



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monmouth Museum Presents
Native Americans of New Jersey: Past and Present

*A major exhibition opening May 17, 2026, exploring
Indigenous history, culture, and contemporary voices*

Lincroft, NJ — The Monmouth Museum is proud to present *Native Americans of New Jersey: Past and Present*, a landmark exhibition opening **May 17, 2026**, and on view through **September 2, 2026**.

This powerful and timely exhibition explores the rich history, enduring culture, and continued contributions of Native American communities in New Jersey, with a focus on heritage and the state’s Indigenous communities, including the Powhatan Renape Nation, Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, Ramapough Lenape Nation, and the Sand Hill Indian Association.

The exhibition is curated by Dr. Phoebe Farris (Powhatan-Pamunkey descent), a distinguished Native American scholar, curator, photojournalist, and activist. Dr. Farris brings a career of experience amplifying Indigenous voices through the humanities and the arts. Her curatorial approach centers authentic storytelling, artistic expression, and community collaboration to present a multifaceted portrait of Native life—past, present, and future.

Dr. Farris shares, “I look forward to collaborating with the Indigenous elders and community leaders from the various New Jersey tribes/nations. My Algonquian roots are in Virginia and Washington, DC and our peoples have traveled and traded with each other since time immemorial.”

“This exhibition is about honoring the voices, histories, and living cultures of Native communities in New Jersey,” said Erika Schaefer, Executive Director of the Monmouth

Museum. “It is both educational and deeply human, connecting visitors to Native American history and culture.”

Native Americans of New Jersey: Past and Present brings together historical objects, contemporary artwork, and cultural narratives to provide a deeper understanding of Native American life in the region, past and present. It will also feature significant loans through a partnership with Art Bridges, alongside artifacts and materials shared by tribal communities and the Monmouth County Historical Association. Drawing from both historical records and living traditions, the exhibition reflects themes seen across the communities represented, including resilience, cultural continuity, and a deep connection to land and identity.

In addition, the exhibit will feature:

- A welcoming reading nook designed for families and children
- A full-scale dugout canoe installation
- Guided tour opportunities with educational content aligned to New Jersey curriculum standards
- Specialized community workshops led by members of the tribal communities represented

Timed in recognition of the United States’ 250th anniversary in 2026, the exhibition invites visitors to reflect on the past while engaging with the vibrant, living cultures of Native American communities today.

Exhibition Details

Native Americans of New Jersey: Past and Present

May 17 – September 2, 2026

Opening Reception, Sunday, May 17th from 4 to 6pm

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 10 AM – 4 PM

For more information, visit: <https://www.monmouthmuseum.org/native-american>