



News Release

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The Boeing Company Provides \$5 Million for the *National Archives Experience*

Boeing Learning Center and Expanded Traveling Exhibition Program to Bring National Archives' Educational Resources Nationwide

Washington, DC - The Foundation for the National Archives announced today that The Boeing Company has awarded a \$5 million gift to expand the *National Archives Experience* to a national audience and share the National Archives' rich resources with Americans across the country.

The gift will enable the National Archives to complete its center for educational outreach, which will be known as the Boeing Learning Center. In addition, the gift will fund the launch of an expanded traveling exhibition program, beginning with the critically acclaimed *Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives*. The gift also will enable the development of an interactive educational website for online visitors worldwide.

“For more than 90 years, Boeing has been dedicated to taking Americans beyond our horizons, opening up new worlds, and allowing them to experience the rich diversity of a global community,” said Jim Albaugh, president and CEO of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems. “We decided that this gift to the Foundation was an important step in enabling millions of Americans to similarly experience and learn from all of the history and human drama found in the documents and images of the National Archives. By expanding the reach of the National Archives beyond their horizons through the internet and traveling exhibits, many people will experience these national treasures for the first time.”

The *National Archives Experience* is a multi-million dollar initiative begun in 2003 that transformed the visitor experience at the National Archives' Washington, DC building, and included a renovation of the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, the new award-winning Public Vaults permanent interactive exhibition, the state-of-the-art William G. McGowan Theater, the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery for special exhibits, and more. The Boeing Company gift supports Washington D.C.-based elements of the *National Archives Experience* and significantly expands these components to reach a national and international audience. The gift will make the rich resources of the National Archives and its new Boeing Learning Center accessible to Americans nationwide who are unable to travel to Washington, D.C.

Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein said, “The Boeing Company has presented the National Archives with a wonderful opportunity to reach out beyond our walls, for which we are deeply grateful. With this gift we will be able to take major steps towards our goal of helping to strengthen the civic literacy of the American people so that they can more readily appreciate the history of our democracy and their place in it.”

“We are profoundly grateful to The Boeing Company for this generous gift and for supporting our vision of expanding the educational resources of the National Archives,” said Tom Wheeler, President of the Foundation for the National Archives. “Not only is The Boeing Company a leader within the aerospace industry, it is also a leader in corporate citizenship, with a wonderful history of community building. The Boeing Company’s support for the *National Archives Experience* exemplifies its commitment to creating communities that understand their past and can take an active role in shaping their future.”

When complete, the Boeing Learning Center will include a Learning Lab and ReSource Room offering interactive visitor programs, teacher training, student lab activities, distance learning, and Internet initiatives. The Center staff will train educators in the effective use of primary sources in the classroom with facsimile documents, instructional videos, sample lesson plans, and other tools. The staff will engage walk-in visitors, of all ages, with hands-on activities to enhance civic literacy and promote an understanding of the American stories found in the records of the federal government.

The Boeing gift also supports the traveling exhibition program, including sponsorship of the national tour of *Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives*. The 3,000-square-foot exhibition presents first-hand accounts—in the form of letters, diaries, photographs, audio and film recordings—of some of the most dramatic moments in U.S. history. It recently completed its six-month debut in the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery at the National Archives in Washington, DC and begins a two-year national tour with six major venues that began February 2, 2007, at the Jimmy Carter Library in Atlanta, GA.

For more information about the *National Archives Experience*, go to <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/>.

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