

The FDR Memorial Legacy Committee, The Best of 2021

www.fdrmemoriallegacy.com

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Image Descriptions:

Top of the page: The FDR Memorial Legacy Committee Logo, which is a circular logo featuring a graphic of the bronze FDR wheelchair statue. Circular text surrounding the graphic reads: FDR Memorial Legacy Committee.

Center of page: A photo collage of 2021 highlights.

Top row: L-R: A photo from the Eleanor Roosevelt birthday celebration featuring Dr. Kirk Adams, Ari Paz Pasa, Eva Lake, U.S. Senator (Ret) Tom Harkin, and Mary Dolan seated in front of the Eleanor Roosevelt statue at the FDR Memorial. *Next:* A screenshot taken from the “Representation and Leadership” webinar that shows the following participants: Retired Senator Tom Harkin, Christopher Roosevelt, an ASL Interpreter, former Mayor Sharon Pratt, Kelly Douglas, and Mary Dolan. *Next:* Senator Tammy Duckworth speaks into the microphone at the July 26th ADA Anniversary event at the FDR Memorial.

2nd row, L-R: A screenshot of the Time Magazine article about the FDR Memorial. *Next:* The cover page of the FDR Memorial Flipbook with Archives. *Next:* A photo of Dr. Cheryl Fogle-Hatch at the FDR Memorial, with her hands over the decorative Braille on the Memorial wall. *Next:* A photo of the waterfall feature at the FDR Memorial. *Next:* A screenshot of the *Washington Post* article about Dr. Fogle-Hatch’s report on accessibility at the FDR Memorial.

Page Two: Best of 2021

The FDR Memorial Legacy Committee is a citizen-led organization with the mission to promote education about the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC, improve inclusion and accessibility so all visitors can experience the Memorial, and preserve the Memorial for future generations. The organization, borne out of the successful disability-led campaign in the 1990s for disability representation at the Memorial, is committed to sharing the diverse perspectives of the Roosevelt era and that era's legacy today.

Education, Inclusion, and Preservation are the focus of our work.

Throughout 2021, our programming successfully fulfilled each piece of our mission delivering multiple events both virtually and in person, webinars, educational opportunities, a first-of-its-kind archive, a report on accessibility challenges at the FDR Memorial, and much more. On the next few pages, you will see highlights of these activities. We are very proud of our accomplishments and want to thank each of you for your support.

With the year coming to a close, we are busy planning for an epic 2022. Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the FDR Memorial. We have lots in store and can’t wait to share the details with you.

As you consider your year-end giving, we ask that you please include the FDR Memorial Legacy Committee on your list!

Sincerely,
Mary E. Dolan
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Making Headlines

Our hard work has been recognized by top tier media outlets such as The Washington Post, Time, WTOP News, The Hill, and Forbes.

Image Description: A collage of logos from the following news outlets: *The Washington Post*, *Time*, *WTOP*, *Forbes*, *RiverBender.com*, and *Disability Law*.

FDR Wheelchair Statue Campaign Archive Release

In January 2021, as part of the DC Community Heritage Project with support from HumanitiesDC, we proudly unveiled the first-of-its-kind archive chronicling the history of the fight for disability representation at the FDR Memorial which was led by people with disabilities from 1995-2001. The archive is filled with individual perspectives, stories, and written documentation of this hard-fought campaign for inclusion. FDR Wheelchair Statue Campaign Archive Release Check it out here:

Link: [FDR Wheelchair Statue Flipbook with Archives](#)

Image Description: The cover page of the Flipbook, which features a photo of the FDR wheelchair statue. Text reads The FDR Memorial: History, Stories, Impact.

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Representation & Leadership Webinar

In January 2021, the Institute of Politics, Policy, and History at the University of the District of Columbia and the FDR Memorial Legacy Committee hosted the virtual panel discussion titled "Representation and Leadership: FDR and the FDR Memorial," hosted by former DC Mayor Sharon Pratt. Speakers included retired Senator Tom Harkin, the Chief Architect of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Christopher Roosevelt, attorney, conservationist, and grandson of FDR.

