

# COALITION FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE **AMERICAN PEOPLE**

Bringing *All Americans Together*

FOR RELEASE  
June 12, 2024

Contact: Sam Eskenazi  
202-744-1868  
[sam@buildnmap.com](mailto:sam@buildnmap.com)

## **Ethnic/Minority Coalition Proposes Major National Museum To Tell America's Epic Story**

A coalition of over 250 organizations representing 74 different ethnic, nationality and minority groups today released its report to the President and Congress asking them to establish the [National Museum of the American People](#). The museum will tell the epic story about the making of the American People.

The museum will depict that story starting with the First Peoples in the Western Hemisphere coursing through history to today. It will tell about every group that became Americans, from Europe, Africa, Asia and Pacific Islands, and the Americas, along a 20,000-year pathway.

The report by the Coalition for the National Museum of the American People, [Bringing All Americans Together](#), tells what the NMAP is, why we need it now, who supports it, where it could be built, and how it could be funded and established. Historian Hasia Diner called the report “beautiful, persuasive and informative.”

“This institution will honor all of our ancestors who first came here, will help us come together now, and will ensure our national values are passed on to our descendants,” Coalition director Sam Eskenazi said. “It will become one of the most compelling story-telling museums anywhere as it breathes new life into the first words of our Constitution: *We the People*.”

“The story of America is a story of immigration. For generations, people from around the world and from all walks of life have come to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and for their families,” said Senator Brian Schatz, HI. “From the sugar cane plantations on Maui to the shipping ports in Maine, immigrants have made extraordinary contributions to the country over the years – and each of their stories is worthy of recognition and celebration. The National Museum of the American People would help uplift the stories of immigrants of every background and celebrate the patriotism, contributions, and achievements of all Americans.”

“From the first peoples to the immigrants and risk takers who came to our shores to build a better life, we need institutions that tell the diverse and dynamic stories of the American People,” said Rep. Jimmy Panetta, CA. “The National Museum of the American People would bring together

our shared history for generations to learn from, contribute to our national identity, and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our country. Americans from every corner of the globe have contributed to what our nation has become, and it is time that we told that story in full.”

The Coalition proposes that none of the funds to plan and build the museum come from the government except for a donation of a prominent federal plot of land. One site being considered by museum backers is the site of the FBI Building on Pennsylvania Avenue about halfway between the White House and Congress. The FBI is slated to move to a nearby suburb.

The museum’s story will unfold along a path in four galleries:

1. First Peoples Come: 20,000 years ago (est.) – 1607
2. The Nation Takes Form: 1607 – 1820
3. The Great In-Gathering: 1820 – 1924
4. And Still They Come: 1924 – present

**Americans from Europe** are represented in the Coalition by 39 different nationality and ethnic groups with more than 125 organizations. These include the Polish American Congress, German American National Congress, Sons and Daughters of Italy, American Scottish Foundation, Norwegian Immigration Association, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, Irish American Unity Conference, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Franco-American Women’s Institute, Joint Baltic American National Committee, National Organization of Italian American Women, The Holland Society of New York, American Swedish Institute, and St. George’s Society representing English Americans.

**Americans from Africa** are represented by 20 organizations predominantly associated with the descendants of enslaved Africans, including the A. Philip Randolph Institute, National Action Network, National Council of Negro Women, and the National Urban League. Other organizations represent more recent immigrants from African nations.

**Americans from Asia and Pacific Islands** are represented in 14 nationality and ethnic groups by more than 30 organizations including OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Association of Indians in America, Japanese American Citizens League, National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, and Boat People SOS.

**Americans from the Americas** are represented by 8 ethnic and nationality groups representing more than 20 organizations including Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Dominican American Council, Cuban American National Council, Friends of Puerto Rico, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund, and International Society of Black Latinos.

**First Peoples** are represented by 16 organizations including Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes, United South and Eastern Tribes, National Congress of American Indians, National American Indian Housing Council, and Native Hawaiian Legal Defense and Education Fund.

**Americans from MENA and Multiple Regions** are represented by 18 organizations in 8 groups, including the Arab American Institute, B'nai B'rith, Turkish American National Steering Committee, and American Jewish Committee.

“Every group of Americans wants their stories told in a major national museum in Washington about their first ancestors who came to this land and nation,” Eskenazi said. “They will see their own stories and learn about every group’s stories. Foreign leaders and visitors will gain a better understanding of our diverse pluralistic nation.”

###