



*"You gotta know your history...
if you want to be a good citizen."*

- Harry S. Truman

OUR MISSION

Since 1962, the **U.S. Capitol Historical Society** has proudly worked to preserve and share the history of the Capitol, the Congress, and the people who work therein. As a nonpartisan, educational 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Society was chartered by Congress, in part, **"to foster and increase an informed patriotism."**

In service of this mission, the Society conducts historical tours of the Capitol Building, hosts virtual and in-person public history programming, publishes scholarly research about Capitol History, coordinates an online civics education digital resource hub, manages a renowned civics education field trip for D.C. public school students, sponsors research fellowships, and commissions works of fine art for the Capitol collections.



Photos (c) Bruce Guthrie

LEARN MORE >>

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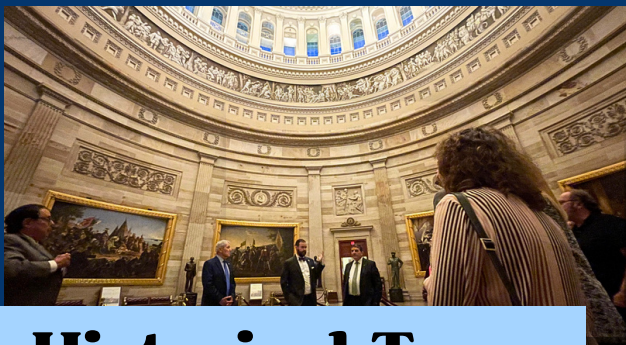
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PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAMS



Historical Tours

The Society offers historian-led tours as a benefit of our membership program. Led by our knowledgeable guides, our tours offer a fascinating glimpse into the history and significance of the iconic Capitol building.

To book a tour, contact: tours@uschs.org.



2024 USCHS Interns with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and USCHS President/CEO Jane Campbell | Photo (c) Bruce Guthrie

Scholarly Research & Publications

The Society runs various public history programs, most notably the Capitol Fellowship program and undergraduate internships, to conduct ongoing research on the history of the Capitol, the Congress, and the people who work there. Society publications make this significant history accessible to people of all ages through coloring and activity books, fact-a-day wall calendars, and our history journal, *the Capitol Dome*.

Additionally, the Society produces a weekly newsletter, daily "On This Day in History" social media posts, and maintains an online history blog.



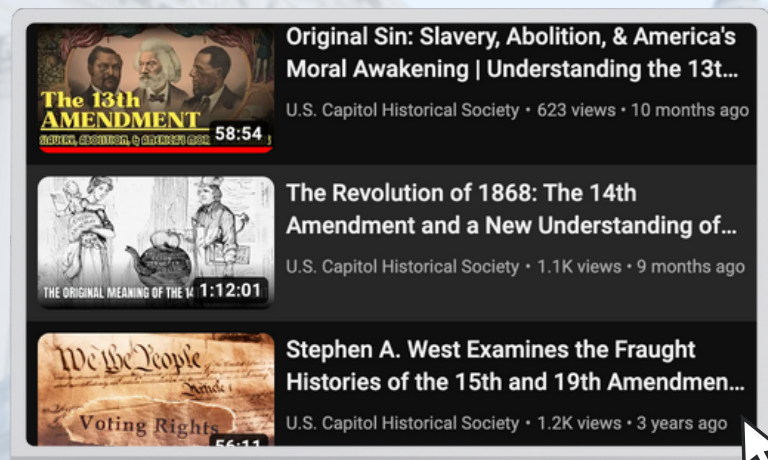
USCHS 2022 Symposium celebrating the Life and Legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune as her statue joined the Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection.

The Society hosts public history events that allow a diverse audience to participate in scholarly discussions and contribute to a shared understanding of historical events. Our programs are held both in-person and virtually, making them accessible to everyone.

The Society's 2024 Symposium will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Snyder Act, which extended the protections of the 15th Amendment to Native Americans.

Webinars ✨

We sponsor free webinar lectures featuring notable historians and best-selling authors, including our **Constitutional Amendments Series**.



Visit: www.youtube.com/@USCapitolHistory

CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Program Highlights

We the People Constitution Tour

This free educational tour takes D.C. public and charter school students to historical sites in Washington, D.C., to learn about the first three articles of the Constitution.

We the People Online Hub

Our *We the People* Hub is a free online resource to help students learn more about the U.S. Constitution and its essential role in our government. Teachers can access various tools on this platform, including lesson plans, activities, primary sources, videos, and more.

Teaching the Constitution Through Theater

We collaborate with StoryWorks Theater to develop theatrical plays about significant moments and figures in American history to foster a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution. These plays come with lesson plans and curriculum materials to integrate into teaching.

"Capitol Kids!" Webinar Series

This series brings authors to middle school classrooms nationwide to discuss U.S. history in a fun way that inspires democratic participation.

Teacher Professional Development

We provide free professional development workshops to empower teachers with new educational resources and teaching strategies.

Since 2005, our **"We the People" Constitution Program** has engaged thousands of students in Washington, D.C., through immersive educational experiences about the U.S. Constitution. Our programs help students understand the importance of active citizenship by bringing our stories, lessons, and values into the classroom.

For more information, contact:
Janna Deitz, PhD, *Project Director*
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Email: jdeitz@uschs.org



Scan the QR code to learn more about our educational programs.



