



Department of Records
& Information Services

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**New York City Launches Online Archival Exhibit:
*NYC's Story: The City on Record***

Online exhibit features more than one hundred items from the Municipal Archives and Library collections inviting visitors to explore and engage with New York City's history

Wards	Population	Male	Female	Totals	Whites	African		Coloured		Slaves	Total
						Male	Female	M	F		
First	365	182	183	365	340	25	10	10	25	25	385
Second	355	175	180	355	330	25	10	10	25	25	380
Third	358	180	178	358	335	23	10	10	25	25	383
Fourth	368	185	183	368	345	23	10	10	25	25	393
Fifth	380	190	190	380	355	25	10	10	25	25	405
Sixth	360	180	180	360	335	25	10	10	25	25	385
Seventh	370	185	185	370	345	25	10	10	25	25	395
Eighth	380	190	190	380	355	25	10	10	25	25	405
Ninth	390	195	195	390	365	25	10	10	25	25	415
Tenth	400	200	200	400	375	25	10	10	25	25	425
	3685	1840	1845	3685	3450	235	100	100	250	250	4085



**1810 New York City Census and photo of the first celebration of Earth Day in Union Square Park, 1970*

The Department of Records & Information Services (DORIS) today launched an interactive [online exhibit](#) to celebrate the City's history during 2026—the 250th anniversary of the country's founding.

NYC's Story: The City on Record showcases a selection of documents, artifacts, maps, photos, and videos that illustrate defining events and everyday moments in New York. The exhibit features more than 100 items from the archival and library collections ranging from a ledger documenting land transfers in 17th-century Queens County to 1863 Draft Riot claims to film footage of Shirley Chisholm announcing her 1972 presidential campaign to a 2025 primary election ballot.

The exhibit explores three core questions – 1) *Who is a New Yorker?* 2) *How was New York City built?* and 3) *What makes NYC, NYC?* Visitors to the site can select from a variety of images to develop answers to these questions.

“There is no place in the world like New York because there are no people like New Yorkers. This exhibition brings us face to face with the many layers of our city’s 400-year history — the stories that have been carefully preserved and those nearly lost to time. It is a reminder that our city is shaped not just by moments of power, but by the everyday lives of the people who built it. I am deeply grateful to the DORIS staff and Commissioner Toole for the work of uncovering stained letters, forgotten reports, and weathered photographs — fragments of

memory that, together, tell the story of a city always in the making.” – **Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani.**

“A team of DORIS employees combed through centuries of government records to pull unique items that shed light on the origin, growth and population of New York City. Exploring records about the diverse residents of the City, how it was built, and what makes it unique provides insight on the struggles and successes of the past and how best to move forward together.”
Pauline Toole, Commissioner of the Department of Records & Information Services

The city was under martial law during the British occupation, between September 1776 and November 1783. Any records that might have documented how the British army governed during this period were taken to England at the conclusion of the occupation.

The exhibit is fully accessible and inclusive of people of all races, ages, ethnic backgrounds, and abilities. The site includes transcribed text for handwritten documents, a language translator, and a special widget that lets visitors customize their experience by enlarging text, adjusting contrast, etc. Other features include the ability to zoom in on images and flip through photographs. Various pop-up surveys invite users to share their answers to these questions as they engage with the site.

The exhibit can be found at [RememberNYC.nyc](https://www.remembernyc.nyc).

A related on-site exhibit at 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY will open in March.

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About the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS): Established in 1977, the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) preserves and provides public access to historical and contemporary records and information about New York City government. We operate the Municipal Archives, the Municipal Library, and the Records Center. Learn more at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/records/index.page>.