



# *IT HAPPENED HERE: THE 1600's* *THE BEGINNING OF THE CITY*

*cultureNOW*

*The Lower Manhattan Historical Association  
Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York, Inc.  
and its Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup>,  
Consulate-General of the Netherlands in New York,  
New Amsterdam History Center,  
and Black Gotham*

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## PROGRAM

### WELCOME

#### **Scott Dwyer**

*Executive Director, Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York and its Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup> Museum*

### IT HAPPENED HERE

#### **Abby Suckle** FALA

*President, cultureNOW*

*Vice President, Lower Manhattan Historical Association*

### SPEAKERS

#### **Eric W. Sanderson**

*Author, Landscape Ecologist & Vice President for Urban Conservation Strategy, New York Botanical Garden*

#### **Jaap Jacobs**

*Dutch historian*

#### **Zachary Edinger**

*Shamash/Assistant Hazzan, Congregation Shearith Israel*

#### **Russell Shorto**

*Author and Historian*

#### **Sandra Lazo**

*New Amsterdam History Center*

#### **Oscar Hefting**

*Director, New Holland Foundation*

#### **Peggy King Jorde**

*Principal, KING JORDE Cultural Projects Consulting*

### CONCLUSION

#### **Ambrose M. Richardson III**

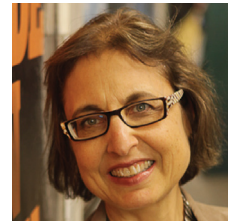
*President, Lower Manhattan Historical Association*

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Scott Dwyer** manages the staff and operations of Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York (SRNY) and its Fraunces Tavern Museum. Scott has over 18 years of experience in the asset management industry and not-for-profit sector. Prior to joining the Museum in 2020, he was a relationship manager with Cohen & Steers and a product marketing associate and RFP writer with J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Scott also held leadership positions with 501(c)(3) organizations including the NYU Alumni Association, 6th & B Community Garden, and The Present Theatre Company, producer of FringeNYC. He has a BS in Business Administration from NYU Stern.

His passion for history and historic preservation was instilled at an early age growing up in 19th century houses in Pennsylvania and Connecticut and as a junior docent at the Square House Museum in Rye, New York. Scott lives in Manhattan's East Village, a block from St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, New York's oldest site of continuous religious practice where you can find a stained glass window dedicated to the memory of SRNY founding member Frederick S. Tallmadge.



**Abby Suckle** is President of cultureNOW and Vice President of the Lower Manhattan Historical Association. She has an architectural practice in New York. She has been leading the museum without walls project at cultureNOW. Her most recent book is *Cocktails & Conversations: Dialogues on Architectural Design*, published in 2018. She also lectures widely and gives walking tours. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her Masters in Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. She worked on many cultural projects while she was at Pei Cobb Freed including the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

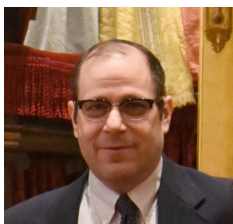




**Eric W. Sanderson** is the inaugural Vice President for Urban Conservation Strategy at the New York Botanical Garden. Formerly he was a Senior Conservation Ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Sanderson is the author of the book, *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*. The Mannahatta Project ([welikia.org](http://welikia.org)), conducted over a decade, investigated the historical ecology of Manhattan Island on the eve of Henry Hudson's discovery in 1609. Sanderson is currently pursuing the Welikia Project, on the historical and contemporary ecology of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and surrounding waters, and Vision maker. nyc. Sanderson wrote, *Terra Nova: The New World After Oil, Cars, and Suburbs*. In 2016 he co-edited *Prospects for Resilience: Insights from New York City's Jamaica Bay*. Sanderson holds a Ph.D. in ecology, with emphasis in ecosystem and landscape ecology, from the University of California, Davis.



**Jaap Jacobs** (PhD Leiden, 1999) is affiliated with the University of St Andrews. He has specialized in the early American history, specifically the Dutch in the Americas in the early modern period. He has taught at Leiden University, the University of Amsterdam, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, and the University of St Andrews. His books include *A firm peace and sincere friendship? Four Centuries of Dutch-American Stories*, *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America*. He is currently working on a biography of Petrus Stuyvesant.



**Zachary Edinger** is a graduate of Queens College (CUNY) and Fordham Law School. He has held positions at Morgan Stanley and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Since 2011, he has served as the Sexton of Congregation Shearith Israel, the oldest Jewish community in North America, where his family has worshipped since the mid-19th century. Reverend Edinger is passionate about sharing the rich history and customs of Congregation Shearith Israel with a wider audience through engaging tours and educational classes. He regularly hosts a Zoom class titled "A Random Walk Down Mill Street," delving into the congregation's storied past.



