



A small replica of a longhouse is displayed on the second floor of the Ska-nonh Great Law of Peace Center, on Onondaga Lake Parkway. The site of the former Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois will open Saturday. (Michael Greenlar / mgrenlar@syracuse.com)

SNEAK PEEK

Ska-nonh Great Law of Peace Center to open Saturday

By Sarah Moses
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The Ska-nonh Great Law of Peace Center is set to open to the public on Saturday.

Ska-nonh, at the site of the former Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois, will celebrate Haudenosaunee culture from the perspective of the Haudenosaunee people. The Haudenosaunee, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy, include the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora nations.

Sainte Marie among the Iroquois was a living history museum that told the story of the Haudenosaunee from the perspective of the French Jesuits as they encountered the indigenous people along the shore of Onondaga Lake in the 17th century. The fort was only in use from 1656 to 1658. "There is a bigger story to tell," said Ska-nonh

Director Phil Arnold.

Arnold, a Native American studies professor at Syracuse University, said the new center will tell the story of Haudenosaunee including the Thanksgiving Address, the creation story and the Great Law of Peace. The center will also highlight the history of Native American/European contact and the Haudenosaunee contributions to the American way of life, including lacrosse, women's rights, food, democracy and the environment.

Ska-nonh is pronounced like "SCAN-oh" and it is a greeting in the Onondaga language that means peace and wellness.

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Figures represent Hiawatha, left, and the Peace Maker at the Ska-nonh Great Law of Peace Center on Onondaga Lake Parkway. (Michael Greenlar / mgrenlar@syracuse.com)