

AMERICAN MUSEUM

VISION BOOK
August 2019

AMERICAN
MUSEUM

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**ITALIAN
AMERICAN
MUSEUM**

After 500 years of Italians in America, we will now have our own Italian American Museum.

It is located on Mulberry Street in the heart of what was once the largest Italian community in the United States in the first quarter of the 20th century.

We became aware of the need for our own Museum in 1999 when we launched the first major exhibition on Italians in America at the New York Historical Society, "The Italians of New York: Five Centuries of Struggle and Achievement". The exhibit was a great success and we realized that in order to be part of the cultural dialogue in America, we needed our own Museum. So in 2001, we were chartered in New York State as the first Italian Museum in America.

In our Museum, we seek to tell our whole story from Columbus to Cuomo and everything in between, our struggles and

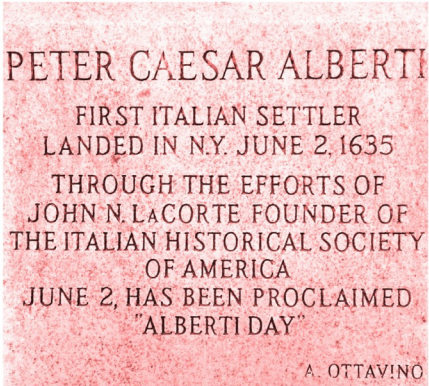
our accomplishments through hard work, ingenuity and perseverance. It has not always been easy but we have much to be proud of, for our contributions to American society are enormous. Now we will have a secular cathedral for all to see, experience and appreciate where we came from and what we have achieved.

Please join us in this noble enterprise and, in doing so, help to make our dream of an Italian American Museum a reality.

Grazie mille.

Uff. Prof. Joseph V. Scelsa, Ed.D.

Founder and President Italian American Museum



Pietro Cesare Alberti, first Italian in what was to become New York, June 2, 1635

VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement describes the future of the institution, what it aims to become and achieve.

The new Italian American Museum (IAM) will serve as **a cultural hub and community nexus** for Italian Americans and the Little Italy neighborhood. Through permanent and temporary exhibits, robust educational and cultural programming, and collaborations with the community, the IAM will become the **preeminent center** for learning about and engaging with Italian American culture and history.

As a platform for **sharing** Italian American voices and **celebrating** Italian American achievements, the IAM will be interesting to both Italian Americans and non-Italian Americans, bringing Italian American culture and heritage to younger generations and a wide range of new audiences.



Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro, founder of L'Ordine Figli D'Italia in America, June 22, 1905

MISSION STATEMENT

A mission statement describes who the museum is, what it does, and why it does it.

The Italian American Museum **preserves, promotes, and celebrates** the culture and history of Italian Americans, serving as living record of their contributions to America and a bridge between the remarkable past and the evolving future of the community.

By allowing Italian Americans to share their story in their voice, the Italian American Museum will encourage a full appreciation of what it means to be Italian American.



Quincentenary USA postage stamp, Chicago, May 22–31, 1992

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

Institutional goals define what the Italian American Museum as a whole will achieve. The institutional goals are broken down into strategic and functional goals that together guide the development and design of the museum towards fulfilling its mission.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Celebrate and perpetuate** Italian American culture through hosting exhibits, educational programs, field trip programs, and social and cultural events.
- **Provide encouragement and resources** for future generations of Italian Americans to remain engaged with their heritage and community.
- **Become an anchor of the existing Little Italy neighborhood**, maintaining its history and identity.
- **Remind New York of its immigrant roots** and the Italian American aspects of its identity.

FUNCTIONAL GOALS

- **Create a contemporary, inviting space** that appeals to all visitors, Italian American or otherwise.
- **Expand program offerings and temporary exhibitions** to reach wider audiences and encourage ongoing engagement.
- **Become a gathering space and hub** for those interested in and inspired by the Italian American community, culture, and experience.
- **Become a tourist destination** and the main Italian American cultural institution in New York City.



Replica of Antonio Meucci's telephone prototypes, 1857 and 1867

EXHIBIT GOALS

Exhibit goals define what the Italian American Museum's exhibits will achieve. These guide the development and design of exhibits towards fulfilling the museum's mission.

- **Expand visitor's knowledge and understanding of Italian American culture** and history by going beyond what they already know, telling unexpected stories, and highlighting lesser-known figures.
- **Connect historic objects and contemporary stories** to tell the tale of humble beginnings that led to success.
- Provide memorable, one-of-a-kind experiences that **can't be found anywhere else**.
- Create an environment where **all audiences feel welcome and able to engage**.
- Display artifacts and present stories in **an organized, contemporary style**.
- **Allow for updatability** to incorporate new stories and display different artifacts over time.
- **Use analog and digital interactivity** to create an engaging educational experience that enhances, rather than overshadows, the artifacts.

VISITOR GROUPS AND GOALS

Visitor groups are defined to guide the development of content and experiences within exhibits. Goals for each group become content and design parameters that the exhibit is designed to meet.

-  1 | NON-ITALIAN AMERICANS
-  2 | ITALIAN AMERICANS
-  3 | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
-  4 | LOCALS
-  5 | TOURISTS
-  6 | SCHOOL GROUPS



1 | NON-ITALIAN AMERICANS

NYC locals and visitors from throughout America visiting as individuals, families, or as part of a group.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING:

- Learning about Italian American culture and heritage
- Learning about the Italian American history of New York City
- Attending programs, events, classes, etc.

OUTCOMES: VISITORS WILL...

