

# ret·ro·spect

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A PUBLICATION OF THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT DEALEY PLAZA

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## *Event Commemorates JFK's Life and Legacy*



The morning after JFK's election to office, family photographer Jacques Lowe managed, with great difficulty, to assemble the Kennedy clan for a historic group portrait. From left standing are: Ethel Skakel Kennedy, Stephen E. Smith, Jean Kennedy Smith, President-elect John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Patricia Kennedy Lawford, Joan Bennett Kennedy and Peter Lawford. Sitting from left: Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Edward Moore Kennedy and Sargent Shriver. Photograph © 1997 Jacques Lowe

**M**uch has been said and written in recent months about the role of photojournalism in today's world. A thin line exists between the public's *right* to know and the public's *need* to know. While photographs staged for public consumption are important documents, the ones that interest us most are often spontaneous candid images.

Internationally renowned photographer Jacques Lowe—best known for such photographs of President John F. Kennedy—joined a group of invited guests at The Sixth Floor Museum's annual event on November 21, 1997, to remember Kennedy's life and legacy. The 1997

Legacy event—*Public Figures, Private Photographs*—commemorated the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kennedy assassination on November 22.

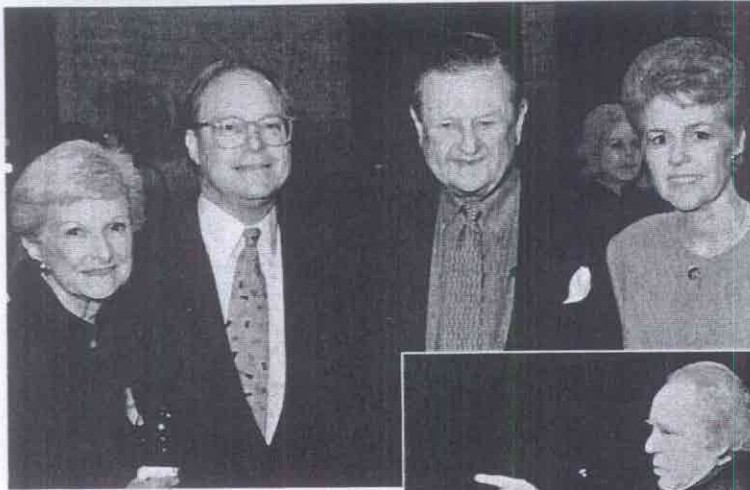
Jeff West, Museum Executive Director, began the evening with an illustrated discussion of photojournalism and its influence on American politics. He then interviewed Lowe, who photographed the Kennedy campaign and subsequently, the Kennedy White House. During the evening's program, Lowe recalled his experiences with the Kennedy family, and his time with JFK during his senate and White House years. Excerpts from Lowe's oral history appear on page six of this issue. ■

## *Artifacts Enrich Visitor Experience*

**C**atch a high school student hunched over the case containing a copy of *The John F. Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede*, or a baby boomer couple peering into another case housing a copy of *From the President's Pen*, reading the inscription left there by Texas Senator Ralph Yarborough, and you realize the value of the artifacts recently placed on display at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.

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Sally McKenzie, Board Chairman Andy Stern, former Chairman Bill McKenzie and Sabina Stern  
*Andy Hanson/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*



Jacques Lowe  
*Andy Hanson/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*



Executive Director Jeff West, Jacques Lowe, Dr. Phillip Williams and Dallas City Councilwoman Veletta Lill  
*Andy Hanson/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*

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A Museum visitor admires the footstool which young Caroline Kennedy stood on in her mother's White House bedroom.  
*The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*

First-time visitors to the Museum, of course, do not realize these artifacts have not been there from the beginning. Most of the artifacts were obtained—either directly by the Museum, private donors or by loans from other institutions—through the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis estate sale held last year at Sotheby's auction house in New York City.

An exception to that general source is the place setting that awaited President Kennedy at the Trade Mart luncheon he was to attend on November 22, 1963. The attractive bone white, gold leaf place setting, on loan to the Museum from the Harlan Crow family, is appropriately placed below a large color photo of some 2,500 people who were attending the luncheon in the president's honor.

