

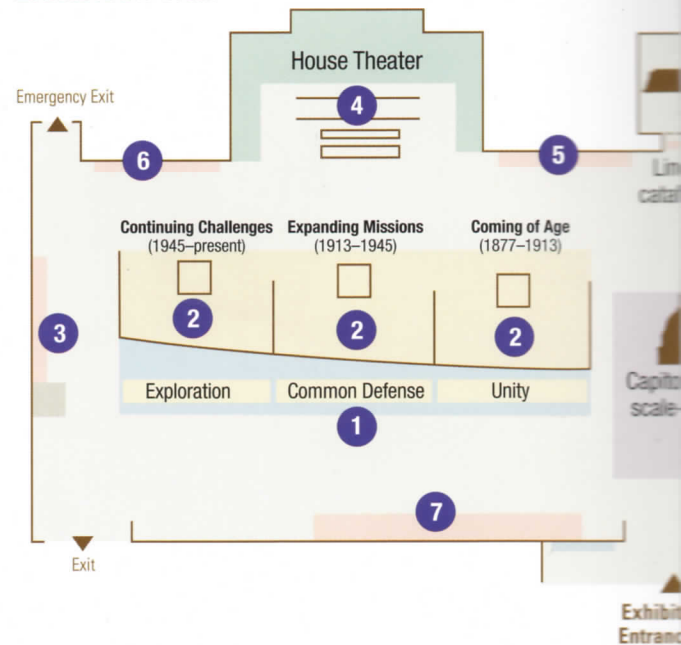
# Exhibition Hall

Exhibition Hall is home to *E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many One*, an exhibition that tells the story of the United States Congress and the Capitol.

Exhibition Hall is located on the lower level of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center behind the 19.5-foot-tall plaster model of the Statue of Freedom.



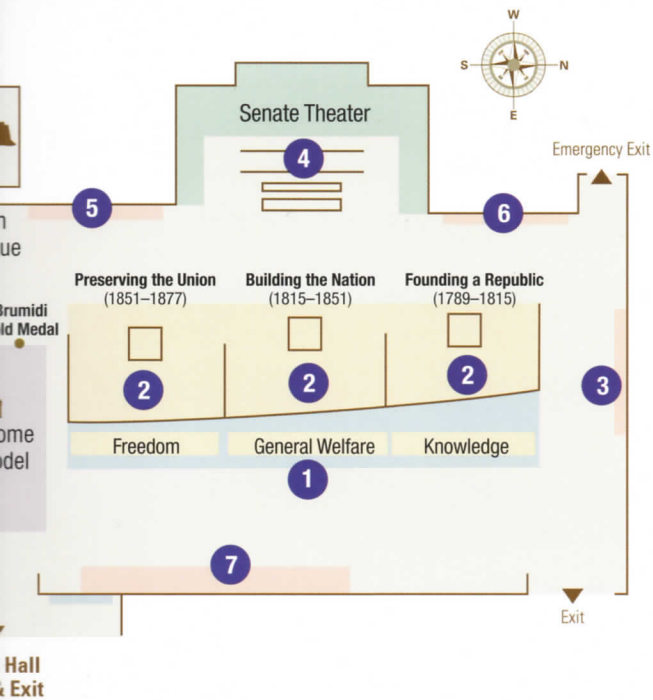
## Exhibition Hall



**1 A More Perfect Union** illustrates the role of Congress in defining and helping to realize national goals and aspirations. Treasured documents from the National Archives and the Library of Congress trace the journey toward “a more perfect union” through the actions of Congress. The exhibit is arranged in six thematic sections — Exploration, Common Defense, Unity, Freedom, General Welfare, and Knowledge.

**2 History of Congress and the Capitol** tells the story, in six chronological sections, of how Congress and the Capitol have grown and evolved with the country. Original artifacts, images, videos, architectural models, and artwork illustrate the history of the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the Capitol’s art and architecture. *See diagram at top right for details of alcove.*

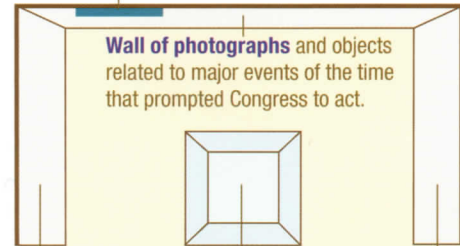




## 2 HISTORY OF CONGRESS AND THE CAPITOL ALCOVES

Six chronological alcoves tell the story of how Congress and the Capitol have grown and evolved with the country. The detail below explains what each alcove showcases.

A **video** highlights important legislation passed by Congress during the years showcased in this alcove.



The left display case highlights activities and Members of the **Senate**.

A **scale model** of the Capitol and Grounds that shows their expansion and architectural history.

The right display case highlights activities and Members of the **House of Representatives**.

**3 The Constitution and Congress** acknowledges the foundations of Congress in the Constitution, outlines the distinct roles of the House and the Senate, and explains the three branches of government.

**4 The House and Senate Theaters** provide live feeds from the floor of the House and Senate whenever they are in session. These theaters also present brief films about the differing operations of the two bodies of Congress.

**5 The Nation's Stage** highlights the role of the Capitol as the setting for inaugurations, funerals, presidential messages, visits by foreign leaders, parades, and protests. It also provides a special setting for one of the most poignant objects in the Capitol, the catafalque (the platform upon which President Lincoln's casket rested in the Rotunda).



**6 Behind the Scenes** displays historical and contemporary images that tell the story of the staff who keep Capitol Hill working. From pages and police, to groundskeepers and Members' staffs, it looks at the "city within a city" that is the Capitol complex.



**7 Your Congress/Your Capitol Interactive Area** uses interactive stations to provide answers to important questions such as "What happens here at the Capitol?"; "How can I participate?"; "Who are my representatives and how can I reach them?" The interactive stations also allow you to take a virtual tour of the art and architecture of the Capitol.

