

# MUSEUM on Main Street

## Americans Resources

All Museum on Main Street exhibitions encourage state humanities councils and host communities to collaborate and partner with a variety of state, regional and local organizations. Such partnerships are particularly important for developing programs, activities and exhibitions for *Americans*. This exhibition offers an opportunity to engage different groups and encourage your constituents to share their passions, issues, and concerns as well as the opportunities that they see and challenges that they face.

These resources will be expanded as the exhibition is further developed.

*Americans: A Dialogue Toolkit for Educators*, developed by the National Museum of the American Indian <https://uqr.to/1tn5t>

This toolkit provides basic grounding in the practice of dialogue, and includes three 60-minute models (focused on grades 4–12) that educators can use in the *Americans* exhibition to facilitate dialogue with students. Through the intentional use of dialogue, educators can tap into the *Americans* material to facilitate new conversations with and among students about the power of images and words, the challenges of memory, and the relationship between personal and national values.



This toolkit is rooted in methodology used by members of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, a worldwide network of places dedicated to remembering past struggles for justice and addressing their contemporary legacies. The coalition was founded on the idea that, as trusted educational and community spaces containing human connections to the past, museums and historical sites are ideal venues for fostering dialogue and civic engagement.

**The Invention of Thanksgiving** – video from the *Americans* exhibition  
<https://uqr.to/1tn77>

An interview with National Museum of the American Indian curator Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche) and the history and meaning of Thanksgiving.



**That Brunch in the Forest** – Smithsonian’s Sidedoor Podcast Season 3  
<https://uqr.to/1tn81>

In 1621, a group of Pilgrims and Native Americans came together for a meal that many Americans call “The First Thanksgiving.” But get this—it wasn’t the first, and the meal itself wasn’t so special either. The event was actually all but forgotten for hundreds of years...until it was dusted off to bolster the significance of a new national holiday: Thanksgiving. This time on Sidedoor, we talk to Paul Chaat Smith, a curator at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, to explore how much of what you think you know about Native Americans may be more fiction than fact.



### **Conversation with *Americans* exhibit curators Paul Chaat Smith and Cécile Ganteaume**

<https://uqr.to/1tn8s>

This National Museum of the American Indian exhibition highlights the ways in which American Indians have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began. Pervasive, powerful, at times demeaning, the exhibition's images, names, and stories reveal the deep connection between Americans and American Indians as well as how Indians have been embedded in unexpected ways in the history, pop culture, and identity of the United States.



### **Native Knowledge 360° <https://uqr.to/1tgez>**

Native Knowledge 360° from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian is a great starting place for teaching and learning about Native Americans including terminology, policy and laws, land acknowledgements, and more. <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/faq/did-you-know>



### ***Officially Indian: Symbols That Define the United States* by Cécile Ganteaume**

<https://uqr.to/1tqm1>

*Officially Indian* explores the nation's habit throughout its history of using images of American Indians to distinguish itself from other countries and to define itself for its citizens. In 46 brief, illustrated essays, museum curator Cécile R. Ganteaume discusses the meaning and social significance of early European, colonial American and U.S. government uses of images of Native Americans. The book reveals how deeply embedded American Indians are in the United States' sense of itself as a nation.



### **(Re)Making History: The Real Story Is Bigger and Better – Kevin Gover, TEDxJacksonville**

<https://uqr.to/1tqn0>

Americans have been taught a shallow and simple narrative of the history of Native Americans and the history of our country. Shallow narratives are satisfying and allow us to feel good about our history as a nation, but they can cause our approach to contemporary issues to be uninformed and even misinformed. Kevin discusses fearlessly embracing the larger, messier, more complex truths of our history.