- Connect with the Italian American story as a part of the American story.
- Discover the ways in which Italian Americans have influenced and enriched multiple aspects of their daily lives.
- Feel inspired by the Italian American story of immigrant success.



2 | ITALIAN AMERICANS

Italian Americans from NYC and throughout the country, Italians visiting America, and younger generations of Italian Americans seeking to re-connect with their Italian heritage visiting as individuals, families, or as part of a group.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING:

- Learning about their heritage, culture, and regional history
- Becoming engaged with the community
- Attending programs, events, classes, etc.
- Using the museum as a gathering space

OUTCOMES: VISITORS WILL...

- Connect with their heritage and community and want to be further engaged.
- Learn about parts of their culture and heritage that may not have been passed down.
- Feel inspired by the Italian American success story.
- Be motivated to return and become involved with the museum.



3 | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations for or related to the Italian American community, Italian American culture, and the museum mission.*

WHAT ARE THEY DOING:

- Learning about Italian American culture and heritage
- Collaborating on events, programs, or exhibits
- Visiting the museum as part of group outings arranged by their organization
- Hosting meetings and events related to the museum mission

OUTCOMES: VISITORS WILL...

- Connect with their heritage and community and want to be further engaged.
- Be motivated to return and become involved with the museum.
- Enhance the work of their organizations through involvement with the museum.

*For example: UNICO, OSIA, Columbus Citizen's Foundation, Arba Sicula, Enrico Caruso Museum, Lt. Det. Joseph Petrosino Association, Calandra Italian American Institute, St. John's University Italian American Cultural Center



4 | LOCALS

People living in Little Italy, NYC, and the surrounding region, particularly younger generations and newcomers to the neighborhood, visiting as individuals and families.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING:

- Learning about NYC and neighborhood history
- Dropping-in while in the neighborhood
- Attending arts and culture-focused events
- Attending cultural and social events

OUTCOMES: VISITORS WILL...

- Gain a sense of Italian American history and the challenges overcome by immigrants.
- Appreciate and feel inspired by the accomplishments and contributions of Italian Americans.
- Want to return to take advantage of programming and see new temporary exhibits.
- Want to become more engaged with Italian American culture through the museum and neighborhood.



5 | TOURISTS

Tourists from throughout the United States and around the world, visiting as individuals, families, and as part of a group.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING:

- Visiting the museum because it is a tourist destination
- Going on IAM curated, self-guided tours of the neighborhood

OUTCOMES: VISITORS WILL...

- Gain a sense of Italian American history and the challenges overcome by immigrants.
- Appreciate and feel inspired by the accomplishments and contributions of Italian Americans.



6 | SCHOOL GROUPS

Groups of upper elementary, middle and high school students, and university students in related clubs and organizations.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING:

- Field trips for classes related to history of NYC, history of immigration, Italian language, etc.*
- Enriching their studies or projects related to the museum and the Italian American community
- Connecting with a history and heritage they may not be familiar with
- Visiting a historic neighborhood and historically significant location

OUTCOMES: VISITORS WILL...

- Gain a sense of Italian American history and the challenges overcome by immigrants.
- Appreciate and feel inspired by the accomplishments and contributions of Italian Americans.
- Connect what they have seen and learned to what they are learning in school.

* Teachers will often determine the area of focus for a field trip to support learning in specific topics

PROGRAMMING

In addition to permanent exhibits that tell the Italian American story, the Italian American Museum will provide an array of programming. These programs support the permanent exhibits in meeting the museum’s mission.



Rolando, part of the Manteo puppet collection made in Agrippino Manteo’s puppet theater studio on Mulberry Street

PROGRAM	NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES	CAPACITY
School Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visits that address both general overviews and targeted topics• Ability to rotate large groups through museum• Support and enhance school curriculum	100 people
Classes and Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Italian language and regional dialects, Italian history, Italian American history, Painting, Photography, Folk dancing, etc.• Flexible classroom space	45 people
Academic Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lectures, discussion groups, debates, symposia, book launches, readings, etc.• Lecture hall or classroom space	45 people
Social and Cultural Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Film screenings, theater and dance performances, music concerts, food and wine tastings, social events, etc.• Performance and event space	45 people
Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-guided tours of the “Authentic Little Italy”, neighborhood highlights, food and wine, etc.• Self-guided or docent-led tours of the permanent exhibit• Scheduled or available on a mobile application	1 to 12 people
Collections and Archives Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By appointment; for scholars and academics• Collection offsite in storage facility• Items currently in storage	

DEDICATED SPACE

Careful space planning and flexibility will ensure that all museum programming and visitor resource needs are met. The museum’s space needs will serve as a guide for the architect and design teams throughout the museum development process.



Anne Greco placing postcard of Andrea Doria in Museum showcase

SPACE	NEEDS	SQ FEET
Permanent Exhibits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historical content, artifact display, interactives• Updateable elements	1,625 sq ft
Temporary Exhibits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contemporary art exhibits, collaborations with other institutions, rotating artifact-based exhibitions, etc.• Updated quarterly• Flexible for use as social or event space	1,000 sq ft
Classroom and Presentation Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social events with refreshments• Flexible use• Employee presence advised	750 sq ft
Lobby Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inviting entry space, visitor resources and information• Flexible for use as social or event space• Employee presence required	400 sq ft
Retail Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bookstore, mementos, etc.• Small display space in lobby• Employee presence required	150 sq ft
Office Space off-site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily operations, collection and archive research• Office hours or by appointment	500 sq ft
Archive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Museum archive	1,200 sq ft
Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stairs, elevator	1,100 sq ft
Accessory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bathroom, coat check	450 sq ft

WHAT THE IAM IS NOT

Just as it is important to define something, it is equally useful to agree on what it is not. As we develop experiences and content, we will use these as guides to keep us in line with the primary goals.