Media representatives have been particularly attracted to a footstool used by young Caroline Kennedy while the Kennedy family occupied the White House, along with a silver St. Christopher's medallion once belonging to JFK. Favorable comments have also been voiced by visitors about the contrasting sets of *Man in Space* dessert plates, designed by Pierre Fornasetti in 1966. One of the sets is in color. The other, on loan from the Dallas Museum of Art, was executed in black and white—presenting visitors with a striking comparison.

Also among these additions is a group of colorful children's drawings, on loan from the Kennedy Library in Boston, and children's books commemorating JFK's legacy.

Artifacts will be on display in the Museum throughout 1998. ■■■

*Bob Porter is the Director of Public Programs for The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.*



### ret'ro-spect

In November I had the privilege of attending the dedication of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station. Listening to former presidents Ford, Carter, Bush and President Clinton speak, I was reminded once again of how quickly time passes. It also reinforced my strong belief in the mission of the Museum and the importance of preserving history.

The New Year brings with it an opportunity to look at our own history—to celebrate our accomplishments and plan for the future. This past year was a full one for us. In addition to completing construction for our expanded Visitors Center, we hosted the Leukemia Society of America's *Tribute to Jackie* travelling photo exhibit, installed several new artifacts on the sixth floor, and developed new educational programs to serve the 60,000 students who visit us each year. We completed the American Association of Museum's M&AP process—the Museum Assessment Program—and the feedback was encouraging. Our efforts are paying off: attendance is up from previous years.

This month the Museum's Board of Directors will meet for their annual retreat. Like many of us, they'll be looking ahead to the new year, and making resolutions for the Museum's future. I hope you will resolve to continue your support of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Happy New Year!

Jeff West  
 Executive Director  
 The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

## Sketches from Ruby Trial Lead Recent Donations



Jack Ruby, left, and attorney Joe Tonahill during jury selection on February 22, 1964. Tonahill, who gave an oral history to the Museum in 1996, assisted lead defense attorney Melvin Belli. *Chuck Fisher Collection/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*

**W**hen Judge Joe B. Brown, Jr. ordered cameras out of his courtroom just before the 1964 Jack Ruby trial, local television stations had to scramble for pictures. At CBS affiliate KRLLD-TV (now FOX-owned KDFW), Dallas artist Chuck Fisher drew a new assignment: cover the proceedings and sketch the important participants.

Those pencil renderings of Ruby, District Attorney Henry Wade, defense attorneys Melvin Belli and Joe Tonahill, future mayor Wes Wise and others appeared almost every evening on the station's newscasts.

After the trial, Fisher stored the drawings in his closet, never realizing their historical significance. However his long-time friend, Adele Taylor, learned of the draw-

ings and contacted Museum officials. Fisher was quite surprised to learn that what he always considered to be just simple drawings actually have an important place in the history of the Kennedy assassination.

Among the sketches are three potential male jurors not picked to serve and two female observers, one a judge from California. All show distinctive character traits within Fisher's expressive lines.

Another recent donation came from Barton R. Williams, Sr. and Barton R. Williams, Jr. of Abilene. Williams Sr. served in the Air Force in 1963 and was present when President John F. Kennedy stepped off Air Force One at Larson Air Force Base in Washington. The date was September 26, 1963, when Kennedy arrived on what the press dubbed the "Smokey the Bear" tour.

Kennedy toured several Western states, including North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, promoting conservation efforts. He landed at Larson, about midway between Spokane and Seattle, to helicopter over to nearby Hanson for dedication ceremonies for a new nuclear power plant.

Williams obtained a series of seven black and white photos on two contact sheets, taken by an unknown officer at the air base. During a recent visit to the Museum, Williams donated the sheets, along with a book about Larson and the Washington state area.

