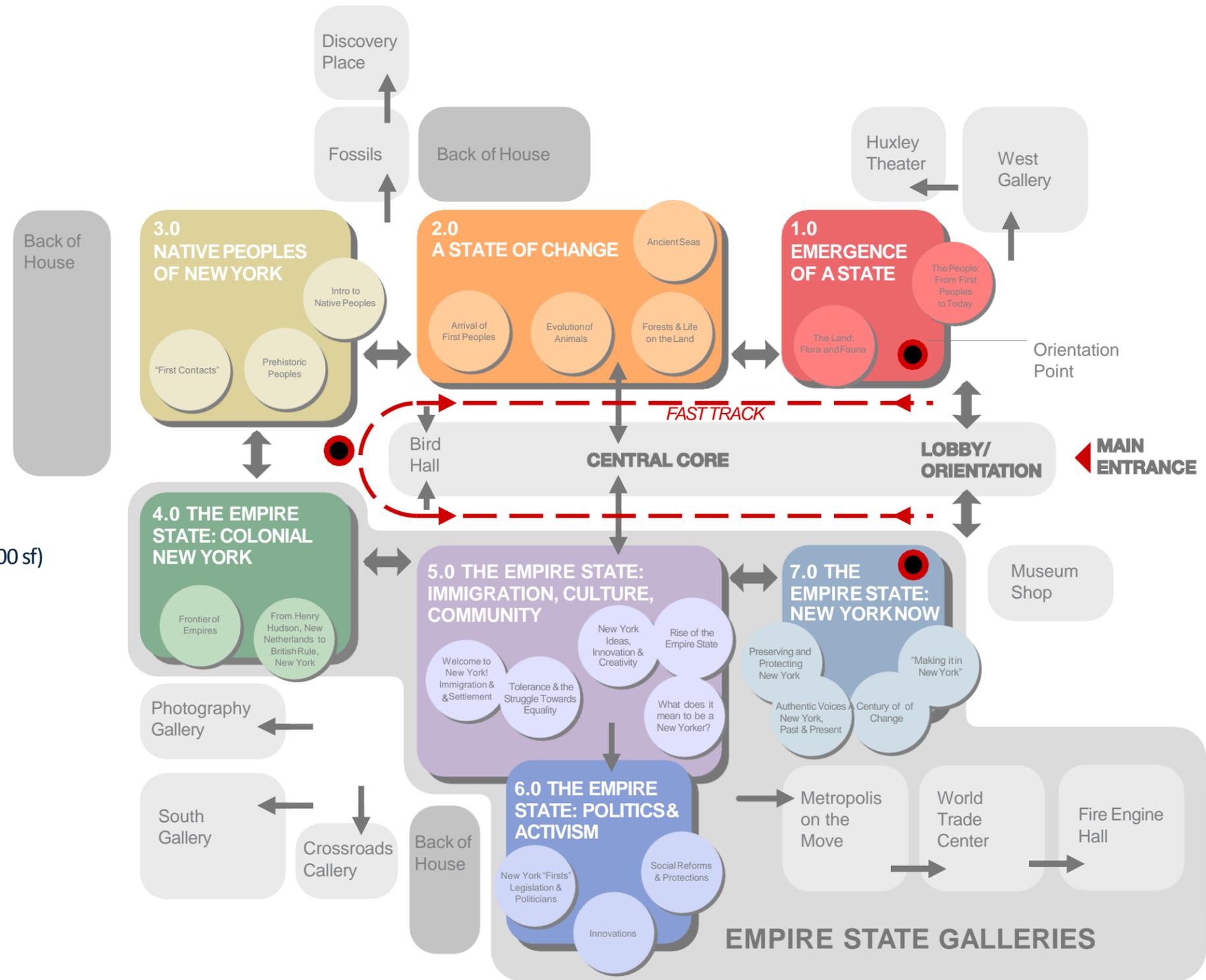
- 3. Native Peoples of New York (6,800 sf)**
 - Intro to Native Peoples
 - Prehistoric Peoples
 - First Contacts

- 1. The Empire State: Colonial New York (3,600 sf)**
 - Frontier of Empires
 - From Henry Hudson, New Netherlands to British Rule, New York