Black Hand Lithograph, circa 1900

WHAT IT IS NOT:

FUNCTIONALITY:

- A general community center
- A restaurant, bookstore, travel agency
- A research library
- A space with broken exhibits and interactives
- Straying from mission in partnerships, collaborations or stories

EXPERIENCE:

- Exclusive to Italian Americans
- A place for people to expect the obvious
- A confusing or undirected visitor experience
- A jumble of artifacts
- A stuffy atmosphere
- A museum about the mafia

AFFECT:

- Political in content or motivation
- Dwelling on the negatives
- Only talking about the positives
- Historically inaccurate
- Irrelevant

WHAT IT IS:

A multi-functional gathering space for the Italian American community and surrounding neighborhood, hosting educational and cultural events that celebrate the past, present, and future of Italian Americans.

An inviting and contemporary space that tells a variety of engaging stories in a clear, organized, and unexpected fashion.

Presenting visitors with a well-rounded, honest look at the history of the Italian American community and stories that all visitors can relate to, regardless of their personal heritage.



A vision of things to come

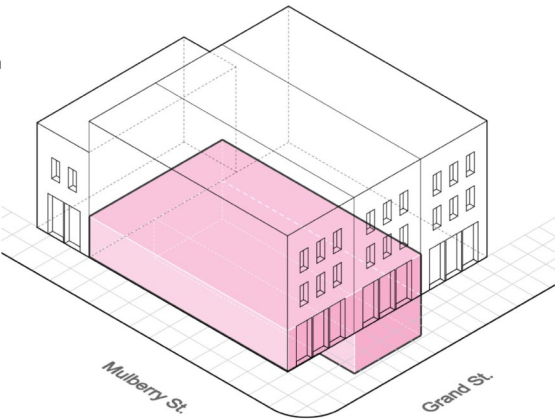


THE NEW MUSEUM

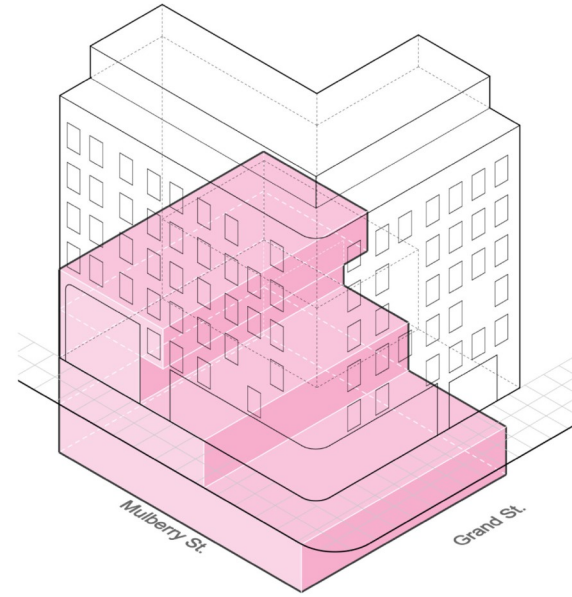
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EXPANDED SPACE

The Museum originally occupied approximately 1,800 square feet of usable space. The new museum will occupy approximately 6,500 square feet of new usable space.



