

Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park Conservancy
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New York, NY

**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT FOUR FREEDOMS PARK
UNVEILS DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE**

***fdr4freedoms* Provides Online Historical Component To Complement
Four Freedoms Park And Extend Its Impact Into The Classroom**

New York, NY – October 24, 2012 – The Four Freedoms Park Conservancy unveiled today the first phase of *fdr4freedoms*, the comprehensive digital resource that chronicles the history of the Franklin D. Roosevelt era by using state-of-the-art digital technology to link Four Freedoms Park to classrooms in America and around the world.

Four Freedoms Park in New York City is the stunning, new, public memorial to former President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the “Four Freedoms” that he outlined in his famous State of the Union Address in January of 1941. In that speech he articulated his vision of a more perfect world where Freedom of Speech and Expression, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear would exist for all, everywhere in the world.

Four Freedoms Park opens this month, four decades after it was first conceived by Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Mayor John Lindsay and designed by world-renowned architect Louis Kahn. The Park is located spectacularly on the southern tip of Roosevelt Island, appropriately looking across the East River to the United Nations. Roosevelt Island was renamed in Franklin Roosevelt’s honor in 1973, but plans for the Park had to be put on hold at the time because the city was then on the verge of bankruptcy. Through the leadership of Ambassador William vanden Heuvel, the Park has now been realized, and New York City has added an extraordinarily beautiful and important, new, public space.

The *fdr4freedoms* digital resource augments that space by providing online content that illuminates the history of the era of Franklin D. Roosevelt and his famous “Four Freedoms” address. Specifically designed for use on portable mobile devices, this content-rich, engagingly illustrated, multi-media, digital resource introduces the life and legacy of Franklin Roosevelt in an unprecedented way to Park visitors, as well as interested students and others around the world.

The digital resource has been made possible by the support of its lead sponsor, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (<http://www.snf.org>), and other generous donors. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation, one of the world’s leading international philanthropic organizations, is also a major donor to Four Freedoms Park itself.

fdr4freedoms digital resource includes Chapters of History in an online educational initiative that will connect the complete history of the Roosevelt era to Four Freedoms Park and, in turn, make

it available to classrooms in America and around the world. The content has been developed and edited by acclaimed Roosevelt historian and Executive Editor Dr. Allida Black, with participation by leading scholars who make up the project's Scholarly Advisory Board.

Each chapter consists of video, narrative, a timeline, biography and primary sources. The first 11 of the 60 chapters launched with the Dedication of the Park on October 17th. They are: Governor Roosevelt; Snapshots of a Nation: March 4, 1933; the First One Hundred Days; the Banking Crisis; the New Deal; Social Security; Preparing to Fight; Lend Lease; the Atlantic Charter; Pearl Harbor, and the Four Freedoms.

"fdr4freedoms provides the historical context for Four Freedoms Park and illuminates the Roosevelt era. Many of the issues of that era are especially pertinent today," said Sally Minard, President of the Four Freedoms Park Conservancy. "It extends the Park and the opportunities to learn from history."

"The 'Four Freedoms' are as compelling a vision today as they were in 1941, and their contemporary relevance is underscored by the beautiful Four Freedoms Park," said Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. "Through *fdr4freedoms*, the historical context of the Franklin Roosevelt era and his 'Four Freedoms' speech comes to life and is made digitally available so that the entire world can benefit. We are very proud of the role our Foundation has played in helping to make this monumental project a reality. The fact that the main focus of our grant has been the development of the resources that will further enhance the educational impact of FDR's message makes us even prouder."

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