



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VISITORS TO DIGITALLY 'SIGN' THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES EVENT

*Signing The Promise and 51 Steps To Freedom to Participate in
National Archives Foundation's Spirit of Independence Festival in Washington, D.C.*

WASHINGTON — Kids and adults taking part in the [Spirit of Independence Festival](#) on Friday, June 5, will have a special opportunity to add their own names to a digital version of the Declaration of Independence. Volunteers with [Signing the Promise](#) will help festival-goers symbolically sign the digital document. They're aiming to collect 250,000 signatures in honor of America's 250th birthday during this event and many others across the country.

Signing The Promise's digital browser experience includes interactive videos and even lets users launch augmented-reality fireworks. [51 Steps To Freedom](#), the place-based augmented reality experience in Washington, D.C., created Signing The Promise, and organizers will take to the Festival stage Friday at 1 p.m. to highlight both initiatives. They'll present:

- The story of abolitionist writer and advocate Frederick Douglass
- Personal reflections about Civil Rights icon Rosa Parks
- Remarks from the grandson of Dr. Charles Drew, "The Father of Blood Banks"

"The Declaration of Independence was not written as a monument to the past — it was written as a promise for the future," said **H.H. Leonards, Co-Founder of 51 Steps To Freedom**. "As America marks 250 years, Signing The Promise invites people to reflect on what those ideals mean today and the role each of us plays in carrying them forward. History becomes most powerful when people see themselves inside it. This is an opportunity to participate in something larger than ourselves and to reaffirm, together, the shared responsibility of shaping what comes next."

The 51 Steps To Freedom trail spans eight miles in D.C. and includes over 300 stories. Some of the steps include: Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, NASA headquarters, African American Civil War Memorial, The Howard Theatre and Lafayette Park.

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About 51 Steps to Freedom

51 Steps to Freedom (50 states, one nation) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating the world's largest outdoor museum focused on American history, civic engagement,

and storytelling. Through augmented reality, music, animation and immersive storytelling experiences, the initiative brings historic moments, places and individuals to life in ways that are interactive, emotional, and deeply personal — while teaching life lessons centered on opportunity, responsibility and the enduring promise of freedom. Anchored in Washington, DC, 51 Steps to Freedom invites participants to connect past and present through meaningful, technology-driven experiences across the nation's capital. Additional activations, including Signing The Promise, provide opportunities for civic engagement and reflection inspired by the enduring ideals of the Declaration of Independence. Together, these experiences move beyond learning history to encourage thoughtful participation in the continuing American story.

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