

Hello! Welcome to the Staten Island Museum newsletter. We'd like to take this opportunity to share our fun finds, behind the scenes stories, and help you to get to know our hard working staff a little better. I'll go first! My name is Rachel. I'm the Communications Coordinator at the Museum, which means I write press releases, update our website, control our social media and get the word out to you! I am also a mom, a one woman juke box, a life-long Staten Islander, and friend to birds. Not geese though, they scare me. Get to know the Staten Island Museum as we embark on our latest adventure...the expansion to Snug Harbor Cultural Center.

Imagine: A Preview Gala Celebration

When the Staten Island Museum broke ground on Building A, it took imagination and creativity to envision the vacant space transformed into a world-class museum. After years of work, that vision is becoming a reality. On May 10th, we invite guests to enter the building for the first time and see the completed raw space. From a former dormitory into a green, climate-controlled facility, this will be an exclusive opportunity to see the building as a "clean-slate," before exhibits are installed.

After touring the building, join us atop the geothermal field for a dinner and dance party, under the stars! You don't have to imagine joining us; tickets are just a phone call away! For more information please contact Amanda Straniere, Community Campaign Coordinator, at 718.483.7119 or AStraniere@StatenIslandMuseum.org.

Art

Natural Science

History

FAQ's for the Visitor Services Team:

"What's at the Museum?"

Art, History, and Natural Science for all ages.

"Do people actually LIVE on Staten Island?"

Yes! About 473,000 of them to be precise.

"Are you part of NYC?"

We are, and we have been, since 1898!

"Can I walk to Richmond Town?"

We wouldn't, it's more than 7 miles away.

"Is this Ellis Island?"

Nope, you're gonna need another boat.

Welcome to the Staten Island Museum. How can we help?

Do you have questions about visiting the Museum or other locations on Staten Island? Visitor Services (the best team ever) is ready! Whatever the question, our friendly Visitor Services Associates will help demystify Staten Island. Stop by or call us anytime 718.727.1135.

Welcome to the Team, Natalia!



Meet our new weekend Floor Manager, Natalia Linares.

Membership

Beyond free admission and discounts at the Museum Store, members have access to centuries of cultural and natural history, from local fossils to artifacts from across the globe. They're supporting contemporary art, and helping to preserve the past!

Now is a great time to become a member. In the next few months, we'll be rolling out

exciting perks like reciprocal memberships to select New York State museums, and a special "add-on" related to our new home on the grounds of Snug Harbor.

For more information on how to become a member, contact Amanda Straniere at 718.483.7119 or AStraniere@StatenIslandMuseum.org.

Volunteers Here!

Volunteering is a great way to connect with the Museum and the community. We have a fantastic volunteer base that helps with mailings, special events, community outreach, customer service, and assisting with our collections. Spare time is a scarce commodity, and we're fortunate that our friends choose to spend theirs with us.

We're happy to say that the **Museum Guild** is back in action! This group is dedicated to helping grow our collection by hosting fabulous fundraising events. We also partner with community based organizations like the JCC whose Day Habilitation participants are involved in an ongoing Visitor Services project. We have the best volunteers!

To volunteer contact Renée Bushelle at 718.483.7134, RBushelle@StatenIslandMuseum.org.

Education

It is delightful to have an abundance of school students teaching us daily how to better understand our Museum. Whether pre-kindergarteners or college students, we love learning each and every day. We were honored to attend a Chancellor's Breakfast at the New York Historical Society with DOE Chancellor Fariña and learn about her goals to increase the use of museums in NYC public schools.

The Education Department has school programs booked through June with some space still available. As the weather gets nicer, look for the Museum's Educators leading school groups on the Staten Island Ferry.

We are enjoying our work with P.S. 11 and P.S. 20 on After School programs for Parents as Art Partners. Both schools are exploring multiculturalism and practicing different art techniques with our Teaching Artist Educator, Melanie Rodriguez.

-Claire Aniela Arthurs,
Manager of Education

Summer Earth Camp! NatureFest 2014!

Cover image: Restored historic staircase in the Staten Island Museum Building A at Snug Harbor, 2014.



Kids happenings!

During this winter's Outdoor Adventures we got a real taste of our wild island! At Wolfe's Pond Park we spotted the tracks of FOUR different types of animals! Educator Lisa LaManna and her intrepid hikers spied trees budding out, two types of mushrooms, songbirds, woodpeckers, and squirrels.

Now that spring is here, we've got more Outdoor Adventures planned and a very special LOOKING CLOSELY with our guest, the NYC Compost Project! Peep through our high powered microscope at your treasures and more. Last year we saw blood and food move through a worm's body – it was SO COOL!

We are also excitedly planning **Girl Scouts Day coming up on June 5th!** Brownie's and Junior's badges are ready to be earned.

Getting it all together: ART WORLD

The Museum is in an unprecedented phase of growth, with the long-awaited expansion to our new building on the grounds of Snug Harbor. Upon opening, our offerings will include a gallery of world art, featuring works from our collection that have been rediscovered after years of dormancy in storage. This ancient Greek Kylix (pictured) is one example of a work of art that was literally in pieces and is now whole again, thanks to the skillful reconstruction by objects conservator, Christina Krumrine.

