



QUADRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Program overview

OBJECTIVE

This year we will be celebrating four hundred years of uninterrupted friendship between the Netherlands and America. In 1609, the Dutch ship 'Halve Maen', commanded by Captain Henry Hudson, arrived on the site of what is now New York City. This subsequently led to the establishment of the New Netherland colony and New Amsterdam. The Quadricentennial offers an excellent opportunity to focus not only on our shared history, but more importantly on **our shared values: freedoms, tolerance and the pursuit of happiness** (the 'DNA' that the Netherlands shares with New York).

The celebrations are intended to connect past, present and future and to be a catalyst for closer cooperation between our two countries in the 21st century. A myriad of activities aimed at encouraging cultural and economic exchanges and improving our understanding and appreciation of each other have been organized.

GIFT

In tribute to 400 years of friendship the Netherlands will present New York with a **Pavilion designed by Ben van Berkel**, a leading architect from the Netherlands. The Pavilion will be located on the newly dedicated Nieuw Amsterdam Plein in the Battery, the former harbor of New Amsterdam. The Pavilion and Plein will serve as a public space for New Yorkers, commuters and tourists to enjoy. It will also be a monument to our shared history and values.

ACTIVITIES

January

The Quadricentennial celebrations will launch in **New York** on January 28th with a press conference by the Mayors of NYC and Amsterdam and the Netherlands NY400 Coordinator Minister Frans Timmermans. A live satellite feed connection will be made with Amsterdam.

The evening launch event will be held at **MoMA**, which will celebrate NY400 with four exhibitions throughout 2009, beginning with 'Van Gogh and the Colours of the Night', followed by shows of 'Marlene Dumas', 'Aernout Mik' and an exhibition dedicated to 'In & Out of Amsterdam: 1960-1976'.

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February

Van Gogh's 'Starry Nights' will return to the Netherlands for the first time and will be the center piece of the exhibitions 'Van Gogh and the Colours of the Night' at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

Renowned Dutch garden designers **Piet Oudolf** and **Jacqueline van der Kloet** have designed a four-season footpath that will change colors and shapes every month and that will start blooming in the New York Botanical Garden in February.

March

The **Keukenhof** Spring Garden will open on March 18th in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and First Lady of New York State, Mrs. Michelle Paige Paterson. The garden will feature a giant flower mosaic of the Statue of Liberty, created with more than 51.000 flower bulbs, as a tribute to the Quadricentennial.

April: 400 Years after Hudson's epic journey began

From April 1st through 6th, exactly 400 years after the 'Halve Maen' set sail from Amsterdam, four hundred years of friendship will be celebrated with 'New York Nights' in the Netherlands. This will include both policy exchanges and a vibrant nightlife program for all ages.

On April 1st the program will kick-off with the '**Night of the Stars**', a gala evening organized by the Holland America Friendship Foundation in the monumental 13th Century Knights Hall in The Hague. Proceeds from the event will go to Fulbright Scholarships and other educational and cultural exchanges.

The signature policy event will be "**Pioneers!**" a conference on active citizenship (April 1-3) intended for young leaders and representatives from New York and Amsterdam. There will also be a high level policy exchange between Amsterdam and New York on **urban health, waterfront development, sustainable cities and education**.

The "**New York Nights**" in Amsterdam will consist of:

- A town hall meeting with **Russell Shorto** and Dutch Historian **Geert Mak** focused on what the shared DNA of Amsterdam and New York means today.
- Night time opening of the **Anne Frank** House, Starry Nights Exhibition at the **Van Gogh** Museum, **Richard Avedon** "Exhibition by Night" at the FOAM Photography Museum, a sneak preview of unique historic documents from the Dutch national archives on the founding of New Amsterdam, adjacent to **Rembrandts** world famous Night Watch at the **Rijksmuseum**.
- **New York Jazz and Nightlife** program in various trendy clubs, including a junior dance event for 14-18 year olds in the popular Disco Escape.
- Opening Night of the 1605 **Musical Play Granida**, by distinguished poet and playwright, PC Hooft at the Stadsschouwburg.
- **Comedy** "Come back Yankee" in Boom Chicago.
- New York **Design Event Cut and Paste** in Paradiso.