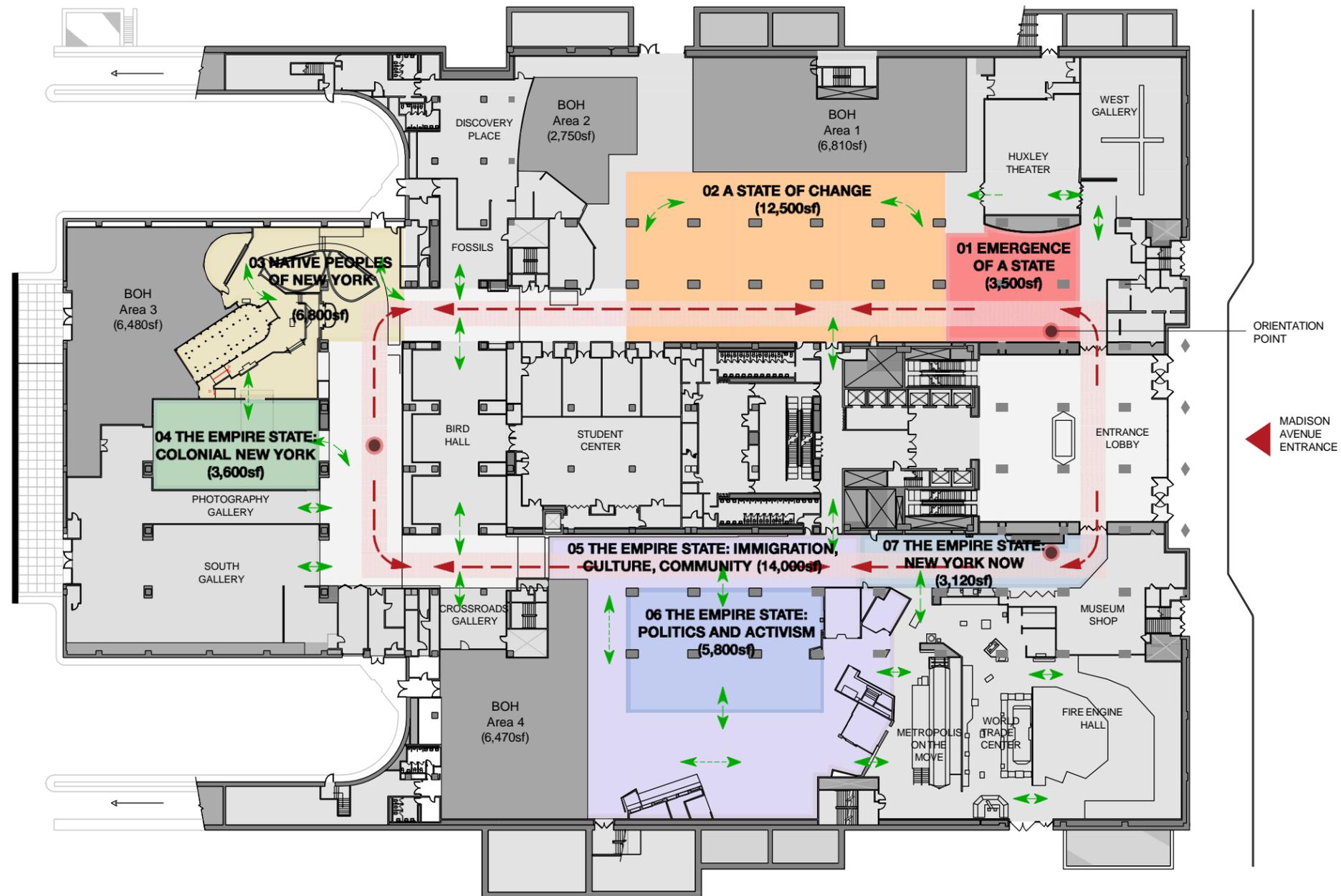
- 2. The Empire State: Immigration, Culture, Community (14,000 sf)**
 - Welcome to New York! Immigration & Settlement
 - Tolerance and the Struggle Towards Equality
 - Rise of the Empire State
 - New York Ideas, Innovation & Creativity
 - What does it mean to be a New Yorker?

- 3. The Empire State: Politics & Activism (5,800 sf)**
 - New York "Firsts" - Legislation & Politicians
 - Social Reforms & Protections
 - Innovations

- 4. The Empire State: New York Now (3,120 sf)**
 - A Century of Change
 - "Making it in New York"
 - Preserving and Protecting New York
 - Authentic Voices of New York, Past & Present



Flow Plans





Narratives of Visitor Experience

Visitor Experience Concepts

AREA 1 | EMERGENCE OF A STATE



Visitor Experience Concepts

AREA 2 | A STATE OF CHANGE



New York State Museum | Albany, NY

Visitor Experience | A State of Change

Envision Architects | Gallagher & Associates

PROJECT NO
DASNY 337810

PHASE
100% PRE-SD

SCALE
NTS

DATE
03.14.2018

Visitor Experience Concepts

AREA 2 | A STATE OF CHANGE



New York State Museum | Albany, NY

Visitor Experience | A State of Change

Envision Architects | Gallagher & Associates

PROJECT NO
DASNY 337810

PHASE
100% PRE-SD

SCALE
NTS

DATE
03.14.2018

Visitor Experience Concepts

AREA 4 | THE EMPIRE STATE: COLONIAL NEW YORK



Visitor Experience Concepts

AREA 5 | THE EMPIRE STATE: IMMIGRATION, CULTURE, COMMUNITY



Visitor Experience Concepts

AREA 6 | THE EMPIRE STATE: POLITICS & ACTIVISM



New York State Museum | Albany, NY

Visitor Experience | The Empire State: Politics & Activism

Envision Architects | Gallagher & Associates

PROJECT NO
DASNY 337810

PHASE
100% PRE-SD

SCALE
NTS

DATE
03.14.2018

Visitor Experience Concepts

AREA 7 | THE EMPIRE STATE: NEW YORK NOW