Another exciting discovery about this Kylix is the interior figure of a satyr, a mythological creature, half man/half goat, who was associated with the Greek god of wine, Dionysus.

Thanks to the research of Dr. Eric Ivison of the history department at the College of Staten Island, and his colleague, Dr. Bettina Kreuzer of the University of Freiburg, Germany, a leading expert in black-figure ware painted pottery, we know that the piece was likely from the "Leafless Group," a body of work that shares the same style. Look for this piece in our new **Treasure Box Gallery** in 2014!

-Robert Bunkin, Curator of Art



The before image (top) shows how the piece was, the two photos (bottom) show the piece reconstructed. A matching of color to the original is still to be done.

What's a registrar, anyway?

The Museum's registrar is responsible for ensuring that the right people and institutions are credited when it comes to identifying who donated what object. This is called a credit line. It lets the public know how the artifact was acquired, usually as a gift, a purchase, or bequest.

In preparation for our new exhibitions, I have been going through our files and original accession logs. These records are fascinating documents of the evolution of our collection. The logs start in 1907 and record all objects coming into the Museum, along with how they were acquired. Thankfully, the majority of the entries are beautifully handwritten, and quite legible. While searching for an entry describing Indian moccasins, I came across an entry about the donation of a specific type of toad. In parenthesis, written in a spidery hand were the words,

"The toad is still alive."

It turns out, the Museum once had a live collection! Being fairly new here, I'm continually surprised at the history and depth of the Museum's collections. I can't wait to see what I discover as I continue to inventory our holdings.

- Audrey Malachowsky, Registrar

Learning on the Job: THE INTERNS!

The Museum is always a hive of activity. There are exhibits to plan, research to conduct, and public relations messages to release. The Museum partners with different organizations including ARTS INTERN/Studio In A School, Bloomberg Philanthropies, CSI and more recently, CUNY Service Corps to offer challenging assignments to qualified students (predominantly university level). Assignments vary from summer positions to others lasting an entire school year. Students benefit by working in the Museum's interdisciplinary environment with curators and seasoned staff to gain valuable experience.

-Renée Bushelle, Manager of Visitor Services



Intern Alex Bolesta works on an entomology research project with the American Museum of Natural History.

Natural Science

We are in the final preparations for the opening of Building A and for our new science exhibit, **LOST/FOUND: Return of the Mastodon**. LOST/FOUND will use an array of biology and zoology specimens to explore themes of extinction and conservation.

As our extinct bird specimens were sent to a conservator for cleaning, it occurred to us that Museum visitors may not know the whole story behind these fascinating creatures.

Upon his death in 1911, John J. Crooke's natural science collection, containing taxidermied passenger pigeon and Carolina parakeets, was sold at auction. By this time, neither passenger pigeons nor Carolina parakeets were alive in the wild, and it was only a few years before their last captive counterparts died as well. Museum founder, William T. Davis, saw the immense significance of these specimens, bid on and won the collection of 85 mounted birds. Also up for sale were the original copper plates John James Audubon used to create **Birds of America**. Too bad Davis didn't bid on those, also!

-Edward Johnson, Director of Science



Interns Deirdre Driscoll and Abigail Aboaba from STUDIO in a School, Bloomberg Arts and Culture Internship Program, 2013.

Granted

Thanks to the perseverance and hard work of our Development Team, the Museum has secured the largest **National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge** grant in Staten Island history! This grant promises the Museum \$400,000 if we are able to raise \$1.2 M by July 2018. We have already secured over \$200,000 from individuals and foundations for exhibition infrastructure and a humanities endowment. *If you'd like to help us reach our goal, contact Henryk Behnke at 718.483.7114, HBehnke@StatenIslandMuseum.org.*



Explore · Experience · Engage

75 Stuyvesant Place
Staten Island, New York 10301

StatenIslandMuseum.org



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Staten Island, NY



Hours

Monday-Friday: 11:00 am-5:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday: 12:00 pm-5:00 pm

Closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Sneak Peek Tuesday: Free Entrance between 12- 2pm
Free Whirlwind Tours: Saturdays ,11:30am & 3pm

Recommended Admission

Adults \$5, Students and Seniors \$3,
Free to Members and Children under 12.

The Museum is wheelchair accessible.

Staten Island Historical Center and Archives

Free Gallery Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday: 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Research Hours: By appt. only, contact Cara Dellatte at
718.727.1135

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*Image: William T. Davis and 4 of the Fabulous Worts
Photo by Howard H. Cleaves, 1909.
From the Collection of the Staten Island Museum*

Supporters

New York Council for the Humanities



The Staten Island Museum is housed in City-owned facilities. It is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Council, and the Staten Island Borough President. Additional public funding is provided by NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, the New York State Legislature, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation, the New York State Council on the Arts, New York Council on the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

We appreciate the support from individuals, our members and donors, and corporations and foundations.