



DID YOU KNOW?

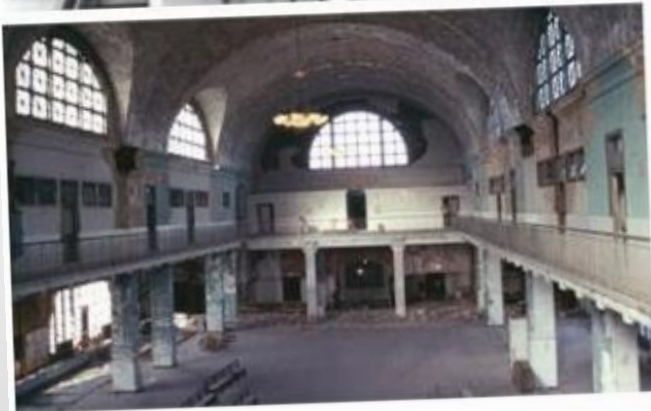
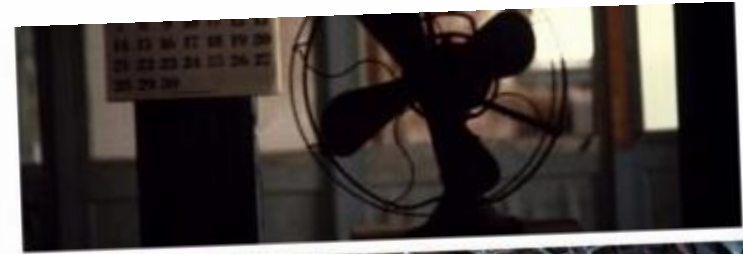
Origins of the
Statue of Liberty

- The Foundation was established in **1982** to **raise funds** for and **manage the restoration** of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Islands for their respective centennials
- Ongoing efforts focus on **preserving** the two landmarks and pursuing a range of **educational and community building initiatives** to create meaningful connections between island visitors and American history
- The Foundation has raised about \$800 million, all from private donations (**no government money**)
- In addition to the centennial restorations, the Foundation has funded and managed **more than 200 projects**, large and small



Statue of Liberty Restoration Project: 1982 - 1986





Ellis Island Restoration Project: 1986 - 1990



- Liberty Island welcomes 4.3 million visitors annually (pre-COVID)
- Enhanced safety measures limit the visitor experience:
 - Only 20% of visitors can access the Statue's pedestal, which was home to the original museum
 - The crown is accessible to about 5% of visitors
- The Foundation and its National Park Service partners collaborated to **create an educational experience that all visitors could enjoy**

- Opened May 16, 2019
- Building is 26,000 square feet (2,415 square meters)
- Three gallery spaces:
 - Immersive Theater – 10-minute, multimedia film in three parts providing an overview of the Statue’s origins, construction, and symbolism
 - Engagement Gallery – builds upon the theater’s content through artifacts and interactive displays
 - Inspiration Gallery – home to the Statue’s original torch and the “Becoming Liberty” experience, which invites visitors to reflect on what they learned from the museum and to continue exploring the meaning of liberty

