



# THE MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN MUSEUM THAT DOESN'T EXIST...*YET.*

## National Museum of the **AMERICAN PEOPLE**

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### **47 Different Ethnic Groups Ask House to Support National Museum of the American People Study**

WASHINGTON, DC – A broad array of 85 organizations representing 47 different ethnic groups today asked House members to support a bipartisan resolution calling for a commission to study establishment of the National Museum of the American People.

An open letter to Congress, signed by leaders of these 85 organizations, says “all of our histories should be included in a national museum in Washington, DC which will tell the story of the making of the American People. We represent virtually every major ethnic and cultural group that has contributed to the making of this great nation.”

The letter was sent to over 100 individual members of Congress, including co-chairs of bipartisan House ethnic caucuses, members of the House Natural Resources Committee and members of House cultural caucuses. To date, 31 bipartisan Members of Congress have signed on as cosponsors, including the co-chairs of 16 different ethnic Congressional caucuses. Rep. Jim Moran, D-VA, is the lead sponsor.

The groups emphasized that they are not seeking federal dollars to either fund the study commission or, in the future, to fund the planning, building or operation of this new cultural institution.

The museum will tell the story of every American ethnic and cultural group coming to this land and nation from every corner of the world, from the first people through today. “The stories about peoples crossing oceans and continents to start new lives here are dramatic and compelling,” said Sam Eskenazi, director of the coalition coordinating the museum effort.

“Every group of people has made significant contributions to our national heritage,” said the letter. “The museum, telling everyone’s migration and immigration story, will embody our original national motto: E Pluribus Unum – From Many We Are One!”

The museum would tell its story in four chapters: 1 - Prehistoric period–1607: The First Peoples Come; 2 – 1607-1820: The Nation Takes Form; 3 – 1820-1924: The Great In-Gathering; and 4 – 1924-present: And Still They Come.

For all of the different groups, the museum will tell who they were, where they came from, when they came, why they left their homeland, how they got here, where they first settled, who was already here, what they encountered, where they moved after they arrived, how they became Americans, and how they transformed the nation.

There are five possible sites for the museum on or near the National Mall in Washington. The museum will have a variety of components, including a national genealogical center, a center for the advanced studies of the American People, a film center, a peopling of America program, and a broad array of educational resources and programs.

Eskenazi said that the United States was built by peoples from every land, and these people made this nation the world’s economic, military, scientific and cultural leader. The United States also serves as a beacon for people throughout the world seeking freedom and opportunity.

Visitorship will be very high, predicted Eskenazi. “Everyone will want to come and learn about their own story and they will then learn everyone’s story. Foreign visitors will want to see how emigrants from their nations helped to make this nation.”

Signers of the letter include national leaders representing African Americans, Italian Americans, American Indians, German Americans, Scottish Americans, Polish Americans, Jewish Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Mexican Americans, Hispanic Americans and Portuguese Americans.

Other signers include groups representing Irish Americans, Japanese Americans, Arab Americans, Armenian Americans, Baltic Americans, Turkish Americans, Taiwanese Americans, Korean Americans, Chinese Americans, Russian Americans, Dutch Americans, Scandinavian Americans, French Americans and representative from more than 20 other ethnic and cultural groups.

#### NOTES FOR MEDIA:

For more information about this project, go to [www.nmap2015.com](http://www.nmap2015.com).

For a copy of the letter, click

here: [http://www.nmap2015.com/releases\\_CNMAP\\_Letter\\_to\\_Congress\\_041812.pdf](http://www.nmap2015.com/releases_CNMAP_Letter_to_Congress_041812.pdf)

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For a list of Congressional cosponsors click here:

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