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Italian American Museum

Presents

The New Italian American Museum

Architectural renderings and model for the forthcoming newly designed museum.

The Italian American Museum, located in Little Italy since 2007, is about to embark on a major project that will quadruple its size at its current location. But it is more than a physical expansion. It is an endeavor to ensure that Little Italy will have a permanent anchor institution that will preserve and promote not only the neighborhood, but the legacy of Italians in America from Peter Caesar Alberti in 1635 to present-day immigrants who continue to seek opportunity on these shores.

The Museum's mission will also be to celebrate modern-day Italian culture with exhibitions and programs that feature artists, authors and thinkers from Italy.

The Museum's historic location on the corner of Mulberry and Grand Streets once housed the Banca Stabile which was founded by Francesco Rosario Stabile in 1885. During its heyday, the bank offered newly arrived immigrants much more than financial services. It was a link for the immigrants in the United States with their relatives in Italy. In addition to a full range of banking services, it also provided the following services: telegraph, travel via steam ships, import-export, notary public, and post office; in essence, a community nexus. The Museum intends to re-establish this "hub" of activity--on a cultural level.

With construction beginning in early 2018 and slated for completion in 2019, the new Italian American Museum will encompass four levels in a new structure located on Mulberry St. It will feature a majestic street-level entrance, four levels for permanent and temporary exhibitions, and an auditorium for film screenings, lectures, presentations, meetings and theatrical, music and dance performances.

The Italian American Museum was officially founded on June 12, 2001 when it was chartered under the aegis of the University of the State of New York Education Department as a museum.

The Italian American Museum is more than an immigration museum. Its purpose is to document the myriad of contributions made by the people of Italy and their descendants to the very fabric of American society from its earliest origins and its philosophical underpinning through philosophers, explorers, adventurers, industrialists, scientists, educators, politicians, and everyday extraordinary people, telling the whole story which continues to flourish and evolve in America today.

Italian Americans are the fifth largest ethnic group in the United States of America today, with distinct cultural values and traits which distinguish them as a people within the greater multicultural American society. Thus, the museum serves as a point of reference for those who are Italian Americans and those who wish to learn about Italian Americans, as well as Italian culture as it is today.

For additional information and naming opportunities, please contact:

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THE FUTURE MUSEUM

MAKING HISTORY THROUGH COMMUNITY

Ever since its opening in Little Italy in 2008, the Italian American Museum made clear it would one day expand with a grand institution that would create a majestic anchor for the historic neighborhood. That day has come, as the Italian American Museum is about to embark on a major expansion that will greatly increase its current footprint. The new Museum will be constructed as part of a new development within the space of the trio of three-story buildings at 185, 187, and 189 Grand Street.

Designed by op.al, the expansion and renovation will create a 6,500 square-foot institution representing the next chapter in exciting, informative and significant exhibitions and events about the Italian American experience and Italian culture.

As a part of a new development scheme for historic Mulberry St., the new Museum will encompass four levels. Beginning with a redefined entry and facade on Mulberry, visitors will enter a central atrium with a 20-foot ceiling, providing an impressive ambience not typically available in the area or in many spaces in Manhattan, and allowing the Museum to present larger sculptures and paintings.

The first and second floors will be united by a central stairway behind a gift shop, allowing visitors to access a picture gallery in a mezzanine that overlooks the central space, where visitors will see rotating exhibits of smaller works of art.

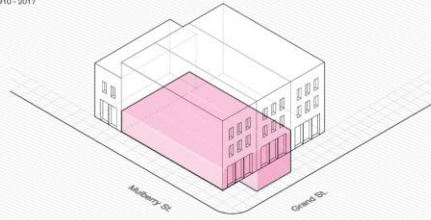
From the second floor, visitors will enjoy an exceptional view of a central oculus whose skylight will bring natural light into the space and lower galleries.

A lower gallery accessed by stairs behind the first-floor gift shop will provide additional exhibition space, and a second lower level will feature a large open space capable of housing some of the larger pieces of the district's history, such as artifacts from the historic Banca Stabile. This level will also house a state-of-the-art 50-seat theater—central to the Museum's mission—presenting lectures, performances and film screenings.

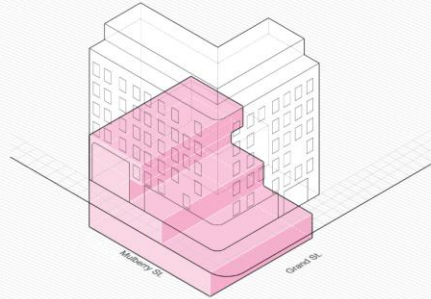
The Museum's facade, set back from the street in order to provide a public space, will serve as a grand portal. Graphically and optically, it will connect with the historic corner of Mulberry and Grand, turning to face its history so that visitors can glimpse directly into the large space through the central double-height window when passing the corner. At night, the facade will be illuminated, raising awareness of the programming and events held in the grand foyer.

Over the next several months the museum will begin these exciting changes, forging new memories awakened from the history from which we are proud. The project is expected to commence in Spring 2018, and completion is anticipated for Winter of 2019.

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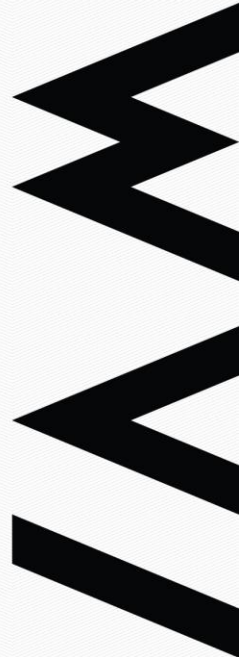


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