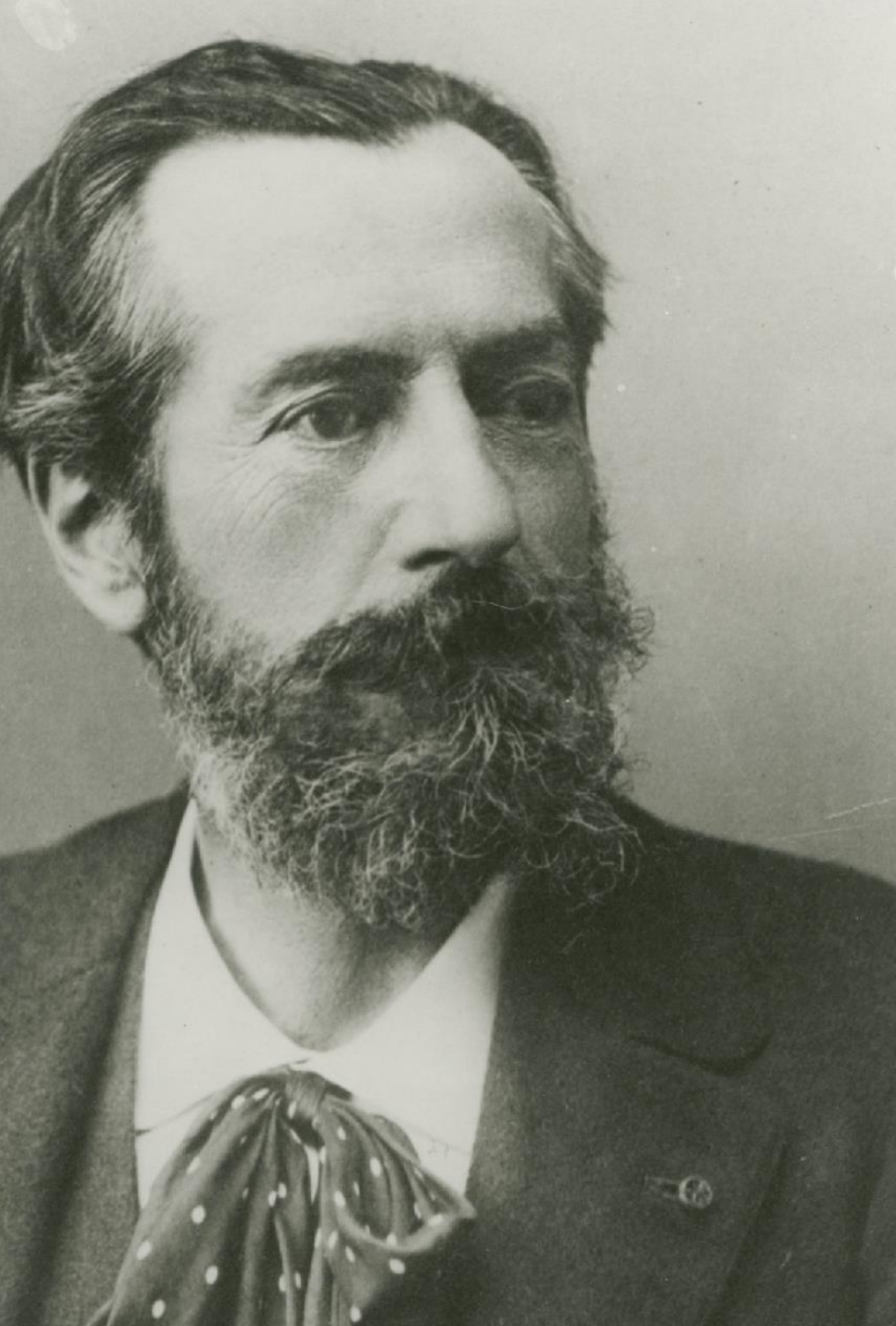


Imagining Liberty: The Visionary

Édouard René Lefèbvre de Laboulaye (1811-1883)

- President of the French Anti-Slavery Society; helped persuade France not to support the Confederacy during the US Civil War
- Scholar of US history, well-known for his pamphlets defending the Union cause, his abolitionist stance, and his support for President Lincoln
- To Laboulaye, the United States represented what France could be if the country were to live up to the ideal of liberty
- He wanted to present a gift from the people of France to the people of the US that celebrated liberty and commemorated the centennial of the American Declaration of Independence and conclusion of the Civil War, which led to the abolition of slavery





Imagining Liberty: The Sculptor

Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904)

- French sculptor driven by a passion for colossal works

“My only ambition has been to engrave my name at the feet of great men and in the service of grand ideas”
- In designing *Liberty Enlightening the World* (the Statue’s official title), Bartholdi gave new meaning to classical symbols so that each of the sculpture’s attributes expressed a contemporary notion of liberty
 - Bartholdi referenced images of the Roman goddess Libertas, who traditionally wore of ‘Phrygian’ cap, the headgear of a freed Roman slave. The cap’s symbolism had been revived during the bloody French Revolution, so Bartholdi replaced this cap with a seven-rayed sunburst symbolizing reason and enlightenment
 - The tablet represented the law and was an homage to the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence.
 - Chains broken under the Statue’s foot signify the emancipation of the enslaved and the end of tyranny

The New York Times

New Statue of Liberty Museum Illuminates a Forgotten History

The museum, opening Thursday on Liberty Island, reminds visitors of the vague and often dubious ideal of “liberty for all.”

