



FREEDOM MUSEUM FACT SHEET

Mission

The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum seeks to inspire visitors to better understand freedom and value the role the First Amendment plays in protecting freedom for future generations.

Overview

Opening April 11, 2006, the Freedom Museum is the nation's first museum dedicated to helping people - especially teenagers - understand freedom, with a focus on those guaranteed by the First Amendment. The museum offers highly interactive exhibits that engage, excite and encourage visitors to learn, ask questions and seek answers.

An emphasis on contemporary issues enables visitors to better understand the role the First Amendment plays in our daily lives. Whether it's through sampling banned music or learning how Homewood-Flossmoor High School students fought for their First Amendment rights, the museum aims to make freedom and the First Amendment relevant to visitors.

The museum was created and funded by the McCormick Tribune Foundation to commemorate its 50th anniversary and continue its commitment to children, communities and country. The museum was also inspired by the passion of the foundation's benefactor Col. Robert R. McCormick, longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. An ardent supporter of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, McCormick maintained a strong belief in the responsibility of citizens to participate in, preserve and protect our democratic society.

Visitor Experience

The Freedom Museum takes interactive exhibits to the next level through strong visuals, compelling stories and active participation in the museum experience. Visitors can express, share and compare their thoughts and opinions through deliberative polls, creating their own Bill of Rights and recording their freedom thoughts for all to see and hear. It is through this participation that dialogue and healthy debate occurs throughout the museum.

Balanced and unbiased information allows visitors to come to their own conclusions about freedom. Exhibits present Supreme Court Cases, scenarios and multiple viewpoints that encourage visitors to make choices, determine where they stand on issues and recognize the limits they place on freedom.

Overall, the visitor will have the opportunity to explore freedom in ways that are approachable, relevant, engaging and interactive.

Target Audience

The Freedom Museum is designed for middle and high school students. However, people of all generations will find the information engaging and insightful.

Education Program

The Freedom Museum serves as an educational resource for teachers and students by offering a comprehensive education program that includes curricula, field trips, student quests and teacher seminars. An online extension of the museum, www.FreedomMuseum.US, features engaging and interactive ideas for students and teachers, as well as online exhibits, programs and general information.

Field Trips and School Group Tours

Museum admission is free for school groups that schedule their visits in advance. Educational materials for teachers are available at www.FreedomMuseum.US, enabling school groups to study freedom issues in the classroom before visiting the museum.

Size

The Freedom Museum covers two floors and offers 10,000 square feet of interactive exhibit space.

Clayton Kirkpatrick Gallery

The Clayton Kirkpatrick Gallery houses temporary exhibitions and museum programs to further shape and diversify discourse on freedom. The inaugural exhibit, “For Which It Stands,” debuts Memorial Day weekend 2006. Curated by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, the exhibit explores the diverse and often contested meanings of our national symbol – the American flag.

Hours of Operation

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, except Tuesdays and select holidays. Final tickets will be sold at 5:30 p.m.

Admission

Admission is \$5 for adults and children over five. Children five and under, pre-scheduled school groups and active military with identification are free.

Location

The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum is located at 445 N. Michigan Avenue in the landmark Tribune Tower in downtown Chicago. The Tribune Tower is just north of the Chicago River and the Michigan Avenue Bridge on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, close to other cultural attractions and some of the world's best shopping.

Parking

Although the museum encourages people to take advantage of the various public transportation options, it is conveniently located in downtown Chicago within close proximity to several parking garages, including:

- The Equitable Building, 401 N. Michigan Ave., (indoor garage)
- 201 East Illinois (outdoor lot)
- NBC Tower, 455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive (indoor garage)
- Ogden Plaza self-park, 310 East North Water Street (indoor garage)

Facilities Rental

The museum may be rented out for special events. For more information, please call 312.222.4860

www.FreedomMuseum.US

The Freedom Museum's virtual destination complements and enhances the physical museum experience. This dynamic and engaging Web site offers exclusive online exhibits, activities that captivate imagination and explore freedom in new ways, educational resources for students and children, ways to get involved in protecting freedom, as well as information and resources pertaining to a museum visit.

Contact Information

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www.FreedomMuseum.US

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