**Russell Shorto** is the author of the bestsellers *Smalltime*, *Revolution Song*, *Amsterdam*, and *The Island at the Center of the World*. His most recent book is *TAKING MANHATTAN: The Extraordinary Events That Created New York and Shaped America*. He is the director of the New Amsterdam Project at the New York Historical and senior scholar at the New Netherland Institute. In 2009 he was given a knighthood by the Dutch government for advancing Dutch-American historical awareness. In 2018 he was inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame.



**Sandra Lazo** has been a Trustee of the New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC) since 2023. She holds an S.B. degree from M.I.T. and an M.A. degree from N.Y.U., both in Economics. Sandy worked in economic consulting, with clients primarily in regulated industries, such as electric utilities. An avid researcher into her family history, Sandy became fascinated by colonial Dutch New York after discovering that she is an eleventh-generation descendant of Cornelis Antonissen Van Slyck, who immigrated to Rensselaerswyck in 1634. A long-time member of the New Netherland Institute, Sandy has funded NNI's Van Slyke Article Prize almost since its inception. She also supported NAHC's presentation "The Prize Papers Collection – The Vrooman Letters" by Dr. Frans Blom at Columbia University in the spring of 2023.

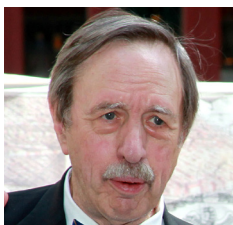


**Oscar Hefting** is a cultural entrepreneur. He graduated in Classical Archaeology at the Amsterdam University (UvA) and specialized in Dutch Heritage Overseas. As Director of the New Holland Foundation he organizes projects, and stimulates research, education and promotion on colonial heritage and its effects on today's societies.



**Peggy King Jorde** fights to preserve the stories buried beneath our feet. This Harvard Loeb Fellow helped spark a movement that saved New York City's African Burial Ground—a discovery that rocked the nation when archaeologists unearthed the remains of over 400 enslaved and free Africans in Lower Manhattan.

As Special Adviser to Mayor David Dinkins and later Director of Memorialization, King Jorde was one of the masterminds behind the creation of America's first African Burial Ground Monument and Interpretive Center, transforming a forgotten cemetery into a powerful symbol of remembrance. She personally oversaw the design competitions for the memorial and advised on the sacred repatriation ceremony that returned ancestral remains to their final resting place.



**Ambrose M. Richardson III** was born in Chicago, grew up in Illinois, and graduated from Harvard College and Law School. He finished reading all 166 Landmark Books before the age of 12, and later learned that some of his ancestors took part in the events he read about it. He is a past president of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, past president of the Waterside Tenants Association, currently president of the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York and General Secretary of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and a former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 7 in Champaign, IL. He began practicing law in 1969 next door to the New York Stock Exchange, and currently practices law on Wall Street in the areas of business, property, estates, and related litigation.

#### With Thanks to

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**cultureNOW**  
museum without walls



New Amsterdam  
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## IT HAPPENED HERE

It is a truism that Lower Manhattan has been America's town square since its founding in 1624, even though its history is much deeper. Virtually every aspect of global, local and national significance can be in some manner traced to this Downtown stage. Some have been forgotten and some have been transformative in our culture and many have fallen between. This is both a project in urban archeology and a way of describing the city over time. It Happened Here captures the multiple and overlapping stories that are woven throughout our city's life. It embraces America's history as the museums, monuments and memorials that dot its streetscape do. It highlights many of the concerns, events and places that the people who lived, fought, worked and visited here thought were important at their moment in time.

It takes another look at the issues that they were preoccupied with and how they solved them: their politics, religion, social protest, health and safety, commerce, disasters and defense, scandals and crime, education, publications, art and culture, parades and celebrations, architecture and engineering. It encapsulates the events that shaped the physical and cultural landscape within the changing geography at the water's edge. And it raises questions that need to be considered as we plan a more resilient city in our future.

It Happened Here seeks to excavate its many historical layers: from its inception as the precolonial Lenapehoking territory (once inhabited by the Munsee Lenape and Wappinger tribes), to the creation of New Amsterdam by the Dutch, to the establishment of the first free African settlement in North America, to the establishment of British control, to the gateway for immigration, to being the site of the American Revolution, to its present-day significance as the nation's cultural and financial nerve-center.

To kick off the United States' upcoming 250th birthday It Happened Here will be a weekend on July 4, 2025 which will compress our 400 years into 5 days with each day being devoted to a century. The program will feature multiple types of activations, including tours, panels, and special events that will take place in many of the sites downtown where highlighted historical events occurred supplemented with our digital museum without walls app.