Previous space



Expanded space



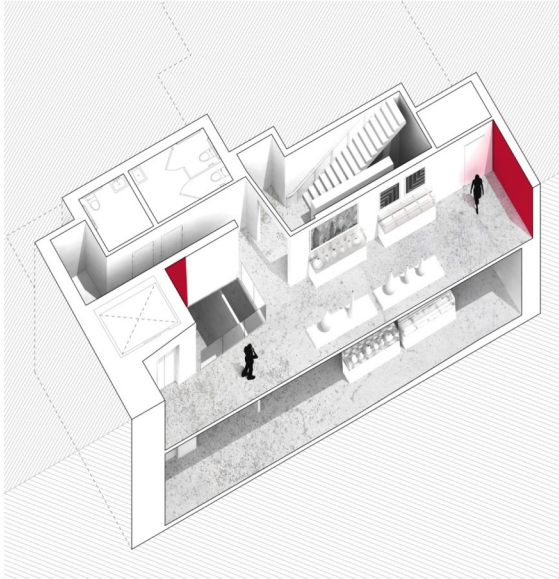
New museum entrance



MUSEUM ORGANIZATION



B2 / Gallery + Theater



B1 / Gallery + Facilities



1 + 2 / Gallery + Lobby

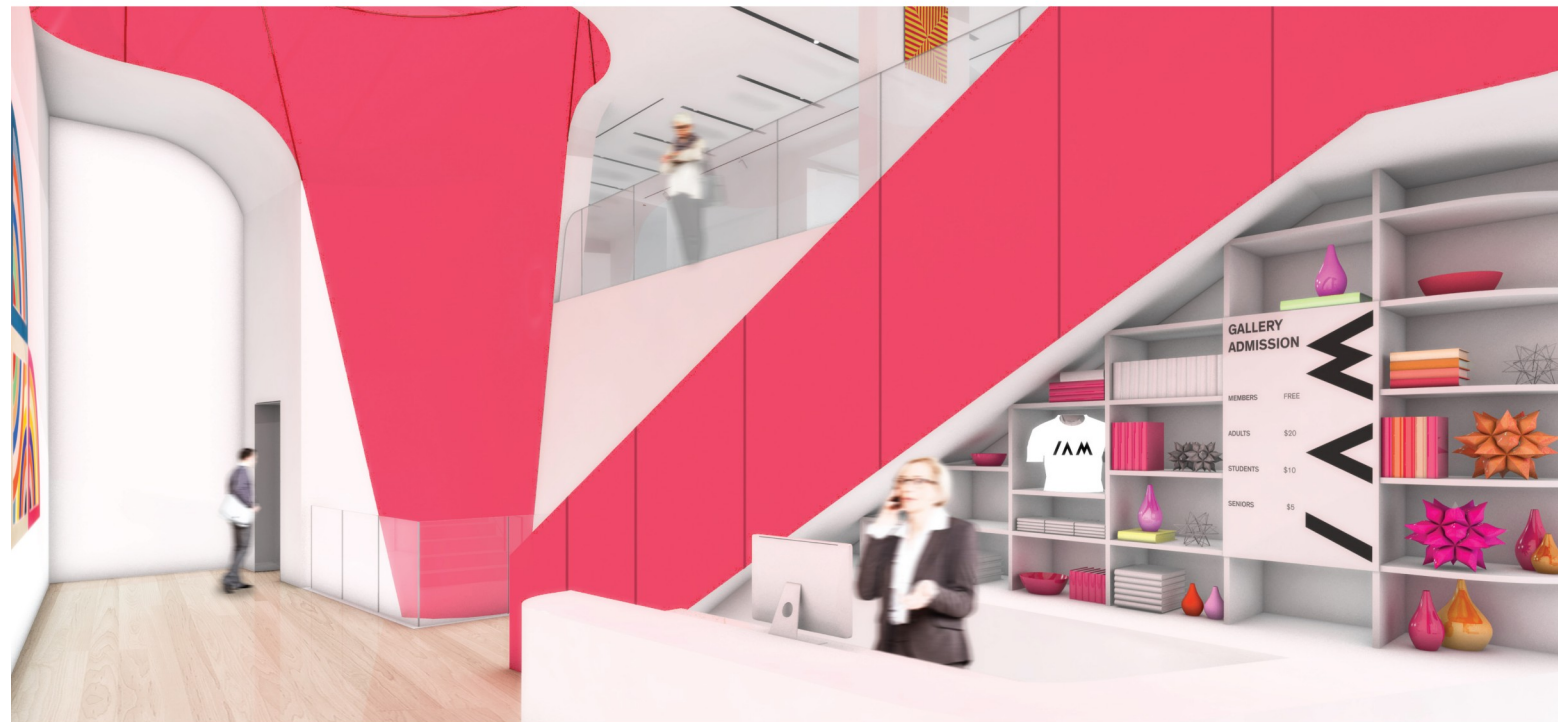
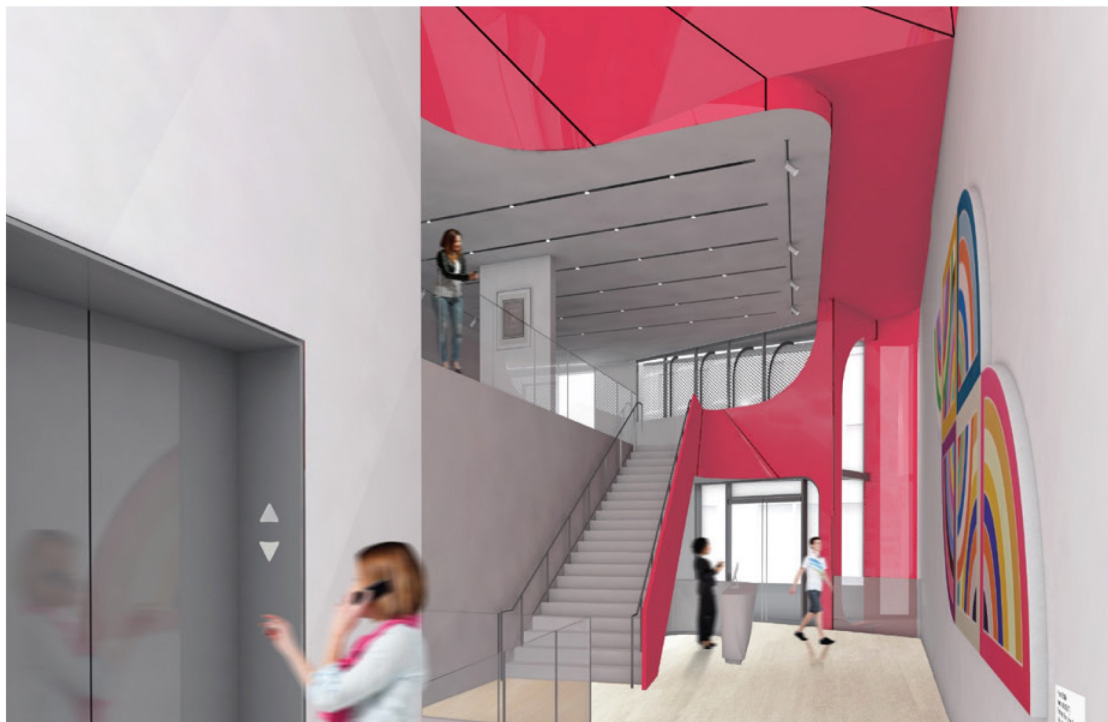


Architectural model by Op.Ai

LOBBY

The Lobby is a contemporary, inviting space that welcomes all visitors to the Italian American Museum and provides visitors with resources and information that orient them to what is offered here. The Lobby makes clear that this is the pre-eminent destination for learning about authentic Italian experiences in America. The Lobby offers space for groups to gather, whether they are visiting the Museum or touring Little Italy.

