

March 26, 1982

Public Museum
1000 Street
New York, New York

Dear (Director):

The Oneida Indian Historical Society of Oneida, Wisconsin is currently engaged in planning a traveling museum exhibition, designed for approximately two-week showings throughout the country. The exhibit portrays the history of the Oneida Indians of Wisconsin, whose reservation lies on the outskirts of the city of Green Bay. The presentation traces the Oneida origins in the northeastern United States, and their role as one of the five founding nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. In the period following the American Revolution, the Oneidas lost their five million acre land base, and were resettled in large numbers in Wisconsin, Ontario, and for a time in Kansas. The Wisconsin settlement is the focal point of the narration, portraying the survival of cultural traditions from the 1820s into the present, and emphasizing the active participation of Oneida Indians in social, economic and political developments in American history. Life on the reservation today shows the achievements of the Oneida Nation continuing into the present, in the growth of the tribal government and in many areas of community life.

The Historical Society is requesting a letter of interest from your museum in potentially receiving and presenting the Oneida historical exhibit in 1983-1984. For the first year of the exhibition, the project will be funded, eliminating rental costs for the receiving museum.

The structure is designed as a free-standing island-exhibit, 8 ft. in height and 8 ft. X 4 ft. in area, the projecting and audio equipment being mounted on the interior of the island. The twelve individual panels of the exhibit are 48" X 48" -- a total of packing cases, with a set-up time of approximately 30 minutes. The exhibit may be shown in 10, 20 or 30 minute presentations, the audience viewing a 36" X 36" screen for the slide show and narration, and a 42" X 48" technomated (highlighted) map adjacent to the screen, illustrating the migrations of the Oneidas and dramatizing the tribal loss of lands both in New York and in Wisconsin. Both of these audio-visuals will be shown

on the "front" upper panels of the exhibit, and static displays will provide a walk-around show on the side and back panels. An illustrated booklet/brochure will be available for distribution during the showing. An Oneida program director-lecturer could also be available.

We anticipate showings will begin in (month) _____ 1983, through _____ 1984, after construction of the exhibit in the beginning of 1983. If you feel the exhibition would be of potential interest to your museum audience, identify for us the probable two-week (variable) time slots that would be open, so that we might begin scheduling. We would also be most interested in receiving a description of your space and seating facilities, and the availability of museum personnel for handling the equipment. If you have figures for your yearly (weekly, or daily) average viewing-load, these would be helpful in planning our programs.

INSERT
If we may send further descriptive materials, please do not hesitate to communicate with us. The Historical Society wishes to inform a much broader audience of the history and culture of the Oneida Indians, and to encourage an appreciation of the contributions and achievements of Indian peoples in American society generally.

Sincerely,

L. Gordon McLester
Director
Oneida Indian Historical Society
3000 Seminary Road
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155
(414) 869-2230

Additional showings of the exhibit might be arranged in local schools, universities, shopping malls or fairs, and could include a hands-on exhibit of Oneida artifacts and crafts. If you have any pertinent information concerning the development of the exhibit program in this regard, we would be interested in your ideas and suggestions.