

America on the Move Washington DC

At 26,000 square feet America on the Move is the largest exhibit gallery at the National Museum of American History. The story hangs on the sociological impact of how transportation developed in America—and how people shaped that story. It was critical to the lighting design team that significant artifact conservation limits not dilute the dramatic visitor experience. By creatively managing darkness, highlight & shadow conservator requirements were met without reducing the gallery to a mundane mono-chromatic sea of light.



Lighting plays a key role in defining place and time within a number of theatrically inspired dioramas. Several dynamic lighting shows enliven the space with subtly kinetic lighting effects such as: clouds rolling across a sky, shifts in time of day, and an amusing trail of postcards that sequentially appear and disappear across the face of a billboard. A sophisticated video, audio and lighting production explores the contemporary theme of global transportation and the resultant cultural connections.

This project was awarded a 2005 International Illumination Design Award.

Exhibit Design: Museum Design Associates

Completed: 2003

Photos By: Dave Seibert