We the People *Constitution Tour*



At the **U.S. Capitol Historical Society**, one of our most successful and comprehensive educational efforts is dedicated to familiarizing our youngest Americans with the principles of Democracy and civic engagement. Each year, our **We the People Constitution Tour™** takes more than 1,400 eighth-grade students from D.C. public and charter schools to significant historical sites in D.C. to learn about the first three articles of the U.S. Constitution.

We Provide

- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Educational resources
- ✓ Free lunches
- ✓ Tour guides

Tour Impact

In our 2022-2023 tour season, we served a total of 1,551 enthusiastic participants.

- After our tour, there was a **12%** increase in students who said they would vote upon turning 18.
- Students who say they will or might run for student government increased by **29%**.
- Students who said they would or might run for public office increased by **13%**.
- Most telling, **86%** of teachers who went on our tour believed it would encourage their students to be more involved in public service.



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The **We the People Constitution Program** is made possible by the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, International Paper, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Agrippa Morrill Memorial Fund, and the Society's corporate and individual donors.

TOUR STOPS

This tour is designed to improve students' understanding of the Constitution through hands-on learning at historical sites in Washington, D.C. Each stop covers a specific aspect of the Constitution and the American political system:

George Mason Memorial

As the "father of the Bill of Rights," George Mason's memorial is an essential point for our tour about constitutional rights.

National Archives

Students can view the original Constitution and Bill of Rights, allowing them to connect with these documents first-hand.

Lafayette Park

The site of many historical events and protests, demonstrating the First Amendment rights to freedom of assembly and speech.



The United States Capitol

Representing the legislative branch, the Capitol provides a backdrop for learning about Congress and the law-making process.

The White House Visitors' Center

This site represents the executive branch and provides insights into the presidency and the execution of our laws.

The Old Supreme Court Chamber

As the highest court in the United States, this stop highlights the judicial branch and the role of the courts in interpreting the law.

TEACHING THE CONSTITUTION THROUGH THEATER

In partnership with **StoryWorks Theater**, the **U.S. Capitol Historical Society** proudly offers engaging plays that explore the **U.S. Constitution** through creative arts. Designed to foster experiential learning, these plays come with free online **lesson plans and curriculum materials** available on our **We the People Teaching Resource Hub**, allowing students to work with primary source materials to further their understanding of the era's complexities.

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE ON STAGE ✨

Now's The Time ✨

Follow the journey of a nation rebuilding from the ashes of the Civil War, grappling with the ideals of freedom and racial equality.



Beautiful Agitators ✨

Step into the shoes of the fearless Vera Mae Pigeo, one of the unsung heroes of the civil rights movement, as she fights for equal rights.



Electionland - Coming Soon! ✨

This play explores the pivotal role of the Electoral College in the disputed 1876 presidential election in a deeply divided post-Civil War America.

Scan the QR code to watch both plays and access associated lesson plans, or visit:



www.CapitolHistory.org



SCAN CODE



StoryWorks Theater
Changing the way we experience journalism.

WE THE PEOPLE ONLINE HUB



Engage directly with the national institutions that exist to serve you!

Visit: www.oercommons.org/hubs/wethepeople



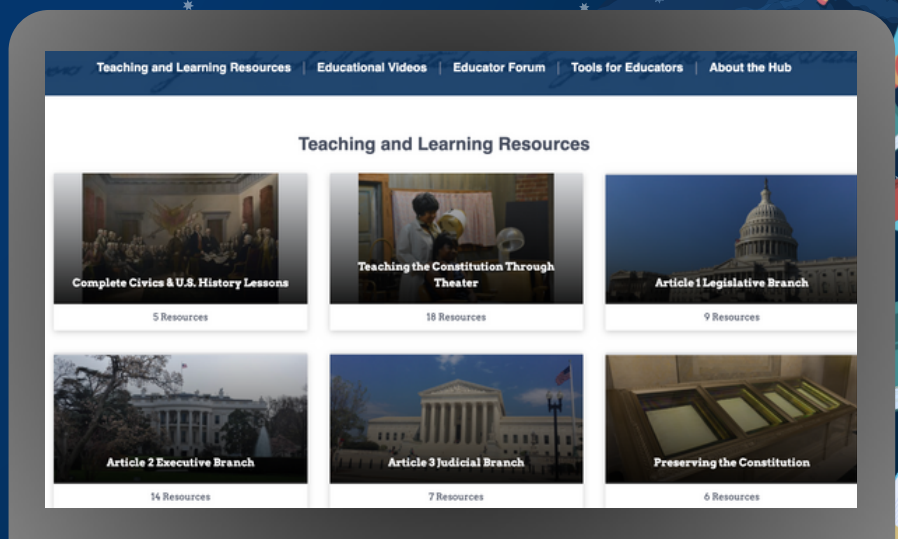
Empower Your Classroom ✨

The We the People Constitution Hub is a public digital collection of curated Civics and History resources designed to engage students with the Constitution's living history and its vital role in our government. Whether you're looking to introduce your students to the foundations of our government or aiming to foster a deeper understanding of their civic rights and responsibilities, the Hub is a vital educational tool for teachers.

Explore our Teaching and Learning Resources on Civics and U.S. History

- Lesson Plans
- Classroom Activities
- Primary Sources
- Educational Videos

GET STARTED



The Hub is a joint effort by the We the People Consortium, including the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, the National Archives, the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, the White House Historical Association, and the National Park Service.