



NATIVE AMERICAN

SHARE IN PHILADELPHIA'S NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

Cultural sharing began in the Delaware Valley possibly 10,000 years ago, according to Lenni-Lenape (or Lenape) oral tradition. The Lenape, meaning the original people, migrated from as far north as what is now Labrador, Canada. They discovered generous soil and rich, warm hunting grounds in the Delaware Valley, and their culture thrived here. The region today is home to descendants of Lenape, Cherokee, Navajo, Cree, Seminole, Creek, and many more that share their heritage in Philadelphia. Witness the revival of enchanting Native American traditions with the Philadelphia-based indigenous **Native Nations Dance Theater Ensemble**. Sense the heartbeat of **The Lenape Nation** at an annual Pow Wow and join in song at the annual **Southeastern Cherokee Confederacy Festival**. Browse among antique Native American prints at **The Philadelphia Print Shop, Ltd.** Tour galleries devoted to Native American life at the **University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology**.

SHARE IN THE HISTORY

The Lenni Lenape Nation called the Mid-Atlantic coastal region "Coaquannock," or "grove of tall pines." Though strong warriors, the Lenapes possessed a strong will to share. Negotiation was valued over war, confederation over division. Peaceful democratic governance by Lenape nations and other Native Americans impressed Benjamin Franklin, who was commissioned in 1748 to establish treaties with them. According to Franklin, the freedom enjoyed by Native American confederations inspired him to call for a similar union of the colonies in the 1750s.

Before that, in the 16th century, the Lenapes maintained land, rivers, and tributaries within the boundaries of present-day Philadelphia. The Lenapes, being peaceful people, moved north, where William Penn contacted them in the 1680s. Penn negotiated a treaty with Lenape Chief Tamanend who, with trust and respect, called Penn "Brother Miquon" or "Brother with the feather quill;" quill meaning "pen" in today's terms. Their mutual tolerance and respect are commemorated in both a mural and abstract sculpture in **Penn Treaty Park**. Two additional paintings of the treaty are periodically displayed at the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** and the **Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts**. William Penn's son John commissioned portraits of Lenape chiefs Lapowinsa and Tishcohan, which also rotate within the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**.

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The influx of British settlers renamed the Lenni Lenape Nation and the main river through their lands, the “Delaware.” Although a great many Lenapes and others were pushed west by European immigration, one estimate places nearly 5,000 Lenapes within the Philadelphia region today as well as 10,000 Cherokee, Cree, and other tribal descendants.

Additional traces of indigenous heritage remain in the countless sites, streets, and neighborhoods bearing Native American names around the city. Manayunk is the Lenape name for the Schuylkill River, which flows alongside that historic neighborhood. Manayunk translates to “our place for drinking.” Wissinoming, a community located along the Delaware River, means “place where the grapes grew.” And in Southwest Philadelphia, Kingsessing means “place where there is a meadow.”

SHARE IN THE REVERENCE AND TRADITION

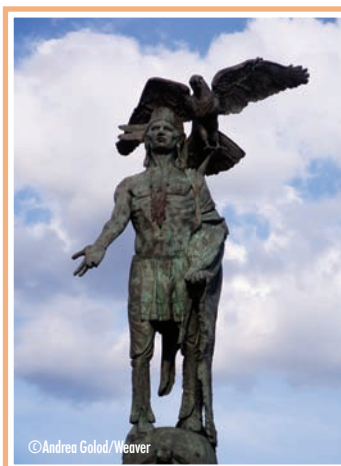
Local sculptures also denote the culture that once prevailed in the region.

Kneeling Warrior Statue, also called “Tedyuscung”

Completed in 1902, this 15-foot-high, white marble statue crowns scenic Council Rock along one of the Wissahickon Valley’s current hiking paths. Pre-colonial Lenape Pow Wows were thought to have taken place there. In this tribute, the Lenape warrior looks west to commemorate the tribe’s departure from the region where they once flourished.

