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**NEW YORK CITY OPENS EXHIBIT FOR *FOUNDED NYC*, THE YEAR-LONG COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING OF NEW AMSTERDAM IN 1625**

# ***New Visions of Old New York***

***January 23 through December 2025  
31 Chambers Street, New York, 10007***



**New York, NY** - The New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) announced the opening of a new exhibit, **New Visions of Old New York**, created as part of a long-term collaboration with the New Amsterdam History Center’s Mapping Early New York project.

Featuring an interactive 3-D map from the New Amsterdam History Center’s Mapping Early New York project and 17th-century records from the New York City Municipal Archives, this dynamic exhibit examines the lives of women, enslaved people, and Native Americans and how they shaped the culture of the Dutch West India Company settlement that eventually became New York City.

“City government’s records in the Municipal Archives date from 1636 and offer insight on the daily workings of government—passing laws, holding trials, issuing permits, collecting taxes, and broadening civil rights. The records also document people frequently not included in the colonial story—women, enslaved people and Native Americans. This collaborative exhibit is our initial commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of City government which will also include story gathering and making accessible records of enslaved people during 2025,” said **DORIS Commissioner Pauline Toole**.

“Thank you, NYC Department of Records and Information Services and the New Amsterdam History Center, for your wonderful efforts in preserving and sharing our common New York history. The exhibition New Visions of Old New York gives visitors the opportunity to get to know New Amsterdam from all perspectives, including of the lives of women, enslaved people, and Native Americans. We hope our cultural program Future400 helps to tell the history of New York honestly and inclusively, recreating the vibrant tapestry that was New Amsterdam. We’re honored to have partners like the NYC Municipal Archives and the New Amsterdam History Center that share the same ambition,” said **Pauline Genee, Head of Culture of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United States**.

Records from the Municipal Archives and Library show Native American markings on land conveyances and a map showing the transfer of land to formerly enslaved people, among other documents.

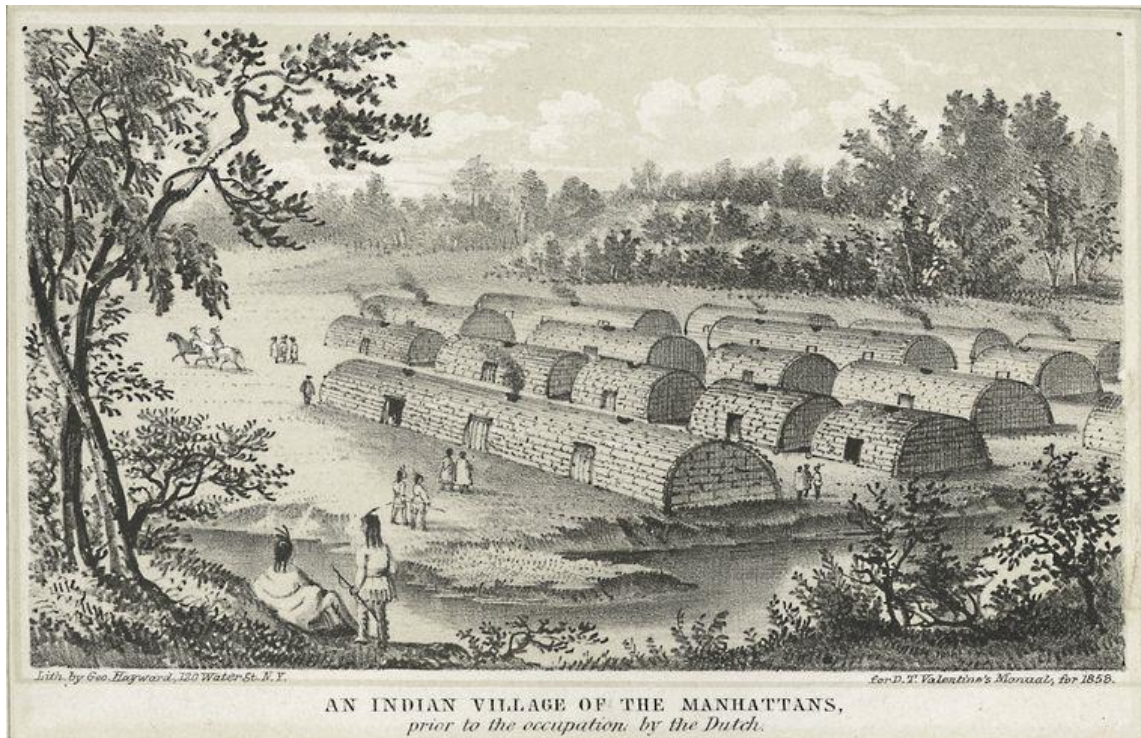
The interactive 3D model from the New Amsterdam History Center’s Mapping Early New York project is accessed using an oversized touchscreen. It incorporates collaborations with author Russell Shorto, the New York Historical Society, and Dr. Charles Gehring at the New Netherland Research Center.

