**Navy Yeoman (F) Uniform, World War I**

3 East | *The Price of Freedom, “World War I” section*

In 1917, as the United States prepared to enter World War I, the navy faced a crisis: there weren’t enough men for the work required. More than 11,000 women joined the navy during the war, marking the first time women were officially members of the U.S. military. They worked as secretaries, telegraphers, draftsmen, translators, mess attendants, ship camouflage designers, and recruiting agents. At the end of the war the women were honorably discharged. Aside from civilian nurses, women would not be allowed in the navy again until World War II.

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**Alice Paul’s Equal Rights Amendment Charm Bracelet, 1972**

2 East | *American Stories*

After leading the National Woman’s Party in the successful fight for women’s voting rights, Alice Paul turned her attention to women’s legal rights. In 1923 she authored the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) guaranteeing equality under U.S. law for men and women. Almost fifty years later she assembled bracelets filled with charms marking the states that voted for its ratification. The ERA fell three states short of ratification in 1982.

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**Carved Kobu Figure, 1943–1945**

3 East | *The Price of Freedom, “World War II” section*

(across from wall of posters)

During World War II, nearly 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans—two-thirds of them U.S. citizens—were forced from their businesses and homes and held in camps in some of the nation’s most desolate locations. Surrounded by barbed wire fences and under the constant gaze of armed guards, they strove to maintain some semblance of a normal life. Internees often used discarded and other found materials to hand-craft objects of great beauty. Mrs. Mabel Rose Vogel taught art at the Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas, and kept this carved kobu (knot-wood) figure of a Japanese woman wearing a traditional kimono that one of her students carved there.

americanhistory.si.edu/EO9066
Walker’s Glossine, 1920s
1 West | Object Project, “Household Hits” section
Sarah Breedlove invented a haircare product for African American women that she claimed healed the scalp, promoted growth, and softened the hair. A dynamic entrepreneur, Madam C.J. Walker (as Breedlove became known) expanded her line of products and built a business that made her a millionaire. Madam Walker used her wealth to make a difference in the lives of other African Americans. She also encouraged people to become politically involved in issues of freedom and equality.

Red River Cart, mid-1800s
1 West | American Enterprise, “Merchant Era” section
The Métis, people of mixed European and Native American descent, developed specialized carts to help them break the British Hudson’s Bay Company’s monopoly on fur trading. By designing and building innovative Red River carts, the Métis were able to transport their furs south to Saint Paul, where the competitive market brought them better prices for their furs. Métis women traded the furs for goods like pots, knives, beads, and fabric. Acting as liaisons between their people and the European and American traders enhanced their power within their community.

Boycott Lettuce and Grapes Poster, 1971
1 East | Food, “New and Improved!” section
The low pay and hazardous working conditions experienced by farm workers angered social activist Dolores Huerta. In response, she and Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers’ Union. This labor union works to improve the lives of agricultural workers and their families through nonviolent action. A 1970s campaign to boycott grapes and lettuce organized by the UFW made Americans aware of these unfair working conditions. When millions of people stopped buying grapes and lettuce, company owners were forced to deal with the union’s concerns.