Enjoy this recording of the event!

Link: [Representation and Leadership Webinar](#)

Image Description: A screenshot taken from the "Representation and Leadership" webinar that shows the following participants: Retired Senator Tom Harkin, Christopher Roosevelt, an ASL Interpreter, former Mayor Sharon Pratt, Kelly Douglas, and Mary Dolan.

Sen. Duckworth and Rep. Holmes Norton both introduce resolutions recommitting the US to the values of the FDR Memorial

In March 2021, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and U.S. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) introduced a resolution recognizing the successful campaign led by disability advocates to add the wheelchair statue at the FDR Memorial and urging the National Park Service (NPS) to make the Memorial accessible to everyone and support the development of accessible educational materials for visitors. *Time Magazine* covered the story – check it out!

Link: [Time Magazine Article](#)

Image Description: A screenshot of the *Time Magazine* article about the resolution, which shows a photo of the FDR wheelchair statue.

Crip Camp: Cocktails & Conversations Event

In April 2021, we hosted a virtual discussion, "Cocktails & Conversations," about the Oscar-nominated Netflix film *Crip Camp*. The discussion included Judy Heumann, International Disability Rights Advocate, who was featured in *Crip Camp*, and Andraea LaVant, *Crip Camp* Impact Producer.

If you missed it, enjoy a recording of the event!

Link: [Cocktails and Conversations](#)

Image Description: A screenshot from the "Cocktails and Conversations" event featuring participants Mary E. Dolan, Kelly Douglas, Judy Heumann, Andraea LaVant, Serena Jaros, Meg O'Connell, and two ASL Interpreters.

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An Online Talk with Historian & Author John Sears

In April 2021, historian and author John F. Sears joined us for an online talk titled "Eleanor Roosevelt and the Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." Sears shared his wealth of knowledge about Eleanor Roosevelt, her impact, and her era. If you think you know Eleanor, watch this talk and we promise you'll learn something new!

[John Sears Online Talk](#)

Image Description: A screenshot taken from the webinar featuring participants, Mary E. Dolan, John Sears, and ASL Interpreter Cheryl.

Released the Accessibility at the FDR Memorial Report

In May, we had one of our biggest successes of the year: the release of a report on accessibility challenges at the FDR Memorial. The report, completed by Dr. Cheryl Fogle-Hatch, founder of MuseumSenses, outlined the deficiencies ranging from the difficulties with accessing information for blind and low vision visitors to safety concerns with removable stanchions around the once beautiful fountains. The Washington Post ran an article about the importance of the accessibility report. Soon after, the FDR Memorial's beautiful fountains were back in working order and an audio tour was added!

[FDR Memorial Accessibility Report](#)

Image Description: A photo, taken by photographer Topher Bellavia, of Dr. Cheryl Fogle-Hatch, who is blind. She is standing next to one of the broken water features at the Memorial holding her white cane. The barriers are floating in the water.

Hosted First Teacher Professional Development

In July, we conducted the first-ever teacher professional development workshop in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia. Teachers expanded their knowledge of the disability rights movement, FDR and his disability, and learned new perspectives in teaching about FDR, his era, and the intersection of civil rights and disability rights. We can't wait to do it again next year!

Photo Description: A graphic that has a photo of the FDR wheelchair statue in the bottom right corner. Text reads: Thank you, Teachers! Our first teacher professional development was a huge success, thanks to our incredible speakers and exceptional participants. We look forward to next year! "What a wonderful three days of Learning, Sharing, Fellowship, and Getting to know one another. To all unable to attend, you truly missed our on a 'Professional Development (PD) Treat!' Thank you for three days of Professional Development Awesomeness. The Educator was Educated!" – Beverly Bennett-Roberts, Teacher Participant

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July 26th Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary Celebration

On July 26th, we hosted a wreath-laying event honoring the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Speakers included Senator Tammy Duckworth and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. It was a huge success, and Forbes contributor Andrew Pulrang covered the event.

