Tactile Exhibit Guide for Visitors (National Mall)

This guide is a suggested listing of some artifacts and galleries that have interactive and touchable exhibits, geared to enhance the museum experience for all visitors. Additional tactile materials and interactive Discovery Carts are available; please inquire at the Welcome Center.

Milestones of Flight (Gallery 100): The Museum's grand entry hall, Milestones of Flight showcases a truly awesome collection of historic aircraft and spacecraft that represent epic achievements in aviation and space flight.

- Touch a rock from the moon – located just beyond the museum entrance, in the black and gold square column centered in the front section of the gallery.
- Walk the gallery area and feel the casings that hold three early space capsules (the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo 11 capsules). The Mercury and Gemini capsules are located just beyond the museum entrance; the Gemini capsule will be to the left and the Mercury capsule will be to the right. Information on the artifacts can be found on the front black and gold triangular columns. The Apollo 11 capsule is located in the center of the Milestones gallery with information on the display.

America By Air (Gallery 102): America by Air explores the history of air transportation in the United States and shows how the federal government has shaped the airline industry, how improvements in technology have revolutionized air travel, and how the flying experience has changed. This gallery is located to the right of the main entrance, mid-way down the main hallway.

- There are five introductory panels spread throughout the gallery and the first panel, Jet Age, is located on the right as you enter the gallery. Push the silver buttons, located approximately waist
high on the panels, to hear audio descriptions of the gallery and its four different sections.

- On the other side of the Jet Age introductory panel, there is a display where you can move the flight controls for different aircraft and feel the difference and advancement in technology.
- From the flight controls, follow the same exhibit along the display panels, moving to your left and then straight down the exhibit. You will feel a section of runway. This is located near the nose of the Boeing 747, which is positioned directly above you.
- Proceed further to your left and you will be under the nose of the Boeing 747. A display of luggage and a luggage carousel is located under the nose of the aircraft and you can touch and feel the luggage display.
- Cross the gallery to the far side, opposite the nose of the Boeing 747, to feel and hear what it was like to ride in a Ford Trimotor airplane. On the far back wall of the gallery there is a large diagram of the side of a Ford Trimotor. Proceed up the slight incline toward the fuselage of the diagram and you will come to a platform where you can stand and feel the vibration from a Ford Trimotor.
- On the second floor balcony for this gallery, there are several plaques along the railing. Each plaque has a tactile image of the aircraft hanging from the ceiling in the gallery.

**Wright Brothers (Gallery 209):** Removed temporarily from its place of honor in *Milestones of Flight*, the 1903 Wright Flyer, the world's first successful airplane, serves as the centerpiece of this exhibition, which celebrates the centennial of the Wright brothers' historic flights.

- Enter the gallery and proceed to the center, following along the display railing of the 1903 Wright Flyer on your left, then you will come to a Braille map tracing the journey from Dayton, Ohio to
Kitty Hawk, NC. This map includes interesting information about the trip.

- Proceeding along the display railings to the right, the next panel is “Designing the Flyer” which features a hands-on display with different materials that were used to build the aircraft.
- In this gallery, you can also touch a sample of fabric similar to what was used on the Flyer and listen to the sound of the engine. The fabric display is located opposite the Braille panel along with other information panels in the gallery, and the engine sound is located along the display railing toward the back of the 1903 Wright Flyer exhibit.

**Exploring the Universe (Gallery 111):** Explore the Universe shows how our ideas about the Universe evolved as we developed new astronomical instruments. It presents the Universe as discerned by the naked eye, then shows how the telescope, photography, spectroscopy, and digital technology revolutionized our view.

- In this gallery, you can touch a display that shows the effect of the Big Bang Theory. As you enter the gallery, take the first hallway on the left and proceed to the back wall of the gallery. The Big Bang map will be directly in front of you.

- Interested in an IMAX movie or Planetarium show? Our IMAX and Planetarium theaters offer audio descriptions for all movies. Please inquire at the IMAX or Planetarium box offices, located on the first and second levels of the museum.

- Call before your next visit to arrange for a docent lead tour: 202-633-2563.