

## About the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

One of Boston's most popular tourist attractions, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum has hosted more than six million visitors from around the world.

The financial support of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is a model of public/private partnership. The Library is supported by the American people through federal appropriations; fees generated by admission to the Museum, the Museum Store, and the use of the event facilities; and through the generosity of thousands of individuals and corporations who donate money and in-kind services to support the Library's mission.

The Library's research facilities are among the busiest of presidential libraries accommodating over 2,000 researcher visits each year. The Library's Archives include more than 5 million pages of the personal, congressional and presidential papers of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. It also houses the papers of Robert F. Kennedy and more than 400 other individuals who were associated with the Kennedy Administration or mid-20th century American history. The Ernest Hemingway Collection, which holds approximately 90 percent of all the Nobel Prize winner's manuscripts, is also housed in the Library Archives. In addition to these papers, the Archives holds approximately 500,000 photographs, 12,000 reels of sound recordings, 5,000 video tapes, 1.5 million feet of motion picture film, and 25,000 volumes of printed materials.

The Kennedy Presidential Library also seeks to promote, through a wide variety of community and educational programs, a greater appreciation and understanding of American politics, history and culture; the process of governing, and the importance of public service. On average, more than 40,000 individuals annually attend the Library's educational and community programs.

As President Kennedy said, "We celebrate the past to awaken the future." We hope your experience today provides you with new insights into the history and politics of his era, and that you are inspired by President Kennedy's vision that one person can make a difference, and every person should try.

# JOHN F. KENNEDY

## PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



Welcome to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, the nation's official memorial to John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States. The Kennedy Family chose Columbia Point as the site for the late President's Library, as it overlooks the sea that President Kennedy loved and the city that launched him to greatness. To capture this breathtaking view, Mrs. Kennedy selected I.M. Pei as the architect for the Library.

Though Pei was relatively unknown, she viewed him as filled with promise and imagination.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, built with private donations from 36 million people from around the world, was dedicated on October 20, 1979. The Kennedy Library is one of thirteen Presidential Libraries managed by the National Archives and Records Administration, and the only one located in New England.



*Photo: Mark Shaw*



The Museum utilizes high definition, large-screen projections and interactive displays to bring to life the iconic speeches and debates that showcase President Kennedy's life, leadership and legacy. We invite you to step into the early 1960's and the Kennedy White House, where you will experience the power of President Kennedy's words and actions inspiring Americans to great achievements and service to their country.

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## JOHN F. KENNEDY

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

[www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org)

## ★ Theater Lobby and Introductory Film

Before entering the theater, explore “Young Jack,” an exhibit highlighting President Kennedy’s life before politics, covering his childhood, education, military service, and brief stint as a journalist.

### 1. Convention

Take the exit at the front of the theater to the sights and sounds of the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles where, on July 13, 1960, Senator John F. Kennedy became his party’s choice to be the 35th President of the United States.

### 2. The Campaign Trail

An appliance and a variety store offer a glimpse of “Main Street, USA” in 1960. Then through historic news and film footage, accompany Senator John F. Kennedy and Vice President Richard M. Nixon along the campaign trail as they take their case to the people.

### 3. Campaign Office

A storefront campaign office displays the paraphernalia of the Kennedy/Johnson campaign.

### 4. The Kennedy-Nixon Debate

Watch excerpts from the September, 1960 Kennedy-Nixon debate, America’s first televised presidential debate.

### 5. Election Results

Follow the election night returns from one of the nation’s closest presidential elections, November 8, 1960.

### 6. Inauguration

Watch President Kennedy deliver his inaugural address and learn how the speech was written.

### 7. White House Corridor

After the Inauguration, pass by the presidential seal and follow President and Mrs. Kennedy into the White House. Along a corridor reminiscent of its interior are displayed items illustrating the style and atmosphere of the Kennedy White House.

## 8. The Briefing Room

In an interactive display, get briefed by advisers on the leading issues of the day, then try answering actual questions posed to President Kennedy by members of the press. Watch footage from the President’s press briefings to see his responses.

### 9. Space Program

In 1961, JFK pledged that America would land a man on the moon before the end of the decade. This gallery features the original, Mercury space capsule, *Freedom 7*, piloted by Alan Shepard, the first American to travel in space, and chronicles the course charted by President Kennedy to make the United States the world leader in space exploration.