While fact-checking Kennedy's appearance with the John F. Kennedy Library, I

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learned from audio-visual curator Allan Goodrich that their extensive photo collection includes pictures at Hanson, but not at Larson, which means Williams' donation fills a photographic gap in the Kennedy presidency.

A third interesting donation comes from Michael Whitman of Dallas. In 1963, Michael's father, Grant Whitman, served as Senator from Utah (D). Several days ahead of the September 24, 1964, official release date, government officials and members of the news media received an advance copy of the Warren Report. This version, published in soft cover, was later sold to the public for \$2.50. For The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Whitman's early version is an important artifact and we're pleased to have it in our collection.



*Gary Mack is the Archivist for  
The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*



KRLD-TV sports anchor and prosecution witness  
Wes Wise on the first day of the Ruby trial,  
March 4, 1964. Wise saw Ruby in Dealey Plaza around  
3:00 p.m. the day after the assassination, shortly  
before Lee Harvey Oswald was first scheduled to  
be transferred to the county jail. *Chuck Fisher  
Collection/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*



President John F. Kennedy arrives at Larson AFB in Washington state on September 26, 1963, on his way to dedication ceremonies at a nuclear power plant.  
*Barton R. Williams, Sr. and Barton R. Williams, Jr. Collection/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*

## Donations Preserve Items for Future Generations

**A**lthough most museums have some limited budget for acquisitions, institutions acquire the vast majority of their collections through donations. Of the over 13,000 artifacts in the collection of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, about 99 percent have come through donations. Why would people donate artifacts instead of offering them for sale?

People choose to donate their artifacts for a variety of reasons: for tax purposes; to ensure items are preserved; to honor a friend or relative, or have their name live on in perpetuity; because no other family members have an interest in caring for the items; or because they want to share their artifacts with future generations.

What is a donation and how does it work? What do museums look for, what is the process if you are interested in giving something to a museum?

At The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, donation calls are forwarded to members of the Interpretation team, either Archivist Gary Mack, or Dr. Marian Ann Montgomery, Director of Interpretation. The Interpretation team determines if the item is appropriate to the mission of the institution: interpreting the life, times, death and legacy of President John F. Kennedy. Additionally the staff checks the collection files to determine whether or not we already have an example of that type of artifact. The Museum, because of limited storage space and resources, generally acquires only one or two examples of the same item, and only accepts items related to our educational mission.

What artifacts does the Museum particularly want? Items might include:

- ❶ Newspapers and magazines
- ❷ Photographs and home movies
- ❸ Artifacts related to any of President Kennedy's visits to Texas
- ❹ Clothing people wore on 11/22/63 to see the president
- ❺ Items which reflect the social history of Dallas in the 1960s
- ❻ Items related to the Kennedy Memorial
- ❼ Out-of-print books about President Kennedy
- ❽ Items related to the investigations of Kennedy's assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and Officer J.D. Tippit

Additionally, the Museum collects items that illuminate issues of Kennedy's presidency and legacy: the Space Race, the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, the Peace Corps and promotion of the arts. Although the Museum was able to acquire a few items from Mrs. Onassis' estate sale in 1995, additional items from her estate would also be of interest.

Once the staff determines that a particular item meets the Museum's mission and collections philosophy, a temporary receipt form and gift agreement is prepared. The signed temporary receipt form is left with the donor when any artifact is deposited with the Museum for consideration. Proposed acquisitions are reviewed by the Interpretation Committee of the Board of Directors at their quarterly meetings. Once items have been approved, a formal gift agreement is executed by the staff and one copy is forwarded to the donor.

How to determine the value of your donation? By law the Museum is unable to place a value on artifacts for tax purposes; therefore, donors are responsible for having artifacts appraised. The Museum does have a list of reputable appraisers available.

On occasion, donors may want to retain an artifact for their lifetime, and donate the item to the Museum upon their death. In this case a letter of intent deposited at the Museum is a wonderful way to indicate your plans.

While not always put on immediate display, all artifacts are available for viewing through the Museum's research library, open Monday afternoons and Tuesday-Friday by appointment.

