

# Reynolds Educational Center

Mount Vernon VA

The challenge for the Reynolds Center at Mt. Vernon was clear: keep George Washington exciting for current generations of Americans. 17,000 sq. ft. of underground exhibit space, 15 galleries and three state-of-the-art multimedia theatre experiences deal with Washington's character, actions, and legacy.

The Boston Globe said, "... if it makes an extraordinary person unforgettable and lights a flame to learn more, it's showbiz at its best." Available Light drew on its extensive knowledge of integrating theatrical lighting techniques in architectural environments to support the wide-ranging array of exhibit presentation:



from the three forensically recreated Washington figures, bathed in dramatic and naturalistic light, to the 4-D theatres that fully immersed audiences in video, light, smoke, snow and battlefield explosions. There are also highly sensitive artifacts (such as a set of George's dentures) requiring precise, yet engaging, conservation lighting techniques. USA Today wrote, "There's enough to compel the attention of the most history-phobic child or adult."

Exhibit Design: Christopher Chadbourne & Associates & Museum Design Associates

Completed: 2007

Award: Winner of a 2008 Themed Entertainment Association Award for Outstanding Achievement