The atrium space in the lobby brings light into the museum, anchoring it and visually connecting the gallery levels to the entry, lobby, and street. The atrium also provides visitors a snapshot of the Museum's offerings and events, with a focused artifact display and space for information on programming and other events. A small retail space provides the museum an opportunity to sell books, mementos, and branded objects.



TEMPORARY GALLERY

The temporary gallery supports small, rotating exhibits related to the Italian American Museum's mission and themes. Exhibits provide a closer look at the Italian American experience in particular times and places, as well as showcase relevant examples of contemporary art and sculpture from both Italy and America.

Flexible lighting and space can be adapted to accommodate this variety of exhibit types, as well as digital experiences. These exhibits will be routinely updated to encourage repeat visits and reach wide audiences.



THEATER/ CLASSROOM

The theater supports a variety of educational programs where adult visitors and school groups alike may be informed, enlightened, and entertained by talks, presentations, film screenings, and more. Cultural and educational programming will include folk performance groups, opera singers, plays, cinema, and lectures.

Comfortable, fixed seating accommodates up to 45 people. State of the art audio visual capabilities will provide surround sound, digital projection, and support live-streaming of events.



Reference image from Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

PERMANENT EXHIBIT

The permanent exhibit, detailed in the remainder of this book, provides a dedicated space, across two galleries, where visitors learn about the scope and sweep of the story of Italian American immigration and assimilation.

This history-based exhibit relies heavily on the robust artifact collection of the IAM. The two galleries of the exhibit provide modern, organized, and interpreted displays of objects that support and enhance a deep level of storytelling through images, text panels, and digital media.



Rendering conveys concept only, final design TBD

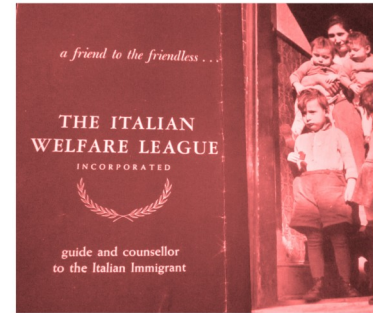


Natura Morta, oil on wood, 26 x 65 inches, by Antonio Petracca, from the exhibit , "Who Do You Think I Am / Chi Pensi Che Io Sono", Italian American Museum, March 27–May 24, 2015



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Italian Welfare League guide for Italian immigrants

EXHIBIT BIG IDEA

Italian Americans helped weave the fabric of America.

KEY MESSAGES

- Italians have played a role in the American story since the very beginning.
- The story of Italian American immigrants is one of achievement in the face of challenges.
- Italian Americans are an important part of American society and culture as we know it.

GOALS

- Expand visitor's knowledge and understanding of Italian American culture and history by going beyond what they already know, telling unexpected stories and highlighting lesser-known figures.
- Connect historic objects and contemporary stories to tell the tale of humble beginnings that led to success.
- Provide memorable, one-of-a-kind experiences that can't be found anywhere else.

CONTENT LENSES

Exhibit content lenses express the overriding conclusions of the exhibit. They direct the development of exhibit content — expressing the significance of every topic in the exhibit.

LEGACY

Italian Americans helped weave the fabric of America as we know it.

As both individuals and a community, Italian Americans have had a significant impact on American culture and society. The achievements of Italian Americans in every aspect of American life illuminate their remarkable legacy and spark appreciation for their successes and contributions.

IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

America is a country of immigrants — built by Italians and people from around the world.

The story of Italian immigration to America — why they came, the struggles they faced, the sacrifices they made, and the things they achieved — inspires and connects visitors to their own American roots. Italian American voices tell this story, encouraging a deep understanding of both Italian Americans and other cultural and ethnic communities that have flourished in America throughout its history.

IDENTITY

An ineffable spirit bonds all Italians and Italian Americans.

A unique combination of Italian and American heritage has created a distinctive Italian American identity. Exploring and celebrating what it means to be Italian American today — and what it has meant for past generations — builds connections between the past and future while cultivating an appreciation for this vibrant culture and heritage.

EXHIBIT FLOOR PLANS

The floor plans on the right and following page map exhibit content onto the exhibit floor plans to show where stories will be delivered in the space and how the visitor will experience it.

