



FOR THE

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

America's first Presidential Library, fostering research and education on the life, times, and enduring legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

A message from the Library and Museum Director, William A. Harris, and Trustee Chair, Nancy Roosevelt Ireland

Preserving history will always be at the heart of the FDR Library and Museum’s mission. Yet our purpose extends far beyond safeguarding the evidence of our shared history—we are equally committed to reimagining how that history is shared and experienced. In 2024, we introduced new programs that made a meaningful impact, while remaining grounded in the values that define us: cherished annual traditions and a deep commitment to public service. Our vision is to move forward with purpose, always carrying the past with us, not as a burden, but as an essential tool in forging ahead.

Our ongoing evolution means reaching wider audiences and fostering global connections. The legacy of the Roosevelts is international, and in 2024, the FDR Library was as well (see page 6 for more). Recognizing the power of film to transcend continents and generations, we embraced this medium through a compelling series of shorts inspired by our special exhibit, Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts: 1932–1962. We also expanded our digital storytelling, using video to spotlight rare collection items and share resonant stories with broad appeal.

Looking ahead to 2025, we remain steadfast in our mission to present the nation’s history with insight and integrity. At the same time, we will elevate new narratives—such as those emerging from America250 (learn more about the kickoff to this multi-year commemoration on page 3)—and explore how the FDR Library can uniquely contribute to our world today. The Library is essential, engaged in our democracy and dedicated to expanding our audience and our impact.



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

With each annual report, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum has the opportunity to reflect on the highlights and themes that emerged over the past year. Looking back at 2024, it is apparent that the FDR Library and Museum is evolving its mission not only by preserving history, but also by reimagining its presentation through innovative programs, global outreach, and digital storytelling, all grounded in integrity, tradition, and public service. Here’s a snapshot of what that looked like in 2024:

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

31,379

Learners served through onsite field trips, distance learning sessions, online curriculum guides, civics education programs, and more!

SUPPORTING RESEARCH ON THE ROOSEVELT LEGACY:

1,256

Logged remote reference inquiries

8,492

Pages/items digitized on demand

471

Visits for in-person research

3,883

Items/containers pulled and refiled for in-person research

“SOCIALIZING” WITH PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD:

4,591,976

YouTube views

53,213

Tumblr followers

38,346

X followers

28,662

Facebook likes

CONNECTING WITH A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

62

In-person and virtual programs

394,316

In-person and virtual program attendees

1,209,400

Visits to fdrlibrary.org

126,663

FDR Library visitors

HIGHLIGHTS

The Library’s most-watched video premiered on YouTube on January 31. **“The Fastest Vehicles on Earth”: Hudson River Ice Yachts** has been viewed nearly **380,000 times to date!** A *Car Like No Other - FDR’s 1936 Ford Phaeton* was also a popular watch. You can see FDR’s Ford Phaeton for yourself in our museum.



On June 8, along with community partners, the Library hosted RevCon 2024, a Revolutionary War reenactment and history fair. The event kicked off our programming for America250, a national, multi-year celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Keep an eye out for more A250 activities through 2026!



On February 20, the Library partnered with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History for an EO9066 Day of Remembrance program featuring Library Director William A. Harris, Roosevelt great-granddaughter Perrin Ireland, University of Maryland Prof. Madeline Hsu, and moderator Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Executive Director David Inoue.

In February the Library launched the *Seeds of Change: Civil Rights and the Roosevelt Era series*. The five short films were created from interviews with our expert advisory panel for the *Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts 1932-1962* special exhibit and delve into pivotal aspects of the movement.



On July 10, the Library explored the world of historical fiction through a delightful conversation and book signing with Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, coauthors of *The First Ladies*, focusing on Eleanor Roosevelt’s friendship with Mary McLeod Bethune.

On October 5, the Library was honored to host, with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) and their Big Read program series, “Foundations of a Movement: Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts,” a conversation with Basil Smikle Jr., Ph.D., FDR Library trustee and professor of practice and director of the MS in nonprofit management program at the School of Professional Studies at Columbia.



