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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From the second floor, visitors will enjoy an exceptional view of a central lobby whose daylight will bring natural light into the space and lower galleries. A lower gallery accessible to visitors 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 series of the exhibits today, such as artifacts from the historic Sanca Salle. The lower level will also house a store, with the gift shop located in the center of the museum, presenting lectures, social events, and performances.

The Museum’s façade, set back from the street in order to provide a public space, will serve as a grand portal. Graphically and sculpturally it will connect with the historic corner of Mulberry and Grand, turning to face the history that can be glanced through the main space through the central lobby, which serves as a gateway to the museum.

Over the next several months, the museum will begin these exciting changes, taking new memories of the history that is preserved through the museum.

The new museum will be constructed as part of a new development within the space of the two historic tenements at 105, 107, and 109 Grand Street.

As a part of a new development scheme for historic Mulberry St., the new Museum will encompass four floors. Beginning with a residential entry and facing an outdoor, visitors will enter an open space that provides access to several exhibit areas and areas typically available in many spaces in Manhattan, allowing the museum to present larger sculptures and paintings.

The first and second floors will be united by a central atrium opened to the street, featuring an outdoor lounge, and a window in the wall that will provide views of the street and the museum's entrance. The third floor will feature an open space with a large window overlooking the street, allowing visitors to see rotating exhibits of smaller works of art.

For more information, please visit the museum’s website or contact us directly.