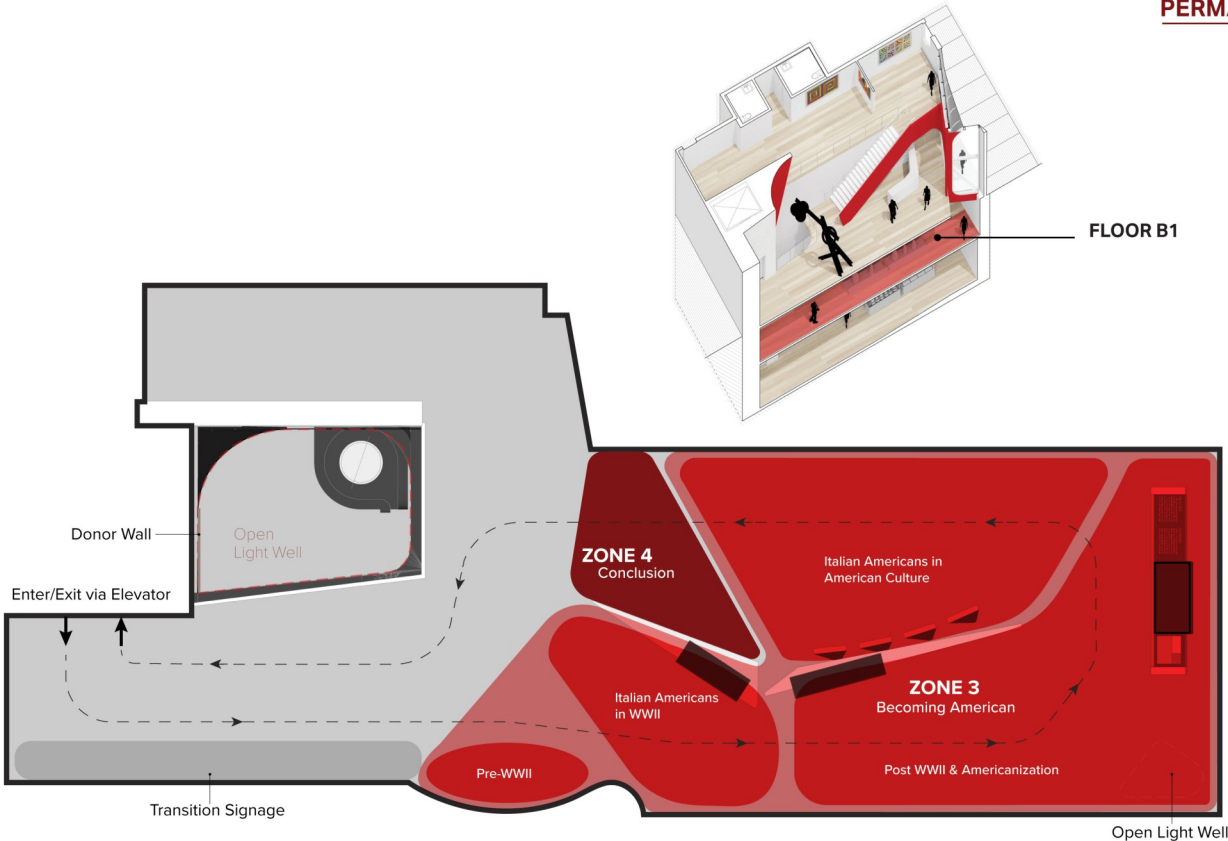
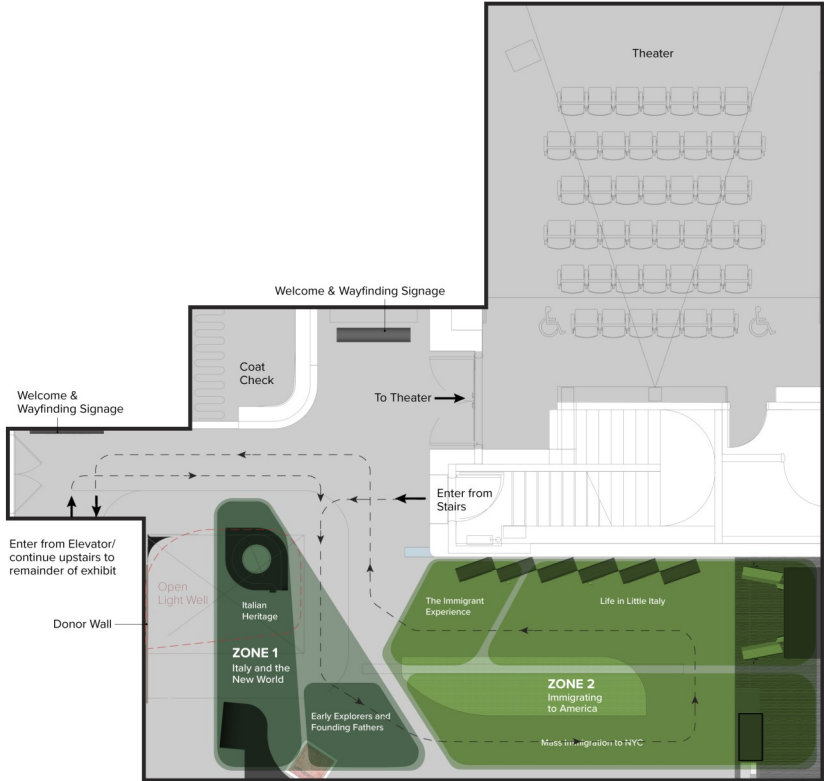
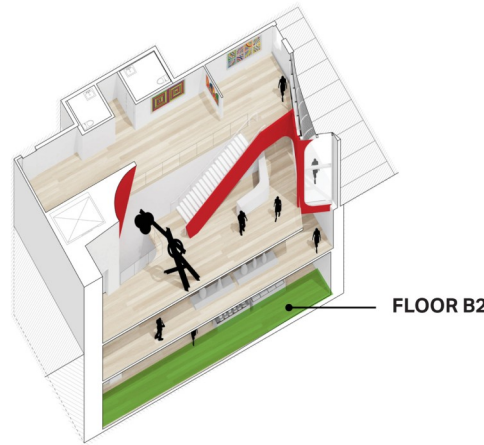


EXHIBIT STYLE

This story-centric exhibit design approach employs a clear expression and interpretation of artifacts, personal narratives, and community stories.

DISPLAY

Clear, contemporary, and focused methods of organizing and showing a balance of integrated artifacts, images, and stories.

GRAPHICS

Layered and integrated approaches to telling stories or displaying printed labels, images, and titles. Graphic timelines provide snapshots of the narratives.