On September 16, the Library hosted an amazing program with the Dutchess County Historical Society, kicking off their A250 programming and marking the bicentennial of Major General Lafayette’s visit to Poughkeepsie. The program included a short play on Dutchess County’s own Lafayette Williams.



In December, Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson hosted an event in the Rayburn Reception Room in the US Capitol to commemorate the 150th birthday of Winston Churchill. FDR Library Director William A. Harris displayed, for members of Congress and of the Churchill family, FDR’s draft statement resulting from the Atlantic Conference of August 14, 1941. This document, a joint declaration of principles for international cooperation, came to be known as the Atlantic Charter.

Work commenced on publishing the proceedings from the Library’s American Response to the Holocaust conference. This unique work will help future scholars, educators, and members of the public gain a deeper understanding of one of the most tragic events in world history.

#FlatFranklin made his way around the world all year in a new social media feature.



Plans were finalized for 2025’s special exhibit, *Signature Moments: Letters From the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans*, and for a major Eleanor Roosevelt exhibit in 2026.



GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT ON THE ROOSEVELTS: A YEAR OF INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2024, global fascination with the lives, legacies, and lasting impact of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt continued to thrive. Reflecting this sustained interest, FDR Library Director William A. Harris played an active role in several prominent international media productions. His expertise and insights were featured in a range of high-profile broadcasts that reached audiences across multiple continents.

Among these notable engagements:

- **Radio France:** *Franklin D. Roosevelt, l'allié*, a six-hour radio documentary exploring FDR’s impact in the US and Europe
- **ZDF/ARTE Germany/France:** *Die Hunde der Mächtigen - und eine Katze*, an exploration of the diplomatic and political use of Presidential pets in the US and Europe
- **SevenNetwork Australia:** *Australian Morning Sunrise*, live remotes at the Library for Australia’s highest-rated morning show

In addition to media collaborations, Harris welcomed a series of distinguished international visitors to the Library during the year. Special groups and individuals from Australia, Bhutan, China, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, and New Zealand visited the site to learn more about presidential libraries and explore potential program partnerships and tourism opportunities.

These visits not only underscore the Library’s international profile but also foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration. This growing international engagement highlights the enduring global significance of the Roosevelts and affirms the Library’s role as a vital center for historical scholarship, inspiration, and connection.

Financial Overview:

The Roosevelt Institute and the FDR Library and Museum

Through a robust public/private partnership, the FDR Library and Museum receives support from the federal National Archives and Records Administration and the Roosevelt Institute. Supplementing core public funding from NARA, private funding raised through the Institute supports activities like special exhibits, civics education work, public and community events, and membership programming.

The 2024 budget for the Roosevelt Institute’s Library and Museum programming was approximately \$1,379,600.

Get Involved

- Become a Library member
- Become a monthly supporter
- Include us in your estate planning
- Share our content on social media

Visit support.rooseveltinstitute.org/library for more information or contact Lauren Karagianis, Deputy Director of Development, FDRL, at lkaragianis@rooseveltinstitute.org or 845.486.1970.

FDR LIBRARY AND MUSEUM TRUSTEES

The Trustees were originally created in December 1938, when the Library and Museum was first conceptualized. Today, the Trustees serve as champions of the Roosevelt legacy, providing financial support and bringing the Roosevelts’ message to a new generation.

Trustees for 2024

Nancy Roosevelt Ireland (Chair)	Tyler O’Connor
Karen R. Adler	Phoebe Roosevelt
Bruce Alpert	Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.
John Q. Barrett	Elizabeth H. Scheuer
Allida Black	Eileen Simmons
Douglas Brinkley	Basil Smikle Jr.
Kevin M. Burke	Anita Sonawane
Fredrica Goodman	Aprill Springfield Blanco
Diane Greenwald (NEW in 2024!)	Gillian Steel
Shirley M. Handel	Geoffrey Ward
Debra Heinrich	Kevin Weinman
James Hoffa	Adam Weisler
Mary Moran	Brian Wolff (NEW in 2024!)
Beth Newburger	