The festive week will conclude with the launch of the "**Amsterdam 1609 Trail**" which will provide families and visitors the opportunity to visit 15 historical Amsterdam locations, some practically unchanged since the time of Henry Hudson.

On April 6th the **Museum of the City of New York** will launch the exhibition “Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: The Worlds of Henry Hudson”, featuring rare 16th – and 17th century objects, images, and documents from major American and Dutch collections.

On April 9th- 11th the renowned **Nederlands Dans Theater II**, consisting of international young dance talents, will perform at the Joyce Theater in New York.

On April 29th the **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Brass** and brass musicians from the New York Philharmonic will perform in a joint concert at The Riverside Church of New York, organized by the American Friends of the RC Orchestra.

On April 30th, **The Glory of Dutch Bulbs: A Legacy of 400 Years** will open at the NY Botanical Garden; this lavish bulb show features seven weeks of blooming flowers starring multi-color Dutch icons such as the lily and tulip.

In the spring, hundreds of thousands of Dutch **daffodils and tulips** will bloom throughout New York.

The **New Amsterdam trail** commissioned by Federal Hall and the Hudson 400 Foundation will officially open at the end of April. The trail, which can be downloaded onto iPods and mobile phones, will guide walkers and bikers through the Dutch heritage of New York.

To enhance travel between the Netherlands and New York, Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and New York JFK will launch the “International Expedited Traveller Program” at the end of April allowing frequent travelers between our countries to pass borders swiftly.

May: New York Design Week: NY400 Dutch by Design

World renowned Dutch designers and young talent will be on display in the City during New York Design Week.

PICNIC, Europe’s leading annual international cross-media event highlighting creativity and innovation will hold an exclusive mini-event in New York City.

On May 14th the exhibition “Amsterdam/New Perspectives: Contemporary Dutch Photographers in New York” will open in the Museum of the City of New York (through September 6th) and on May 15th and 16th the Frick Collection will host the Symposium “Before and After the Hudson-Fulton Celebration of 1909: America collects Dutch Art of the Golden Age.”

June

New York State will dedicate June 6th to Henry Hudson by organizing a festive River Day with a Relay Flotilla which will start in Manhattan, go around the Statue of Liberty and subsequently trace Henry Hudson’s voyage to Albany.

September 8–13 - NY400 Week: Holland on the Hudson

In September 1609, the ‘Halve Maen’ made its historic voyage into, what is now, New York Harbor. That moment will be commemorated with a week filled with activities centered around the mouth of the Hudson River.

“**New York’s birth certificate**”, ‘the Schaghen Letter’ testifying to the purchase of Manhattan in 1626, will be prominently displayed on the New Amsterdam Pavilion in the Battery for three days starting on September 9th.

On that same day, a **Forum on Adaptation to Climate Change and Watermanagement (H₂O9)** will be held in the New Jersey Liberty Science Center. It will focus on water management in the New York Tri-state area and the Netherlands in the 21st century. The Forum is aimed at the new generation of American and Dutch water managers. H₂O9 will be a non-traditional conference focused on creating partnerships through interactive sessions and unusual settings for meetings. One of the highlights will be a “Water-Gala” on the evening of September 9th. The conference concludes on September 10th with matchmaking sessions for business and government.



NYSE Euronext will host a dinner at the **New York Stock Exchange** on September 10th with high profile speakers from the world of finance. It will be attended by CEOs from Dutch financial corporations, each of whom will invite an American counterpart.

Also on September 10th, the **New Amsterdam Festival** will premiere on Governors Island. This festival will be based on the concept of two Dutch summer festivals: Oerol and De Parade. Expect contemporary dance, theater and musical performances in and around the historical buildings and sites of Governors Island. The festival will last until September 20th.

On September 10th, the New York part of the policy exchange on **urban health** will take place.

On September 12th, the exhibition '**New Amsterdam: Island at the Center of the World**' will open at the South Street Seaport Museum. It will feature around sixty of the oldest historical documents, maps and prints related to New York from the Dutch National Archives, including the Schaghen Letter and the famous watercolors renderings of New Amsterdam by the Dutch map maker Johannes Vingboons.