Chief Tamanend Statue

This sculpture, at Front and Market streets, honors the revered Lenape chieftain of the Unami (or Turtle) Clan, Tamanend. Chief Tamanend faces west in friendship toward William Penn’s statue atop City Hall. Upon signing the original 1863 treaty with William Penn, Tamanend agreed the neighbors would enjoy a peaceful existence as long “as the creeks and rivers run, and while the sun, moon, and stars endure.”



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Penn Museum

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

This museum houses about 250,000 objects from past and living indigenous people of the Americas, the largest collection in Philadelphia. Three permanent exhibits interpret how approximately 1,000 artifacts were used by Native Americans through representations of their daily lives. Check their Web site for special upcoming exhibits.

Festivals

Experience the living history of Native American culture during the annual September **Lenape Nation Pow Wow** at Bingham Park in Hawley, PA, about 141 miles north of Philadelphia in Wayne County. Taste Native American food, join the indigenous dancers, and browse the crafts. In Philadelphia County, the **Southeastern Cherokee Confederacy of Pennsylvania** holds monthly meetings, which offer cultural lessons in drumming and language. The Confederacy's annual festival during Memorial Day weekend showcases hundreds of traditional, fancy, and jingle dancers in full regalia along with Native American storytellers sharing their tribal legends. Visitors will find face painting and tipi-building for the kids, and unique arts and crafts such as intricate beadwork, leatherwork, and hand-woven baskets along with jewelry vendors offering signature silver and turquoise items.

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

THE LENAPE NATION

215-257-0389

www.lenapenation.org

Produces Pow Wow, typically in September, at Bingham Park in Hawley, PA. This location stands near the northern border of the "Walking Treaty" with Quaker colonists in 1737. This treaty tricked Lenapes out of their land along the western shore of the Delaware River.

NATIVE NATIONS DANCE THEATRE

241 S. 55th St.

215-472-9996

[www.nndt.homestead.com/
directory.html](http://www.nndt.homestead.com/directory.html)

Philadelphia's only indigenous dance company since 1991. Performs native and competitive Native American dance and provides Native American Indian educational services.



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PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS

Broad & Cherry sts.
215-972-7600
www.pafa.org
Periodically displays the famous painting, "Penn's Treaty with the Indians" by Benjamin West.

PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL

Broad & Market sts.
216-686-2840
www.phila.gov/property/vp_cityhall_tour.htm
At the base of the City Hall dome, two distinct groups of Native American colossus statues stand facing northeast and northwest. They were created by Alexander Calder, who was responsible for all the building's exterior statues.

PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

26th St. & Benjamin Franklin Pkwy.
215-763-8100
www.philamuseum.org
Often displays portraits of Lenape chiefs Lapowinsa and Tishcohan as well as the oil painting "The Peaceable Kingdom" by Edward Hicks, which may have been inspired by West's painting of William Penn's Treaty.

THE PHILADELPHIA PRINT SHOP

8441 Germantown Ave.
215-242-4750
www.philaprintshop.com
Sells Native American antique prints and maps.

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC ART

www.philart.net
This Web site provides pictures and/or descriptions of 532 sculptures, fountains, mosaics, and memorials in Philadelphia.

SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

1663 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA
215-244-9900
www.katharinedrexel.org
Founded by Katherine Drexel in Philadelphia in 1891, its congregation is dedicated to providing spiritual and social services for Native Americans, African Americans, and Haitian peoples. This site offers guided tours of Native American artifacts and the Saint Katharine Drexel shrine.

SOUTHEASTERN CHEROKEE CONFEDERACY

6473 Ardleigh St.
215-549-4191
www.secherokeconfederacypa.org
Produces annual Cherokee Festival Memorial Day weekend in Ambler, PA.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

3260 South St.
215-898-4000
www.museum.upenn.edu
Native people and their sacred cultural connections with the environments of the North American West, Central America, and South America are explained in three permanent displays.