### 10. Peace Corps

A hallmark innovation of the Kennedy administration, the Peace Corps sent Americans to developing countries to volunteer in the struggle against poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and disease; and to encourage mutual understanding between them and the people of other nations and cultures. Hear President Kennedy speaking to one of the earliest groups of volunteers just before their departure overseas, and see them working in various locations.

### 11. Cuban Missile Crisis Theater

Every 20 minutes, the 14-minute film, *To the Brink*, portrays the most dangerous episode of the Cold War, a nuclear standoff between the U.S. and the Soviet Union that lasted 13 days. The final showing begins at 4:20 p.m.

### 12. Strategy of Peace

This exhibit highlights the 1963 Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, signed less than a year after the Cuban Missile Crisis, and considered by the President to be one of his most important achievements. Also featured is his historic 1963 Commencement Address at American University in which he spoke of a “strategy of peace,” rather than war.

### 13. Ceremonial and State Events

President and Mrs. Kennedy celebrated American history, culture, and achievement on social and diplomatic occasions. They brought an innovative spirit to ceremonial and state events, enhancing the role of the arts in national life, as portrayed in the exhibit here.

## 14. Office of the Attorney General

In a space suggestive of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy’s Justice Department office, learn of the role the President’s brother played as the nation’s chief law officer fighting racial segregation and organized crime.

### 15. Facing a Moral Crisis -JFK and Civil Rights

The dramatic events of the civil rights movement that led to President Kennedy’s historic address to the nation on June 11, 1963, and the efforts to pass comprehensive civil rights legislation come to life in this interactive display.

### 16. The Oval Office

In an exhibit filled with President Kennedy’s furnishings from the Oval Office, watch him deliver his historic report to the nation on civil rights, in which he defined racial discrimination as a “moral issue” for the country.

### 17. The First Lady

This exhibit highlights Jacqueline Kennedy’s early life, as well as her substantive achievements as First Lady. Her contributions to the field of historic preservation, her advocacy for the arts, and her innovations in White House entertaining are illustrated in this exhibit, which includes an interactive display focusing on Mrs. Kennedy’s work as First Lady and highlights items from the Library’s collections that are too fragile to display.

### 18. The Kennedy Family

Artifacts, photographs, and “home movies” captured by White House photographers portray the family life of President Kennedy.

### 19. Advocacy for People with Intellectual Disabilities

President Kennedy was deeply involved in the effort to improve the circumstances of people like his sister Rosemary, who had an intellectual disability. Along with his sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, JFK brought the issue to the forefront of public discussion and policy reform.

### 20. JFK and Vietnam

Listen to President Kennedy’s audio recording of November 4, 1963, made just days after the coup in South Vietnam, in which he reveals his thoughts on the coup and the role played by the United States.

## 21. President Kennedy’s Trip to Berlin and Ireland, June 1963

Standing at the Berlin Wall, JFK delivered one of his most celebrated speeches, paying tribute to the spirit of Berliners and their quest for freedom. He then left for Ireland, his ancestral homeland, where he was welcomed in an outpouring of emotion, like a returning son. Film footage, photographs, and artifacts bring these events to life.

### 22. November 22, 1963

The tragedy of President Kennedy’s death is expressed through Walter Cronkite’s announcement on CBS News and through scenes of President Kennedy’s funeral as watched by viewers around the world.

### 23. Legacy

The main gallery concludes with the Legacy exhibit. Discover how governments and private citizens throughout the world have honored the memory of President Kennedy. See how the words and ideas of President Kennedy continue to be a source of inspiration today. Learn about the Profile in Courage Award: each year the Kennedy Library Foundation selects a recipient who exemplifies political courage, as defined by President Kennedy in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same name.

### 24. Special Exhibition Gallery

This space is used for our changing exhibits. Please ask a staff member or look for signage directing visitors to the current special exhibit. We appreciate your understanding when we are between exhibits.

### 25. Hemingway: A Life Inspired

Highlights from the Ernest Hemingway Collection featuring selections from the manuscripts of his major works and photos of the people and places that inspired them.

### 26. Glass Pavilion

Upon leaving the Museum, pass through a glass pavilion that soars 115 feet high, overlooking Boston, Dorchester Bay, and the ocean beyond. Intended as a space for reflection and inspiration, the pavilion has an enormous American flag suspended above, and a single quote from President Kennedy inscribed on the wall.