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LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW WALKING TOUR

"Foods of the Lower East Side" Explores American Immigration Through Food

June 16, 2011, New York, NY – On June 24th, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum will launch *Foods of the Lower East Side*, a new neighborhood walking and tasting tour exploring the American immigrant experience and some of the many ways in which immigrant foods have shaped American cuisine and culture. It will be the first Tenement Museum program to focus specifically on food, and the third neighborhood walking tour offered by the Museum.

During this two-hour walking tour of the Lower East Side, participants will be guided by two educators to visit twelve diverse purveyors, sampling eleven different foods at stops along the way, including Chinese dumplings, Dominican fried plantains, Asian-fusion cream puffs and more. The tour reveals some of the little-known histories of favorite American foods, many of which are adaptations of immigrant favorites which have evolved over decades or centuries.

"Food is an integral part of American culture. By tracing the evolution of American cuisine, we can learn a lot about our country's immigrant history. Even quintessentially American foods like pretzels and hot dogs have immigrant origins," said Annie Polland, Vice President of Education at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. "The Lower East Side is the perfect place to tell these stories. With dozens of different nationalities sharing this neighborhood, you can find restaurants, shops and markets selling foods from all over the world."

The tour will cover a broad range of topics. Participants will engage in a conversation about what food means to them, their favorite childhood food memories, how they make choices about what to eat and their associations with foods of various origins. This dialogue will challenge participants' assumptions about immigrant food and immigrants themselves, blurring the lines between "us" and "them" and revealing that immigrants and native-born citizens have always created American culture together, each enriching the other.

Foods of the Lower East Side is one of several new offerings in a year of exciting change for the Museum. In July of 2011, the Museum will open the Sadie Samuelson Levy Immigrant Heritage Center, a new visitor center and museum shop located across the street from its current visitor center. The Center will house expanded, state-of-the-art facilities including a demonstration kitchen, learning gallery and screening room.

In early 2012, the Museum will open *Shop Life,* a new exhibition at 97 Orchard Street which explores the histories of the businesses which were located in the building throughout the 19th and 20th-centuries. As the Museum grows in order to meet the needs of its expanding constituency, it will continue to develop new programs exploring the American immigrant experience.

Tour Details
What: "Taste of the Lower East Side"
When: Fridays and Saturdays at 1 p.m. beginning Friday, June 24
Cost: $45 for General Public; $22 for Museum Members
Tickets will be available online at www.tenement.org

About the Tenement Museum
The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, founded in 1988, is located in a landmarked tenement building at 97 Orchard Street. The building was home to more than 7,000 immigrants from more than 20 nations between 1863 and 1935. Anchored in a neighborhood that has long been home to thousands of poor and working class people, the Tenement Museum is dedicated to using the history of its site as a tool for addressing issues that are still pressing today, including immigration. In 2008 the Museum was honored with the Preserve America Presidential Award and the National Medal for Museum Service.

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