Thomas Jefferson’s Desk, 1776
3 Center, The American Presidency, Roles of the President
“Politics, as well as Religion, has its superstitions. These, gaining strength with time, may, one day give imaginary value to this relic . . . .” — Thomas Jefferson, in a note he attached to the desk he used to draft the Declaration of Independence

Michelle Obama’s Inaugural Gown, 2013
3 Center, First Ladies at the Smithsonian
“I’ve tried to give back to this country that has given me so much... I believe that each of us--no matter what our age or background or walk of life--each of us has something to contribute to the life of this nation.” — Michelle Obama

Star-Spangled Banner, 1814
2 Center
“I remember seeing my mother down on the floor, placing the stars . . . .” — Caroline Purdy, daughter of Baltimore flag maker Mary Pickersgill

Greensboro Lunch Counter, 1960
2 East
“We decided it was really up to us to find some relief for this kind of thing we were suffering. And what started out very personal turned out to be very public.” — Franklin Eugene McCain, one of four students who began the Greensboro sit-in

Kermit the Frog, 1969
2 East, American Stories
“It’s not easy being green.” — Kermit the Frog
**George Washington’s Uniform, 1789**

3 East, *The Price of Freedom, War of Independence*

“He has so much martial dignity in his deportment that you would
distinguish him to be a general and a soldier from among ten
thousand people.”

— Benjamin Rush on George Washington, 1775

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**John Bull Locomotive, 1831** 1 East

“The surprise and gratification experienced from the
rapid locomotion of the engines, has been more than
equaled in the current season by its wonderful capacity
for propelling ponderous loads. It is a power which has
almost annihilated time and space.” — From the first Annual Report
of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, on the benefits of steam-powered locomotives

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**Edison’s Light Bulb, 1879**

1 East, *Lighting a Revolution*

“Aren’t you a good deal of a wizard, Mr. Edison?”

— New York Daily Graphic reporter interviewing Thomas Edison, who held
over 1,000 patents

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**Julia Child’s Kitchen, 2001** 1 East, *FOOD*

“In it we receive our friends, we cook and
dine, we teach and experiment. It is certainly
the most loved and most used room in
the house.” — Julia Child

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