

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DAVID N. DINKINS

January 5, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am proud to join the list of diverse organization leaders and immigration/migration scholars and urge you to create a bipartisan commission to study establishment of the National Museum of the American People.

The museum plans to relate the history of the making of the American People, a story that embodies our original national motto: E Pluribus Unum and celebrate every group from every land who have become Americans -- "We the People." It will show how people from every place on Earth helped make this country the world's economic, military, scientific and cultural leader.

The National Museum of the American People plans to showcase how, when, why and from where we arrived in this land, our movements across the plains and mountains of the country, what each group encountered and how each helped to transform our nation. With a narrative that begins in the prehistoric period and progresses through waves of migration and immigration until today, we expect it to be the best story-telling museum as it depicts one of the world's greatest stories.

The museum will shine a bright light on our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, and show how they helped to shape the American character and infuse the values that bind us -- especially important now when so much of the world is rife with sectarian strife.

The National Museum of the American People will become a lasting cultural legacy. All Americans will come to learn the story of their own ethnic, national or minority groups, and to learn about all of the others. Foreign visitors and leaders will come to better understand our incredibly diverse nation.

With no appropriated funds being sought to plan, design, build or operate this museum, we are calling for a Presidential Commission like the one that led to the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. I stand with a long list of supporters and respectfully urge you to take this first step toward realizing the **National Museum of the American People**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



David N. Dinkins
106th Mayor, City of New York
Professor in the Practice of Public Policy