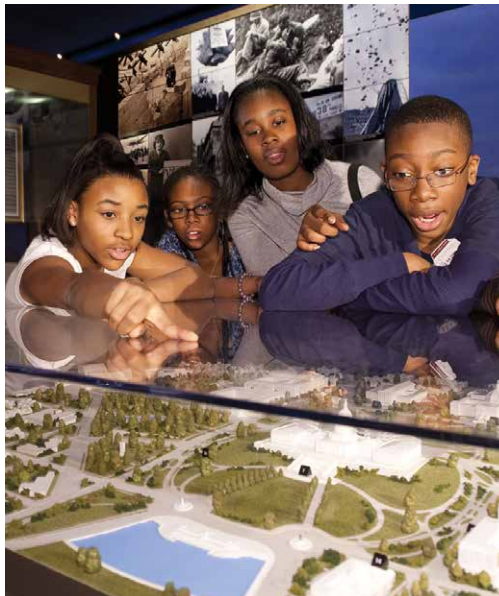


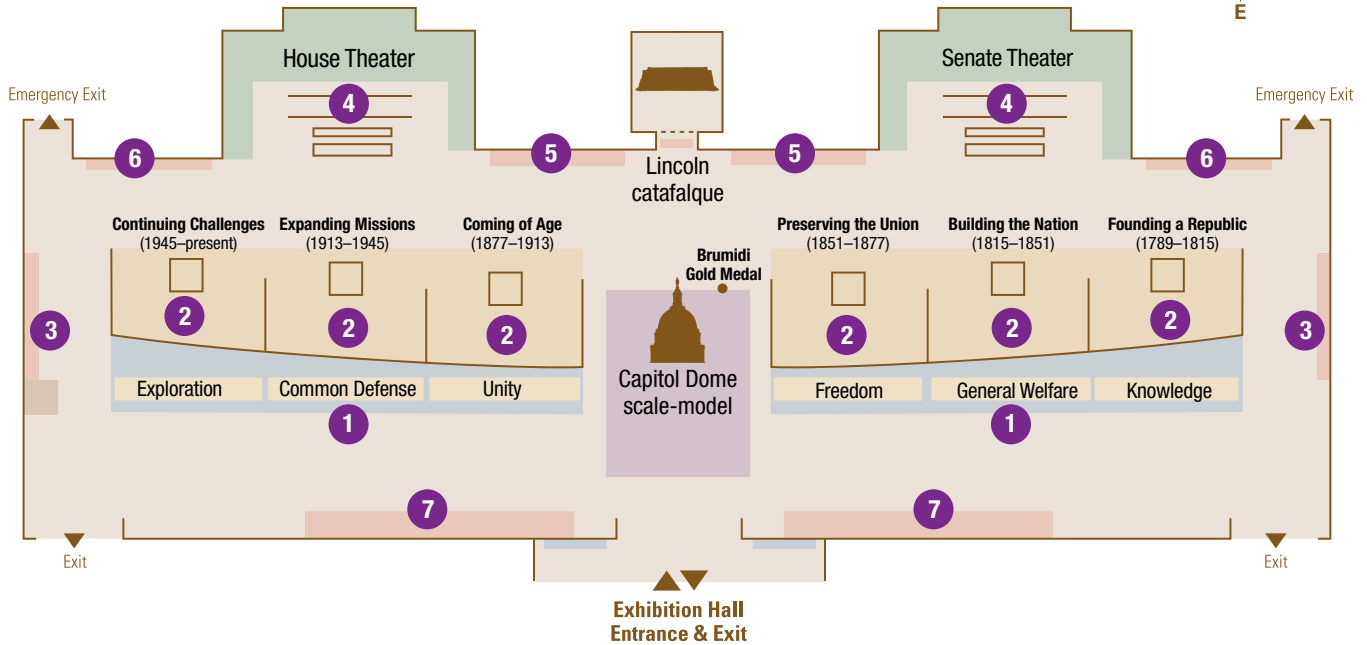
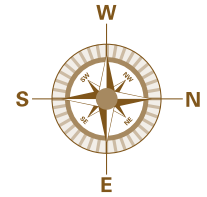
U.S. Capitol Visitor Center EXHIBITION HALL



U.S. CAPITOL
visitor center

Exhibition Hall

Exhibition Hall is located on the lower level of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center behind the 19.5-foot-tall plaster model for the Statue of Freedom.



1 A More Perfect Union

illustrates the role of Congress in defining and helping to realize national goals and aspirations. Treasured documents from the National Archives and the Library of Congress trace the journey toward “a more perfect union” through the actions of Congress. The exhibit is arranged in six thematic sections — Exploration, Common Defense, Unity, Freedom, General Welfare, and Knowledge.

2 History of Congress and the Capitol

tells the story, in six chronological sections, of how Congress and the Capitol have grown and evolved with the country. Original artifacts, images, videos, architectural models, and artwork illustrate the history of the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the Capitol’s art and architecture. *See diagram on next page for details on how each alcove is designed.*

3 The Constitution and Congress

acknowledges the foundations of Congress in the Constitution, outlines the distinct roles of the House and the Senate, and explains the three branches of government.