Two ships of the Royal Netherlands Navy, **HNLMS Tromp** (Air Defense and Command frigate) and **HNLMS Van Speijk** (Multipurpose frigate), both named after famous Dutch Admirals from the 17th Century, will participate in the festivities surrounding NY400. They will be open to the public during the entire visit. The Royal Netherlands Marine Corps Band, **de Marinierskapel**, consisting of seventy talented musicians, will add music to the festivities during the entire week. On September 12th a gala dinner will be held on board of HNLMS Tromp.

A **New Amsterdam Village with 17th Century facades** will be erected on Bowling Green, and will include a market with Dutch food and products to sample.

A unique transatlantic **Job and Talent Swap** will be organized. American police officers, fire fighters, nurses, civil servants, CEOs, and others will swap jobs for a week with their Dutch counterparts.

The NYC400 week will end on September 13th with **NYC Harbor Day, the first annual day celebrating NYC's harbor**. The day will be filled with activities centered on and near the Hudson River as well as the five Harbor District Waterfront Parks: Battery Park, Governors Island, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Hudson River Park and Snug Harbor. New Yorkers and visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy these parks and move around on free ferries and bikes and discover the New Amsterdam Trail.

There will be a colourful **flotilla** of modern and historical Dutch and American yachts and sailing vessels, including the replicas of the Halve Maen and the 'Onrust' (the first ship built in America in 1614), Dutch Super Yachts, traditional flat-bottomed boats, HNLMS 'Tromp' and HNLMS 'Van Speyk'. A 'Flying Dutchman' sailboat race will take place off Battery Park.

HRH the Prince of Orange and HRH Princess Máxima of the Netherlands intend to be present during the NY400 week activities.

November: Finale

The New York organization **Five Dutch Days Five Boroughs** will hold its annual cultural festival around Dutch American Heritage Day with a special NY400 theme focusing on the 17th century roots of New York. The second **Conference on active citizenship, “Pioneers”**, will take place on November 19th and 20th in New York culminating in an “active citizenship charter” for Dutch-American pioneers.

On November 20th, the **New Amsterdam Pavilion and Plein** in the Battery will ceremoniously be presented to Battery Park Conservancy and New York City.

The celebrations in New York will conclude with the 90th annual **Peter Stuyvesant Ball**, a fundraiser for Fulbright scholarships and other grants for Dutch-American exchanges. **HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands** and her husband, **Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven**, and their family are planning to attend.

The Quadricentennial celebrations will end in the Netherlands with a historic exhibition on the 400-year old history of the **Amsterdam Stock Exchange**, including the first stocks and other original documents issued by the East India Company which Commissioned Hudsons epic journey.

OTHER RELATED EVENTS

These are only some of the highlights of 2009. Many more, including an exhibition on “Margarita van Varick: a Dutch Woman in Seventeenth Century New York” at the Bard graduate Center galleries, exhibitions at the New York Public Library, New York State Museum, educational events in Brooklyn, and other Dutch cultural events (a.o. photography, music, fashion) have not been listed, but can be found on www.ny400.nl. Furthermore, a good survey of events organized by New York State may be found on its Quadricentennial website www.exploreny.com.

QUADRICENTENNIAL LEGACY

In addition to the New Amsterdam Pavilion and New Amsterdam Plein, and the grants from the Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) and Holland America Friendship Foundation (HAFF), other types of footprints will remain after the 2009 celebrations, especially in the field of culture and education. These include:

- Publications: A book on Amsterdam-New Amsterdam by Russell Shorto and Geert Mak: 1609, The Forgotten History of Hudson, Amsterdam and New York; the Handbook: Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations from the Roosevelt Studies Center; a liber amicorum from the New Netherland Institute on early Dutch roots; a publication about the Dutch, Pioneers in International Business, with a historical overview of trade relations between the Netherlands and the US; a number of educational projects, including a book about the influence of the Dutch language on American English (by the Dutch Language Union) and programs for online partnerships between schools linked to the theme “The Richness Within”;
- Culture: The catalogues of the exhibitions mentioned above.
- The New Amsterdam Tourist Trails in Amsterdam and New York and travel guides of Dutch New York and Amsterdam;
- Documentaries about the role of the Netherlands in the early history of New York;
- The ongoing translation of the West India Company documents by Dr. Charles Gehring’s New Netherland Project.