Recognizing the need to focus on more than just the vague and often dubious ideal of American “liberty,” the museum’s designers highlight the doubts of black Americans and women who saw their personal liberties compromised on a daily basis in the 1880s, when the statue opened. They also spotlight a bit of history that is often forgotten: that the French creators intended the statue as a commemoration of the abolition of slavery in the United States.

The museum doesn’t shy away from the fact that this symbol of “universal liberty” was far from a reality for people of color and women during the late 19th century and for decades afterward.



The Crown , with its seven rays, was inspired by Helios, the Greek god of the sun, and represents shining a cleansing light on the world

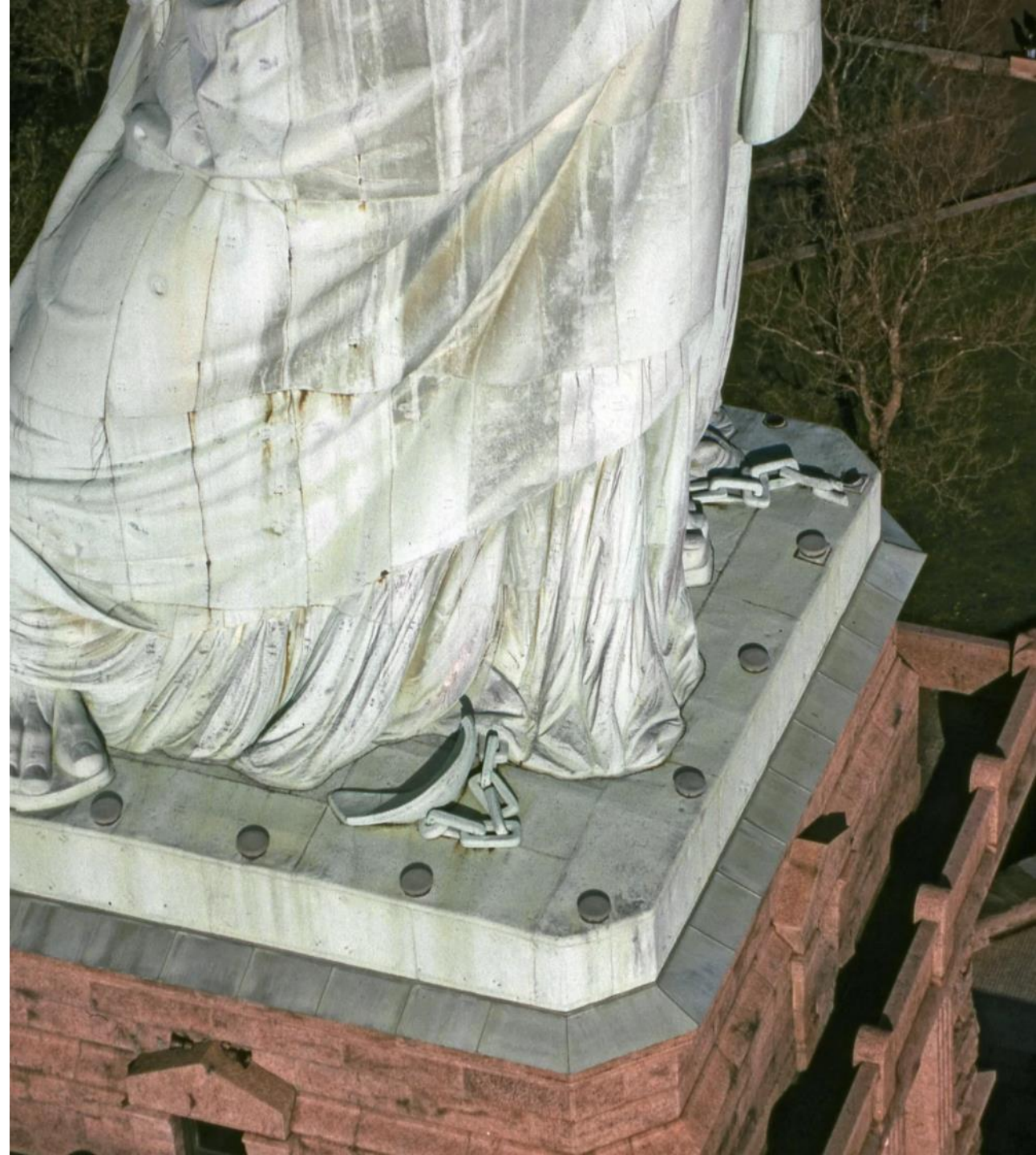
The Tablet represents Law and commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)



