

American Presidency: A Glorious Burden

National Museum of American History, Washington DC

This 7,500-square-foot Presidency exhibit explores a wide range of topics related to presidential life, duties, and responsibilities.

The highlight of the exhibition is the magnificent collection of artifacts, drawn from the Smithsonian's own collections, private donors, and from other museums. Items include Grant's Inaugural Carriage, Lincoln's hat and the contents of his pockets on the night of his assassination, George Washington's uniform (pictured at right), and an original chandelier from the White House.

The challenge for us was to create a visual environment that met the strict criteria set by conservation curators, while providing an energetic and engaging experience for the guest. We worked to create a variety of looks through the use of multiple layers of light, transition zones, and colored ambient light. Low intensities of light at the artifacts were designed to protect these national treasures.



Exhibit Design: Designed under contract to both Gallagher & Associates and Design & Production, Inc.

Completed: 2000