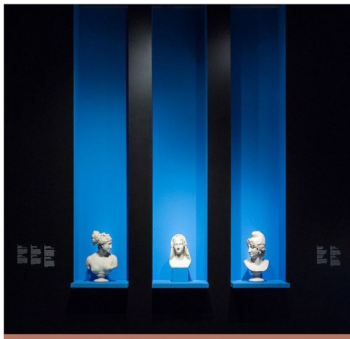
MEDIA

Large scale, environmental, and unexpected methods for delivering images and video that frame the stories and offer a moment of pause.

INTERACTIVE

Digital and analog methods of communicating additional content, highlighting individuals, or gathering visitor input.

DISPLAY + GRAPHICS



Modern Display of Artifacts



Focused Illumination and Textured Surfaces



Layered Textiles and Materials



Clearly Highlighted Artifacts



Integrated Objects and Content



Large Scale Overview



Individual, Personal Stories



Sharply Defined Images



Clean Arrangements

MEDIA + INTERACTIVES



Clean, Contemporary Format



Intimate Delivery



Soft Layering



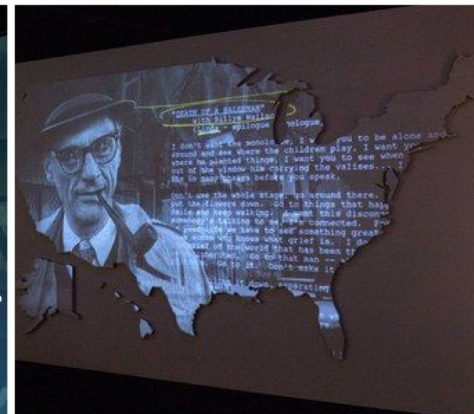
Low Tech, High Touch Participation



Focused Interaction within Big Picture Setting



Individual Stories



Clearly Defined Media in Non-Traditional Format



High Level Information



Giuseppe Petrosino, first Italian American to become a Lieutenant Detective in the New York Police Department

ITALY AND THE NEW WORLD

Italians have been part of the American story since the very beginning.

The exhibit opens with a brief exploration of the magnitude of Italy's cultural influence—from the ancient to the modern era. Though we are all familiar with the tremendous contributions figures such as Michelangelo, Christopher Columbus, and Galileo have made to Western civilization, visitors may be surprised by the extent to which Italians and Italian culture have influenced America throughout its history. By emphasizing the integral role of Italians and Italian Americans in the fabric of our country, this space sets the tone and serves as the foundation for the stories told throughout the exhibit.

Entering the exhibit from the stairs or elevator, visitors are directed to the theater for an introductory film. A donor wall stretching through the atrium to the floor above creates a view into the exhibit from the lobby and provides a visual reminder of the community that came together to support and create this museum.

As visitors exit the theater, a marquee wall draws them into the exhibit with a rich display of Italian culture and its influences on America. Overview text, images, and artifacts combine to give visitors a sense of the compelling stories within, piquing their curiosity and encouraging them to enter and explore.

EXHIBIT ELEMENTS

- Coat check
- Orientation signage
- Donor wall
- Introductory video
- Exhibit marquee

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Diversity of Italian regional cultures and heritage
- Italy's influence on America: philosophy, politics, economics, science, art, architecture, literature, and more
- Relationship between Italy and America

KEY ARTIFACTS

- Statue of Christopher Columbus
- Pietro Alberti marker honoring the first Italian in New York
- Regional Italian folk dresses
- Giuseppe Garibaldi portrait

ZONE 1: ITALY AND THE NEW WORLD



Rendering conveys concept only, final design TBD

PERMANENT EXHIBIT VISION



Advertisement for steam ship ticket fares provided by the Stabile Travel Agency

IMMIGRATING TO AMERICA

The story of Italian American immigrants is one of achievement in the face of challenges.

Moving into the gallery, visitors discover the outsized contributions of the Italian explorers, intellectuals, revolutionaries, and entrepreneurs who played a role in America's early history, and how their actions, ideas, and culture shaped the America we know today. Italian culture and heritage did not freshly arrive in America during mass migration, but have been part of our country since the very beginning. By better understanding how these two nations are intertwined, visitors gain a greater appreciation for their own history and culture.

The exhibit marquee transitions into a visual timeline, painting a picture of the vibrant, long-standing relationship between Italy and America. A series of images and bite-sized text panels, shows visitors the tremendous breadth of experiences of Italians in America, from the earliest explorers to the immigrants of the 20th century. A large, central artifact case defines the visitor flow in the gallery, and anchors the space with objects, providing an evocative illustration of Italian immigration. At the far end of the gallery, a projected media piece of an animated map visualizes the journey from Italy to America undertaken by immigrants throughout history. A touchscreen interactive below the map displays stories, images, and videos of immigration stories.

- EXHIBIT ELEMENTS**
- Exhibit marquee
 - Artifact displays
 - Projected media piece

- STORY HIGHLIGHTS**
- Early explorers and the founding of America: Christopher Columbus, Filippo Mazzei, and more
 - Italian Diaspora and immigration to New York, including family arrival stories

- KEY ARTIFACTS**
- Steam Ship Trunk
 - Wedding Dress
 - Travel and Naturalization Papers

IMMIGRATING TO AMERICA



Rendering conveys concept only, final design TBD

PERMANENT EXHIBIT VISION



Mulberry Street fish market

LIFE IN LITTLE ITALY AND THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

The story of Italian American immigrants is one of achievement in the face of challenges.

