



RECOMMENDATION

To honor our American ancestors, to help unite all Americans now and to help preserve our national values for our descendants, we recommend that President Biden agree to create a bipartisan Presidential Commission to study establishment of the **National Museum of the American People**.

Proposal for a Bipartisan Presidential Commission To Study National Museum of the American People

VISION

The **National Museum of the American People** will present the dramatic story about the making of the American People. Our compelling history of peoples crossing oceans and continents to come to this land and nation begins with the first humans in the Western Hemisphere and continues through today. It will celebrate all who became Americans, whether from Europe, Africa, Asia and Pacific Islands, the Americas or First Peoples.

It is one of the greatest epic sagas in human history and the museum will present that chronicle in one of the most powerful story-telling museums anywhere. It will take visitors along an absorbing, dynamic pathway that becomes rooted in our Constitution that unites all Americans. Scholarly based, the museum will foster civics education nationwide.

The NMAP will tell the story about our ancestors, or ourselves, becoming Americans. In so doing, it will encompass all those we know or encounter from every city, state and region across the nation. It will incorporate our ethnic, nationality and minority histories.

PLAN

Our plan calls first for a Presidential Commission to study the feasibility of the museum. Following the feasibility study report, we will seek legislation to create an entity charged with planning and building the museum and raising the funds necessary to plan, build and maintain it. When the feasibility study is completed and the museum entity is created, ground could be broken in 2023 and the museum could open by the end of 2028.

Why Our Nation Needs the NMAP Now

The **National Museum of the American People** will be the embodiment of the effort to bring all Americans together and unify our nation. It will be a memorial for *all* of our American predecessors and a guidepost for *all* of our descendants in this century and those to follow. It will be one of the greatest and most compelling story-telling museums in the world as it breathes new life into the first words of our Constitution: “*We the People.*”

Every American, except Native Americans, has someone in their ancestry who came here from somewhere else in the last 500 years. The story about the making of the American People, of different peoples coming from every corner of Earth, crossing oceans and continents and starting new lives, is one of the most compelling in human history. We need a museum where we can experience, learn and share this unique human story. The American story.

Now more than ever we need this museum near the heart of our nation’s capital to tell our story. The museum will show how people from everywhere came together to build and defend this nation and contribute to making it the economic, military, scientific and cultural leader of the world.

It will be the only museum in our nation’s capital to tell the story of *every* ethnic and minority group, celebrating their immigration and migration stories, their patriotism, their contributions and achievements. In doing so it will help foster a sense of belonging to our nation, contribute to our national identity and help unify our country as it brings to life with a new meaning our original national motto: *E Pluribus Unum!*

The NMAP will become an eternal legacy for our nation. All Americans will be able to come and learn about their own group’s stories and have the opportunity to learn about the stories of all the others. It will stimulate learning nationwide. Foreign leaders and visitors will come away from it with a better understanding of our diverse pluralistic nation.

It will help fulfill President Biden’s inaugural pledge to our nation “not to divide but unify.”

The NMAP Will Spur Civics Education Nationwide

The museum will spur civics education for student visitors and others nationwide through its education programs. As the museum tells every student's story about becoming an American it will enhance their interest and their knowledge of just what it means to be an American.

The **National Museum of the American People** will demonstrate how our founding documents played a central role in shaping the American character in all of its diversity, and will help future generations understand and achieve our national ideals.

It will include a national education resource center and a center for the advanced study of the American People. The museum will promote scholarly study nationwide and worldwide about the making of the American People.

The NMAP Will Amplify What It Means to Be an American

The American People are a special mosaic where more than 90 percent of us still recognize and use a hyphen to delineate the distinct ethnicities of our heritage, whether from Europe, Africa, Asia and Pacific Islands or the Americas, including Native Americans. Being an American is not based on being part of any racial, ethnic, nationality or religious group.

The museum will underscore how Americans are the embodiment of the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, especially freedoms spelled out in the Bill of Rights and Constitutional amendments expanding the definition of American citizenship and the right to vote. It will show how those documents shaped the American character and our nation and how we are still working to perfect those ideals of democracy, freedom, voting rights, liberty, majority rule, minority rights, checks and balances of power, justice and equality.

Consequences of the NMAP For the Nation

The NMAP will become one of our nation's greatest cultural institutions immediately upon opening. We anticipate that it will have an outsized impact on our nation's civics education and a renewed national understanding that we are *all* indeed Americans together. It will help crystalize the shared values embodied in our Constitution.

The NMAP will become a singular national cultural achievement as it attracts millions of visitors every year and spreads the story of the making of the American People to many millions more and for generations to come. It will be a monumental and ongoing active legacy for its early supporters in a place of prominence in our nation's capital for time immemorial.

Immediate Impacts

By creating a bipartisan commission, it can be championed by broad cross sections of Americans. The commission would be the embodiment, of our national goal to bring *all* Americans together, which the museum itself will literally do.

Creation of the commission will galvanize support from ethnic, nationality and minority groups throughout the nation, including many groups that might feel as though they've been forgotten.

As the commission focuses on creating a museum telling the dramatic story of the making of the American People and highlighting how most of our ancestors all came from distant lands, including most Americans who arrived only in the last several hundred years, it can help bring context to current and future immigrants and asylum seekers.

The publicity generated by the announcement of the commission and its chair, by the appointment of commission members, and by the release of its final report will build broad popular support. That will help propel the legislation to create the museum and maintain high anticipation for the NMAP telling every American's story.

*Following are backgrounders for both the **National Museum of the American People** and the proposed **NMAP Presidential Commission**. They focus on the **what, where, when, who, how, competing concerns and precedents** of each.*