4 The House and Senate Theaters

provide live feeds from the floor of the House and Senate whenever they are in session. These theaters also present brief films about the differing operations of the two bodies of Congress.

5 The Nation’s Stage

highlights the role of the Capitol as the setting for inaugurations, funerals, presidential messages, visits by foreign leaders, parades, and protests. It also provides a special setting for one of the most poignant objects in the Capitol, the catafalque (the platform upon which President Lincoln’s casket rested in the Rotunda).



6 Behind the Scenes

displays historical and contemporary images that tell the story of the staff who keep Capitol Hill working. From pages and police, to groundskeepers and Members’ staffs, it looks at the “city within a city” that is the Capitol complex.

7 Your Congress/Your Capitol Interactive Area

uses interactive stations to provide answers to important questions such as “What happens here at the Capitol?”; “How can I participate?”; “Who are my representatives and how can I reach them?” The interactive stations also allow you to take a virtual tour of the art and architecture of the Capitol.

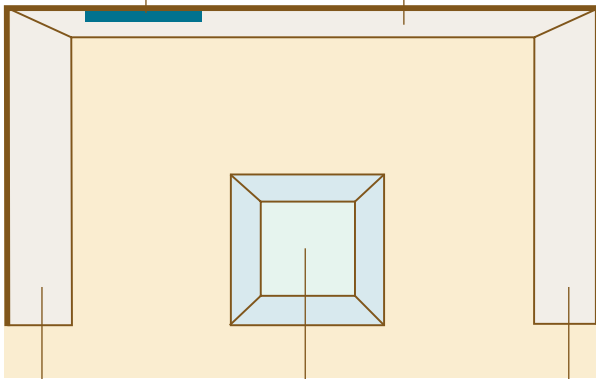


2 HISTORY OF CONGRESS AND THE CAPITOL ALCOVES

Six chronological alcoves tell the story of how Congress and the Capitol have grown and evolved with the country. The detail below explains what each alcove showcases.

A **video** highlights important legislation passed by Congress during the years showcased in this alcove.

Wall of photographs and objects related to major events of the time that prompted Congress to act.



The left display case highlights activities and members of the **Senate**.

The right display case highlights activities and members of the **House of Representatives**.

A **scale model** of the Capitol and Grounds that shows their expansion and architectural history.

Exhibition Hall is home to *E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many One*, an exhibition that tells the story of the United States Congress and the Capitol.


Experience Exhibition Hall in three ways:

- Walk through the exhibit using this brochure as a guide.
- Use your cell phone for a guided visit by calling 202.595.1187.
- Visit Exhibition Hall online at www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions.





Exhibition Hall Cell Phone Tour

- 1 Enter the cell phone tour number: 202.595.1187
- 2 Look for a number like this 
- 3 Enter the number, followed by the # (pound) sign

- The tour begins at stop number one (1), the plaster model for the Statue of Freedom, directly in front of Exhibition Hall.
- This audio tour is also available in languages other than English through handheld audio devices, which are available at the Information Desks in Emancipation Hall.
- To leave a comment about the tour, enter 0 followed by the # (pound) sign at any time during the tour.

The Capitol Visitor Center does not charge a fee for this tour, but you will use your cell phone plan minutes, and your cell phone company may apply other usage charges.

AUDIO DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

There is an audio descriptive tour of Exhibition Hall that is designed for visitors who are blind or have low vision. This tour covers 39 stops within Exhibition Hall and includes updated information on the documents.

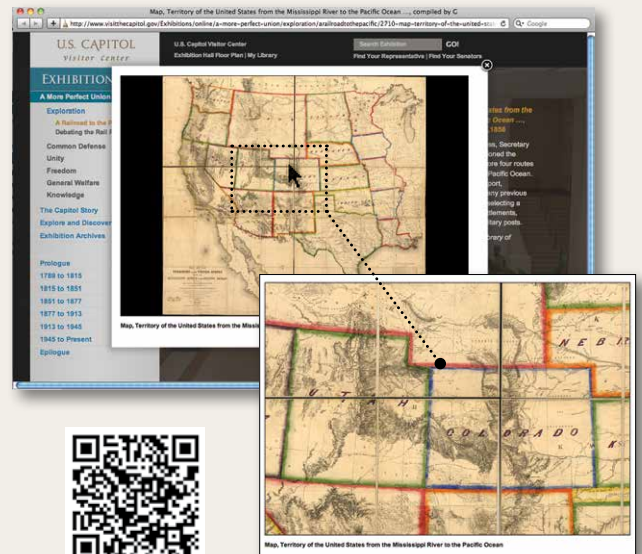
Visitors may access the tour on a device available for check-out at the North Information Desk in Emancipation Hall.

Visitors may also download the tour onto their own personal device from www.visitthecapitol.gov.



Exhibition Hall Online

Explore the Capitol Visitor Center's online exhibition. Find out more about the fascinating artifacts and documents in Exhibition Hall that tell the story of the history of Congress and the building of the Capitol at www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibit.



To read this code, download a free QR reader app on your smart phone.

Get a closer view of documents on display with the "zoom" feature.

The United States Capitol is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Inauguration Day.

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