



**TO:** Cultural Education Committee

**FROM:** Mark Schaming 

**SUBJECT:** OCE New Netherland Research, Collections and Initiatives

**DATE:** February 1, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

The Office of Cultural Education has the most comprehensive publicly held collections that document New Netherlands, one of the oldest European settlements in the United States.

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

For information

#### **Background Information**

The State Archives, State Library, and State Museum hold the largest, most comprehensive New Netherland collections. Collections include over 12,000 documents, over 100,000 archeological and historical artifacts, and special collections. The collections have been translated and curated by Cultural Education staff for over forty-two years, and are regularly used by students, archaeologists, historians, other scholars, and artists from across the state, nation, and Europe.

Research on these collections help document the earliest continuously occupied European settlement in what is now New York, which is among the earliest European settlements in the United States. The archaeological and historical collections continue to grow and continue to document the rich history of the earliest days of European settlement in the state, including interactions with Native Americans. The collections illustrate the emergence of the defining features that make New York diverse, tolerant, and unique. The presentation will explore the research and plans for upcoming exhibitions, education initiatives and collections curation and access.