



Making a New Home

Visit the recreated 1960's apartment of the Saez-Velez family, who migrated from Puerto Rico to the Lower East Side. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the ways in which the Saez-Velez family preserved and adapted their culture *and* make connections to their own immigration or migration experience.

Pre-Visit Materials:

Your Story, Our Story Connection

During their visit, students will learn stories of immigrants, migrants, and refugees from long ago. Our Your Story, Our Story digital collection offers students the opportunity to make deeper connections. On pg. 2 you will find one YSOS story that complements the theme discussed during the workshop. Students are also welcome to use these stories as inspiration to write their own stories of immigration as well.

Your Story, Our Story Connection

Mother Saraswati



My mother brought this Mother **Saraswati**¹ statue with her to the United States. She said that it made her who she is.

Mother Saraswati was the motivation behind my mother's decision to leave Guyana. My mother was sad to leave her family and friends, but she wanted the "American Dream" that she saw on TV shows and movies. She was excited to start a new life and achieve more than she could in Guyana, and this was all she thought about on her way here. She was also excited **to further**² her passion for dance and learning. Her biggest fear was changing to fit into this new life.

Life was totally different in New York: the people, the food, the **hustle and bustle**³. My mother was only 22, and being in a different place began to **overwhelm**⁴ her. She tried to balance being a wife, working, friends, and dancing. Maintaining her training in classical Indian dance was one of the major reasons for her migration. She looked to Mother Saraswati for guidance to lead her on a path of success and knowledge.

Today, my mother still has this statue and continues to thank her for what she has already accomplished and what she will accomplish in the future.

-Your Story, Our Story Submitter

Your Story, Our Story, a national project, explores American immigration and migration through crowd-sourced stories of everyday objects. You and your students can explore curated collections on the website and add stories of their own. Visit yourstory.tenement.org.

¹ The Hindu god of knowledge, music, art, wisdom and learning

² To continue

³ Energy

⁴ To have a strong emotional effect