The exhibit will open to the public beginning January 23, 2025, and will run through December 2025, at 31 Chambers Street, Manhattan, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Gallery. The exhibit is part of **FOUNDED BY NYC**, City government’s year-long commemoration of the founding of New Amsterdam in 1625.

In partnership with NYC Tourism + Conventions, [\*\*FOUNDED BY NYC\*\*](#) will celebrate how New York City has made history, and continues to do so — highlighting the achievements driven by the creativity and resilience of the five boroughs and its people, including the perspectives of marginalized audiences like those of the Indigenous community, women, and people of color.

“The Municipal Archives is thrilled to collaborate with the NAHC to kick off this important commemorative year. The municipal collections are a rich source of information that inspire research and discovery, scholarship and creative exploration of 17<sup>th</sup> century New York City,” said **Sylvia Kollar, Director, NYC Municipal Archives**.

“For thousands of years Nations from all over would meet at “Our Island” - the true name of Manhattan-to share and trade”, said **Harry Wallace, Chief of the Unkechaug Nation**. “Governed by the laws of the Two Row Wampum belt and the Dish With One Spoon belt, all nations who came in peace were able to maintain long standing relationships with others from great distances. The waterways were the prevalent method of travel. Since New York harbor never froze, it was particularly suited for trade and commerce. It is no wonder that it continues to embody that spirit of the law of nations and trade today.”



NYC Municipal Archives

“The exceptional collections at the New York City Municipal Archives have informed our work on the 3D model of New Amsterdam based on the Castello Plan. This exhibit is the culmination of years of collaboration with the research team and it is a great privilege to see our work on a large screen in the beautiful 31 Chambers Street building,” said **Toya Dubin, Director Mapping Early New York**. “This is a 3D experience that will feel authentic to visitors.”

“Our goal was to offer visitors a sense of what life in 1660 might have been like,” said **Eduard van Dijk, the New Amsterdam History Center’s 3D Modeling Director**. “Crowded docks loaded with goods and traders, the original City Hall, a house where enslaved Africans lived, soldiers marching on the trail created by the Native Americans that would later become Broadway, even taverns serving beer.”



“The [Mapping Early New York](#) project includes a detailed Encyclopedia, tens of thousands of original Dutch documents, many maps, and several 3D models,” said **Esme Berg, New Amsterdam History Center’s Executive Director**. “We are so excited to participate in an exhibit for the people of New York after more than a decade of our work to promote an understanding of New Amsterdam and its inhabitants in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, before it became New York.”



*New Amsterdam History Center, Broadway in 3D by Mapping Early New York*

**About DORIS:** Established in 1977, DORIS preserves and provides public access to historical and contemporary records and information about New York City government. We operate the Municipal Archives, the Municipal Library, and the Records Center. Learn more at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/records/index.page>.

**About the New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC):** Established in 2005, the NAHC is a virtual, non-profit organization, that links the past to the present through public lectures and panel discussions, newsletters, tours, and online research resources, all of which enrich the understanding of the diverse peoples who contributed to the founding of New York City. [Mapping Early New York](#), is a project including interactive maps and digital 3D models linked to an encyclopedia to promote an entirely new way to experience history. For further information, please contact NAHC at [info@newamsterdamhistorycenter.org](mailto:info@newamsterdamhistorycenter.org) or visit online at [www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org](http://www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org).

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