

Wetu @ CAM Green

Mashpee Wampanoag partners visited the Cape Ann Museum Green in May 2023 to build a wetu (traditional home) as part of Native Waters; Native Lands, a collaborative partnership between the Museum, the Gloucester 400+ Anniversary Committee, Discover Gloucester, the City of Gloucester, and SmokeSignals, a Native production company.

As Steve Peters, Creative Director of SmokeSignals describes, the wetu is *“a structure that’s inviting for the community to come in, sit, have a picnic, and enjoy how comfortable life was as Indigenous people here more than 400 years ago. That’s key, we want people to know that we’ve been here for thousands of years, that history didn’t start when the Europeans arrived.”*



About the Wetu

- The wetu stands on the ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket people. These lands lie adjacent to ancestral homelands of various other Native tribes including the Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Massachusetts.
- The wetu frame was built using 35 fresh cedar saplings responsibly harvested from Southeastern Massachusetts.
- Traditionally, wetu frames would have been covered with chestnut or elm bark.
- A wetu this size would have been a home for a family of four.
- Inside, there would have been a fire pit, bedding, furs, cooking utensils, clay pots, basketry, bows and arrows, and all other items needed for personal life.
- Visitors are welcome to enter the wetu and take a seat on the benches any time that CAM Green is open.

*This project was generously funded in part by the Essex County Community Foundation's Creative County Initiative.
To learn more, visit www.capeannmuseum.org/visit/cam-green/wetu*

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