

Freedom Express Traveling Museum

Museum Map v1.0

F: Faces of Freedom

This exhibit features artifacts that help tell the story of several historic individuals who asserted their First Amendment rights to challenge social norms and shape history in the United States. These individuals formed coalitions with others and were part of movements, bigger than themselves, to create change.

Featured individuals:

Sequoyah (Native American rights)
Martin Luther King (Civil rights)
Mary Tsukamoto (Immigrant rights)
Sojourner Truth (Abolition of slavery)
Alice Paul (Women's suffrage)
Eugene Debs (Workers' rights)

E: The Struggle Continues

This touch-screen interactive highlights six current and controversial debates: smokers' rights, gun rights, property rights, disability rights, gay marriage, and abortion. The exhibit demonstrates how people use their First Amendment rights to express their views on these topics and others.

D: Defining Freedom

Through flip-panels, visitors learn that the First Amendment is anything but clear-cut, and it can be interpreted differently based on the circumstances of a particular situation. Limits to our First Amendment freedoms are consistently challenged by individuals and re-defined by legislation and the courts. Some of these panels refer to Supreme Court decisions featured in the *You Be the Judge* (C) exhibit.

C: You Be the Judge

From time to time, people of all ages test the limits of the First Amendment by advancing issues to the Supreme Court for consideration. This touch-screen interactive allows visitors to learn the facts surrounding five landmark First Amendment cases. Visitors assume the role of a Supreme Court justice, analyzing the facts of the case before handing down their own ruling.

Religion: *Westside School District v. Mergens* (1990)

Speech: *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969)

Press: *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964)

Assembly: *Gregory v. Chicago* (1969)

Petition: *Brown v. Louisiana* (1966)

B: The Founding Documents

Using a touch-screen interactive, visitors can view the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. Each document features 'hot spots' where visitors can explore the deeper meaning behind select passages.

touchscreen

touchscreen w/ audio

artifact case

hands on

film

A: The Founding Generation

Here visitors can listen to members of the founding generation engaging in a debate over whether or not a Bill of Rights should be added to the U.S. Constitution.

G: Marketplace of Ideas

This film explores the concept of a 'marketplace of ideas', a public forum wherein ideas are shared, tested, adopted or rejected through discussion and debate. The First Amendment allows us to participate in this marketplace, but it is up to us to make sure we do so responsibly. The film chronicles events that unfolded at Homewood-Flossmoor High School in 2005 when two student groups wore t-shirts expressing opposing perspectives on homosexuality.

H: Censorship: What Is It?

This hands-on exhibit defines censorship as a government denying free expression. It addresses the difference between government censorship and private suppression of speech through art works, books, and films both from the U.S. and other countries.

I: Musical Hit List

Visitors can listen to music that was banned or censored by radio stations and stores between the 1950s and 2000s out of a concern for the common good. The examples provided illustrate how standards of decency have changed over time.

J: Draw the Line

Since we all have a unique set of values and experiences, each of us has our own perspective on where the First Amendment's limits should be drawn regarding violence, national security, obscenity and indecency, and hate speech. These two touch-screen interactives allow visitors to 'draw the line' on these timely issues:

How do you define indecency on radio and television?

When does hateful speech become unlawful action?

Do young people need to be protected from violent video games?

How can we protect the troops without abridging freedom of press?

Welcome to the Freedom Express!

The Freedom Express is a traveling museum that explores the five freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, which are guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It is available at no charge to visit middle schools, high schools, and community events throughout Chicagoland (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties). Visitors can explore interactive exhibits that illustrate how the First Amendment enables a healthy democracy, where we can freely exchange ideas, consider multiple perspectives, and act on issues that matter to us.