Narratives of mass immigration often focus on the great hardships faced by those who arrived in New York. While this is a vital part of the story, a deeper look into the motivations of Italians coming to America, the lives they led here, and what they achieved when faced with challenges, paints a more holistic picture. Visitors see that though they faced obstacles, Italian Americans were not deterred from building new lives for themselves. By bringing their cultural traditions with them, Italian immigrants laid the foundations of a community that would become a vibrant and crucial part of America.

The Banca Stabile Vault anchors the corner of this gallery, and transitions the story to the daily realities of life in Little Italy, just as the bank helped immigrants transition to their new lives. Exhibit displays explore the challenges and successes of Italian American immigrants in Little Italy, with multiple stations exploring the facets of daily life in the neighborhood. Artifacts are embedded throughout, while video monitors displaying interactive media with audio provide opportunities to explore individual stories in greater depth. The central case makes Little Italy's heyday vividly real with artifacts that provide a glimpse into the homes and businesses of immigrants. This area concludes with a discussion of the evolving difficulties facing Italian Americans as their assimilation into American culture was realized, readying visitors for the stories in the gallery upstairs.

EXHIBIT ELEMENTS

- Artifact displays
- Projected media piece

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Daily life in Little Italy
- Challenges of life in Little Italy
- Achievements and contributions of Italian American immigrants
- Anti-immigrant prejudice
- Hardships of assimilating to America

KEY ARTIFACTS

- Banca Stabile Vault
- Manteo Puppets
- Sanitation Pushcart
- Organ Grinder
- Black Hand Letter
- Frank Serpico's Gun
- Mancuso Shovels
- Luigi del Bianco Sculpture

LIFE IN LITTLE ITALY & THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE



Rendering conveys concept only, final design TBD



Fiorello H. LaGuardia, 99th Mayor of New York City arriving at the scene of a fire, May 12, 1939

BECOMING AMERICAN

From persecution to Americanization, World War II changed everything for America and Italian Americans.

With a greater appreciation for how Italian Americans established themselves, visitors continue their journey in the next gallery where they start by exploring how World War II helped to further cement the status of Italian Americans. A second marquee lines the wall from the elevator into the gallery, and transitions visitors to this watershed period in Italian American history, describing the dramatic changes in the Italian American community throughout the latter part of the 20th century.

Despite internments and restrictions placed on potential “enemy aliens,” Italian Americans stood firmly on the side of their new home. Artifact, text, and photo displays help visitors see how the experience of the war, both at home and on the frontlines, transformed Italian Americans and their place in society.

Text, images, and artifacts along the wall illustrate the process of Americanization, changing public perceptions, and a new wave of Italian immigration in the 50s and 60s. This story culminates in a sculptural artifact installation and media piece that together mark this period of transition. The installation extends through a lightwell into the lobby and when viewed from above, helps draw visitors from the lobby into the exhibit. The media piece mimics the one in the previous gallery, showing a map of America animated with the movement of Italian Americans from Little Italies to other parts of the country. This projection will be surrounded by images illustrating this movement and supported by a touchscreen on a reader rail below that carries stories of individual experiences during this time. Visitors see that the process of Americanization is bittersweet. With increasing success and acceptance in mainstream American culture came a loss of Italian culture, and the end of Little Italies as the heart of the community.

EXHIBIT ELEMENTS

- Exhibit transition marquee
- Artifact display
- Sculptural artifact installation

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Italian American internment and restrictions
- Italian Americans who served
- The impact of service on Americanization

KEY ARTIFACTS:

- Enemy Alien Certificate and Pictures
- Artifacts of Service



Rendering conveys concept only, final design TBD

PERMANENT EXHIBIT VISION



Captain's button for the Italian American Civil Rights League of Richard Capozzola

ITALIAN AMERICANS IN AMERICAN CULTURE

The Italian American community has grown to become an important thread in the fabric of American life.

Entering the final space in the permanent exhibit, visitors see that the story of Italians becoming more American becomes a story of America becoming more Italian. The remaining gallery is filled with the sights, sounds, and stories of the plethora of Italian Americans who have contributed to American culture. A collage of images, text, and artifacts along the wall highlights the contributions of Italian Americans in politics, music, movies, art, science, sports, and more. Interactive kiosks engage visitors with both familiar and unfamiliar faces as they "meet" individual Italian Americans who have made an impact, from the pop-culture icons of the past to the residents of Little Italy today.

By exploring the contributions of the Italian American community to America, visitors see that the Italians who came to these shores in search of a better life built one not only for themselves, but for all of us. A greater respect for the significant contributions Italian Americans have made to America, and what they overcame to do so, inspires visitors with the potential for the future of not only the Italian American community, but all immigrant and minority communities in America who face similar struggles.

The exhibit concludes by highlighting the continuing stories of Italian Americans, with an invitation to visitors to contribute their own stories and become a part of the future of this vibrant and evolving community. Visitors leave excited to engage with this history, culture, and community, to preserve this legacy and be a part of the future of Italian Americans.

EXHIBIT ELEMENTS

- Artifact display
- Projected media piece
- Interactive touchscreen kiosks
- Visitor participation interactive

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Suburbanization and the end of Little Italies
- Changing public perceptions of Italian Americans
- Italian American contributions in politics, sports, music, movies, art, science, and more
- Italian American community today, including stories such as Dr. Scelsa v. CUNY

KEY ARTIFACTS

- Enrico Caruso Collection
- Posters, albums, videos, and more featuring famous Italian Americans
- Contemporary Italian American art

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