The Torch also symbolizes the sun – a beacon of enlightenment shining brightly by day and glowing at night



Broken shackles represent the end of servitude and oppression

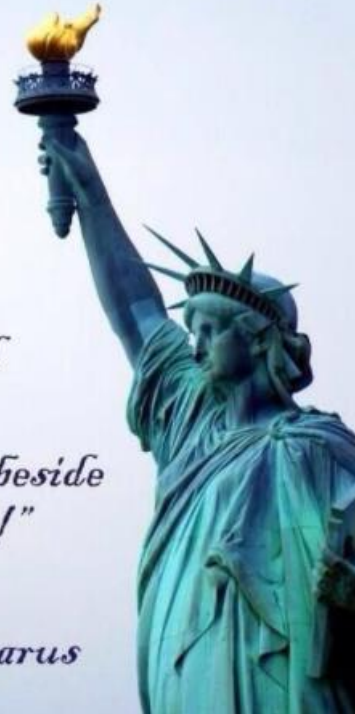




*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free,
The wretched
refuse of your
teeming shore.*

*Send these,
the homeless,
tempest-tossed
to me,
I lift my lamp beside
the golden door!"*

~ Emma Lazarus





The Engagement Gallery: Continued Quest for Liberty

For many Americans, the Statue continues to represent an idea that is fundamental to their sense of identity as individuals and as a nation.

Yet there is a continued tension between the declared commitment to liberty and the persistence of its unequal distribution in the United States and beyond.

At times, the Statue represents strength and resilience. At other times, it is a reminder of injustice.

The stories of the people who have used the Statue's image for patriotism, protest, or profit reveal possible answers to the question "What is liberty?"



Immersive Theater

The Statue of Liberty is at once an emblem of America's highest ideals and the deep ironies of our history: Broken shackles, but the legacy of slavery is still very real in 1886 [when the monument was dedicated]



The Engagement Gallery: Opening Ceremony



The Statue of Liberty appears through the fog and smoke, as a flotilla of boats pass in celebration of her dedication, Oct. 28, 1886 NPS Collection

Thousands of dignitaries assembled on Liberty Island and in NY Harbor, along with millions lining the waterfronts of Manhattan, Brooklyn and NJ

“We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home... [her] light shall pierce the darkness of ignorance and man’s oppression until liberty enlightens the world.”

-President Grover Cleveland, October 28, 1886

“In erecting a Statue of Liberty embodied as a woman in a land where no woman has political liberty, men have shown a delightful inconsistency...”

–Lillie Deveraux Blake

President of the NY State Woman Suffrage Association

“Shove the Bartholdi Statue, torch and all, into the ocean until the ‘liberty’ of this country [exists for the] colored man.”

–The African American-owned *Cleveland Gazette*, November 27, 1886

The Engagement Gallery: Embracing Liberty

African American artist Charles Alston was hired by the Office of War Information to create patriotic sketches for black newspapers.

The black press remained ambivalent about the war effort during WWII, given racism and inequality at home and the continued segregation of the US Armed Forces abroad.



The National Archives

**The
Engagement
Gallery:**

**Continued
Quest for
Liberty**



September 9, 1908

Puck magazine cover pollutes the likeness of the Statue of Liberty to call attention to the widespread lynchings, disenfranchisement, segregation, and poverty that African Americans experienced after the Civil War.



