

Henry Hudson's 400th Anniversary Newsletter #4

Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York

August, 2008

Introduction

It has been some time since our last Newsletter on next year's celebrations but in the mean time a lot of work has been done by all and many projects which were still in a design phase in spring are now coming to maturity.

- Minister for European Affairs and International Cultural Policy, Frans Timmermans, has dedicated a core team of three colleagues in The Hague to help coordinate events and to identify projects for possible public funding.
- On July 11th the Dutch Cabinet decided to dedicate well over 8 million USD to the celebrations. A decision to that effect will be announced on the 23rd of September when Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, Minister Maxime Verhagen and Minister Frans Timmermans will be in New York.
- The City of Amsterdam will join in the celebrations and is developing a number of projects. Corporate sponsors have started to come forward as well, New York Stock Exchange Euronext has graciously lead the way by committing 200.000 euro to the exhibition *New Amsterdam: the Island at the Centre of the World* at South Street Seaport Museum. NYSE Euronext



will also host a dinner at the New York Stock Exchange. Several other firms and other private entities have already committed themselves to specific events.

Thus, slowly but surely, many things are coming together. Not all projects will materialize and some will be more spectacular than others. But the collective effort by many parties is impressive, as demonstrated by the number of proposals arriving on our desks.

Many challenges are still ahead of us, for instance concerning issues of cohesion, branding, marketing and publicity. We are working closely together with New York City and State in these regards.

As a first effort to bring together several players and institutions in the cultural field a meeting was organized with the curators of exhibitions planned in 2009 in the framework of the celebrations. A short resume of that meeting follows hereunder.

Prime Minister Balkenende will be meeting with Mayor Bloomberg on the 23rd of September to discuss plans for the celebrations. A visit to



Albany is planned for that same day. The official name of the Dutch sponsored celebrations and a first program of planned activities will be announced on that day. In the evening there will be a reception for the New York/Netherlands community and people involved in the celebrations, to be followed by an official presentation of the program in January at a press launch in New York.

We hope to be able to publish a revised calendar of main events on our website soon. A dedicated website to the celebrations is in development.

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Consul General

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Who to contact?

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Henry Hudson 2009 exhibitions update

Seeing that the Henry Hudson celebration year approaches quickly it seemed important to get the exhibition partners together and get an update on the diversity of their plans and see where we can help each other. So on July 15th a group of curators of the bigger exhibitions in 2009 joined us for a round table.

The New York Historical Society and the Bard Graduate Center are working on an exhibition, a catalogue and a symposium that centers on Margarita van Varick, a remarkable woman of Dutch descent who as a widow moved from Batavia to Flatbush in the mid seventeenth century. The exhibition starts on September 7th, 2009 and runs until January 3rd, 2010. The target group for the exhibition is very diverse, from school children to academics, from young people to senior citizens with an interest in history, sociology, material culture and women.

The New York State Museum in Albany organizes an exhibition that tells the story of the relationship between the Dutch and the Native Americans. The arrival of Henry Hudson was the beginning of a complicated relationship between the original inhabitants and the new settlers. The exhibition's main target is to reach school children to teach them about the history of New York State and its legacy, which continues until today.

The Museum of the City of New York is working on two exhibitions. The first is the exhibition *Amsterdam – New Amsterdam; the worlds of Henry Hudson*. This exhibition focuses on the part of Dutch culture that took root in New York. The second one is the Manhattan project which shows the virtual reality of the ecology in 1609 and is put against the ecology of the island now. Both exhibitions have a strong educational component.

From September 2009 until December 2009 the South Street Seaport Museum will be dedicated to the Vingboons Collection in collaboration with the Dutch National Archives and Russell Shorto, the writer of the best-seller *The Island at the Center of the World*. The New Amsterdam Trail, a walking tour along the busy streets of lower Manhattan that will detail important locations of the early history of New York, will accompany the exhibition.

The project of the New Netherland Institute consists of several parts. Some of the original documents that lead to Shorto's book will be exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York as part of the exhibition *Amsterdam – New Amsterdam; the worlds of Henry Hudson*. Another travelling exhibition of 25 panels from the New Netherland Institute will open at the New York State Museum in Albany on December 12th, 2008.

The New York Public Library will present the exhibition *Exploring Unknown Shores: 1609-2009*, opening September 25th, 2009. The Library's extraordinarily rich map collection will be a major focus of the exhibition, which also will feature historic prints, manuscripts, and other materials. The exhibition is expected to attract more than 100,000 visitors. In conjunction with the exhibition the Library will host public programs, film screenings, and outreach activities, including class visits, after school programs for teachers, and workshops for elementary school children on using the Library's map collections.

The Museum of Modern Art brings modern contemporary art into the celebrations, with three exhibitions centering on Vincent van Gogh and the contemporary Dutch artists Marlene Dumas and Arnout Mik, starting in 2008 and ending in July 2009. Other initiatives might be added to the program.

The collaboration between the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York and the Brooklyn Museum is still in the early stages. The Brooklyn Museum considers organizing an exhibition around their style rooms. A follow-up meeting has been planned.

The Metropolitan Museum is negotiating with the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam about the possibility to exhibit *de Staalmeesters* by Rembrandt.

Finally a launch party for the Henry Hudson celebrations is planned for January 2009 in collaboration with the Museum of Art and Design, which reopens in September 2008.

NYC & Company also attended the meeting. They expressed their willingness to market the exhibitions participating in next years celebrations.

The meeting created a great opportunity towards collaboration between the different organizations. We look forward to work together with everybody involved!

Relevant Links

www.cgny.org
www.netherlands-embassy.org
www.thenaf.org
www.hollandsociety.org
www.henryhudson400.com
www.govisland.com
www.exploreny400.com
www.5dutchdaysnyc.org
www.nnp.org
www.HollandDames.org
www.everythingdutch.org
www.hudson400.com
www.hk-botters.nl/pagina17.html
www.wyckoffassociation.org
www.netherlandclub.org
www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us
www.HistoricNewAmsterdam.com