Read his article here: [ADA 31: Progress And Priorities At The FDR Memorial](#) and watch a recording of the event here: [31st Anniversary of the ADA Wreath-Laying Event](#).

Image Description: A photo taken by photographer Mike Olliver of speakers Kym Hall, Mary E. Dolan, Serena Jaros, Steven Graham, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton, Peter Kovler, and Chris Bell standing around the FDR Wheelchair Statue at the FDR Memorial.

Financial growth: Meeting the Match

This summer we achieved a donation match challenge of \$210,000 from the Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation! The FDR Committee met the first goal of raising \$100,000 by May 2020 and the remaining \$110,000 by July 2021. Thank you, Gund Foundation!

Learn more: [Gund Donation Match](#)

Image Description: A photo of Gordon Gund, who is wearing a suit and smiling. Text reads: "I am proud that my investment in the FDR Committee helped launch this citizen-led advocacy organization that is successfully telling the powerful story of FDR and his disability and the fight for disability representation at the FDR Memorial." - Gordon Gund, Trustee of the Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation

Eleanor Roosevelt Birthday Party

In October, we hosted a celebration to commemorate Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday with a wreath-laying ceremony at the FDR Memorial. Guests included Dr. Kirk Adams, President and CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind and U.S. Senator (Ret) Tom Harkin. In a nod to Eleanor's role as Honorary President of the Girls Scouts of America, we were proud to have the involvement of local Girl Scouts from Washington, DC. Such a fun day!

[Eleanor Roosevelt Birthday Wreath-Laying Event](#)

Image Description: A photo taken by photographer Kevin Allen, from the Eleanor Roosevelt birthday celebration featuring Dr. Kirk Adams, Ari Paz Pasa, Eva Lake, U.S. Senator (Ret) Tom Harkin, and Mary Dolan seated in front of the Eleanor Roosevelt statue at the FDR Memorial.

Page Six: A Look Ahead to 2022

25th Anniversary of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Washington, D.C.

Co-Chairs: Senator Tom Harkin (Retired) and James Roosevelt, Jr. Esq.

This special event will be hosted by Jonathan Capehart, opinion writer, The Washington Post, and anchor, "The Sunday Show with Jonathan Capehart" on MSNBC. The event will celebrate this historic and iconic memorial and provide an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions around the memorial, its impact, and what more we can do to ensure that it is a lasting dedication, not only to President Roosevelt, but to millions of Americans and persons with disabilities who visit the memorial each year.

Launch the DC Disability Rights Heroes Project

The FDR Memorial Legacy Committee has received the 2021 Humanities Mini-Vision Partnership Grant in the amount of \$15,000. The grant will allow the FDR Committee to launch the DC Disability Rights Heroes Project, funded by the HumanitiesDC, to provide lesson plans to preserve and promote the heroic stories of disabled leaders who fought to add the life-sized, free-standing statue of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a wheelchair to the FDR Memorial. The FDR wheelchair statue story provides a significant opportunity for teachers and students to learn about disability history. The lesson plans will feature rich stories in which students can relate, see themselves, and also project their hopes onto their future selves.

Happy Birthday Franklin!

January 30, 2022 marks FDR's 140th Birthday. The FDR Committee will be celebrating and honoring his legacy with a wreath-laying at the Memorial with students from Washington, DC's Browne Education Campus. More details to come, but we encourage you to join us.

Image Description: A historic photo of FDR blowing out candles on a large birthday cake surrounded by smiling guests.

Keep in Touch!

We are planning for 2022 to be an outstanding year as we commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC. Please continue to follow our social media channels and visit our website as events are posted.

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