The Engagement Gallery: Continued Quest for Liberty

“Lady Liberty Please Know Thy Self,” a mural by Megan Lewis in Baltimore, MD

Singer and activist Harry Belafonte (1960) speaking at a civil rights rally

Inspiration Gallery: Becoming Liberty:

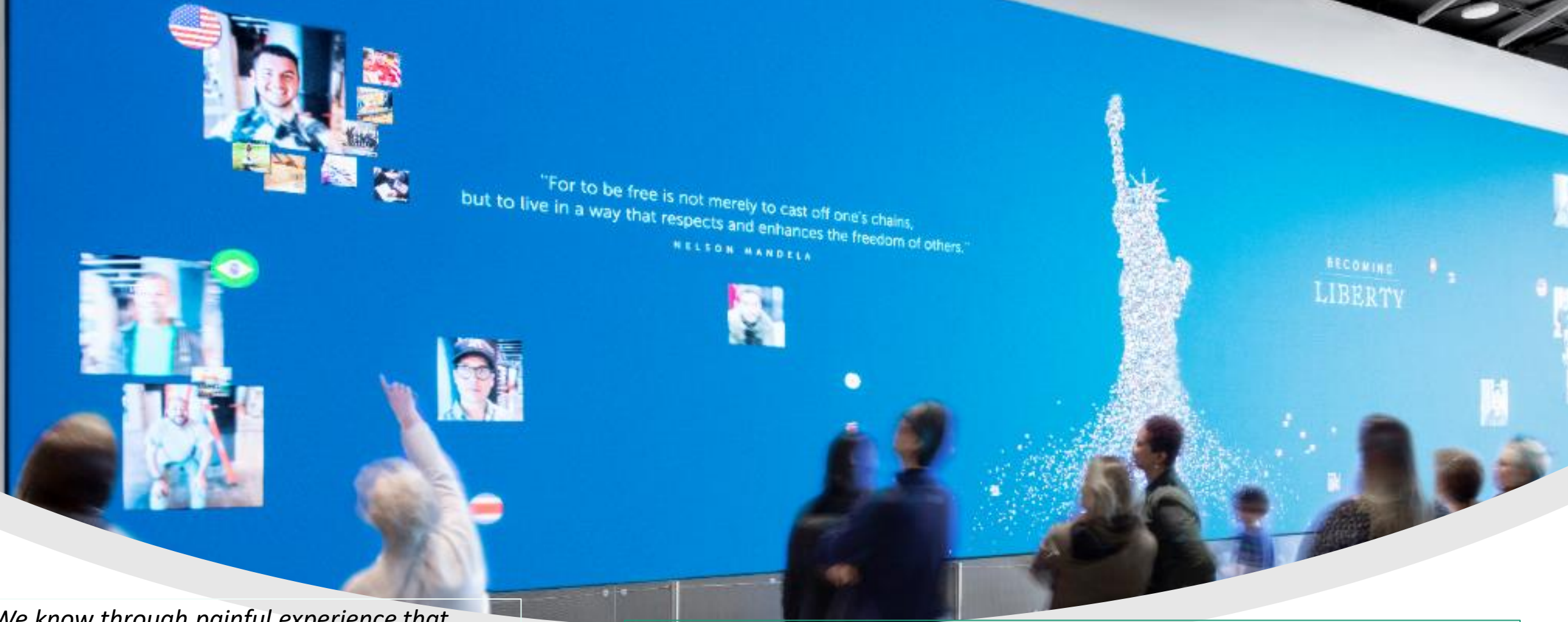
An interactive kiosk inviting visitors to select images and words that reflect what liberty means to them and inspiring continued exploration and contemplation of the Statue's history and themes



BECOMING
LIBERTY

“O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.” – Langston Hughes

I'll tell you what Freedom is to me. No fear. – Nina Simone



We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. – Martin Luther King

I had reasoned this out in my mind, there were two things I had a right to, liberty and death. If I could not have one, I would have the other...
– Harriet Tubman



Resources:

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation website: www.statueofliberty.org

The National Park Service website: www.nps.gov/stli

The Bob Hope Library at Ellis Island: <https://www.nps.gov/elis/learn/historyculture/collections.htm>

Museum Management Program of the National Park Services:
https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/statue_liberty/imagining_liberty.html

The New York Times:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/15/arts/design/statue-of-liberty-museum.html?searchResultPosition=1>

“The Monumental Dream” by Robert Belot (Rizzoli)

Dr. Alan Kraut: Distinguished Professor History, American University; Chair of the Foundation's History Advisory Committee

Statue of Liberty Museum & the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration Exhibits and audio tours

Events?: contact Patti Golden, Evelyn Hill pgolden@ehillgroup.com



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