

Pier-to-Pier Trunk Tour

Call for suitcases that journeyed from Holland to the US!



FENIX Migration Museum in Rotterdam is on the lookout for suitcases that travelled from the Netherlands to the United States of America. Do you happen to know a relative whose family checked in a suitcase in the Netherlands to arrive in the US? If so, you can hand in your suitcase at the Netherlands Consulate General in New York and it will become part of the FENIX collection! The suitcase will be brought home to its original port of departure where it will be exhibited in a monumental maze of suitcases and stories about departure and arrival.

There has been a coming and going of people between the Netherlands and the US for centuries. From the late 19th century onwards, thousands of emigrants sailed every week to Ellis Island. Even now, people are still crossing the ocean every day. Heading towards a new life. Millions of people left Europe through a Dutch port or airport. They took their first steps in the United States in New York. And with them went millions of trunks, suitcases, duffel bags and backpacks.

Do you have a suitcase that you checked in in the Netherlands on your way to the US, or perhaps one that belongs to an older relative? Donate the suitcase to FENIX! This way, your suitcase will be given a place in the museum, which stands on the actual quays where generations before you began their journey.

How can you participate?

Step 1: Save the date for an encounter on Tuesday, 23 May from 4-8 p.m. at the Netherlands Consulate General in New York. The director of FENIX and her colleagues will welcome you with open arms that day, ready and eager to receive your suitcase and story.

Step 2: Send an email to koffers@fenix.nl and include:

- a)** your name
- b)** a photo of the suitcase/trunk/basket/bag
- c)** a brief description of the journey the suitcase made. For instance, the year the journey took place, the reason for the journey, the owner of the suitcase.
- d)** whether there are any personal sources available that describe the journey, such as a diary, correspondence, or travelog? If so, we would love to hear about it!

Step 3: FENIX will send you a confirmation of the time of the meeting on 23 May at the Netherlands Consulate General (address: 666 Third Avenue, 19th floor New York City).



FENIX is set to open in late 2024 in a historic harbor warehouse dating from 1923, where a stunning staircase has been added, designed by Chinese architect Ma Yansong, founder of MAD Architects. FENIX will provide space for cultural, culinary and creative encounters, at the quintessential location of departure and arrival. Where millions of people departed or arrived from all over the world. Fleeing or chasing after love. Looking for happiness or better opportunities. FENIX will tell these stories and show that migration is a timeless and universal phenomenon.

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