In the end, there is a wonderful feeling knowing that something you have given will be at the Museum for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

For more information about making a donation to The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, contact Marian Ann Montgomery at (214)747-6660, ext. 6697, or Gary Mack at ext. 6693.

▬▬▬

*Marian Ann J. Montgomery, Ph.D., is the Director of Interpretation for The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.*

## Remembering Bill Collins

**O**n December 1, 1997, the Museum—and the city of Dallas—lost a valued friend and supporter with the death of William E. "Bill" Collins.



Collins, 79, was a founding trustee of the Museum and was present at the initial meeting of the Board of Directors in September 1983. Throughout his years of service Collins served the Museum in various capacities, including treasurer and general counsel, and as a member of the Board's nominating and executive committees. Collins resigned from the Board in 1991.

In his memoirs, written in 1996, Collins described his work with the Museum as "perhaps the most rewarding of anything I have done," outside of his involvement with Lovers Lane United Methodist Church.

"He thought it [the Museum] was such a significant accomplishment for the city," said his son, Michael Collins, who now serves as general counsel for the Museum.

Collins died of a heart attack after returning from a family Thanksgiving celebration in Asheville, North Carolina. He was born in Leonard, Texas and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Austin in 1939, graduating with highest honors. During his service in World War II, Collins met his wife-to-be, Sheila Mary Peers, an English secretary working for the Army, in France.

After the war, Collins finished third in his class at Harvard Law School, graduating magna cum laude in 1948. He then moved to Dallas, where he began his lifelong association with the law firm of Thompson, Knight, Harris, Wright and Weisberg—now Thompson & Knight.

Collins' extensive civic involvement included board memberships on the Community Council of Greater Dallas, the Crossroads Community Center (now the Martin Luther King Center) and the Dallas Child Guidance Clinic. He was also a past president and executive committee member of the Dallas Historical Society.

In addition to his wife and son, Michael, Collins is survived by four other sons, a daughter and twelve grandchildren.

"Bill Collins asked the hard questions," said Museum Executive Director Jeff West, "but they were invariably the right questions. His leadership, intelligence and enthusiasm will be sorely missed." ▬▬▬



## *Family Photographer Lowe Presents Verbal and Visual Portrait of the Kennedys*

One of the most moving portraits of Jack and Jackie Kennedy created by Jacques Lowe, their family photographer, was a verbal portrait of the Kennedys which Lowe recently presented to an invitational audience at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.

To commemorate the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JFK's death, Lowe made his second visit to the Museum in connection with his *A Tribute to Jackie* exhibit of seventy-five photographs of Jackie Kennedy, then on display at the Museum. Lowe began his reminiscences about the Kennedy family when Executive Director Jeff West placed an image of Bobby Kennedy and his young son David on a screen for the photographer and audience to view.

Lowe's first encounter with the Kennedy family, he explained, came through a series of photos he made of Robert Kennedy and his family. It was several months after he delivered this set of photos, Lowe explained, when he received a midnight phone call from Joseph Kennedy, the family patriarch. At first Lowe thought it was a joke. The elder Kennedy convinced him otherwise, going on to commission him to take photos of another of his sons, the young senator John Kennedy.

His initial meeting with JFK, which took place at Hyannis Port, did not go well, Lowe admitted. It was JFK's day off from campaigning and he did not want to dress up for a photo shoot. A few months later, however, after Lowe had mailed a batch of contact sheets he feared JFK wouldn't like,



Kennedy captioned this picture himself in an article Lowe subsequently published in *Look* magazine about the Johnson nomination: "4:30 p.m. After discussion with some of the party's leaders, it was agreed that Lyndon would be the strongest possible candidate for vice-president. I called him on the phone again, and he said, 'Jack, if you want me to run, I'll do it.' After I had talked to Lyndon I heard that certain other party leaders, including some in labor, were unhappy. I sent my brother Bobby down to Lyndon to tell him there might be a fight on the convention floor. He told Bobby, 'If Jack wants me for vice-president, I'm willing to make a fight for it.' I told Bobby that if Lyndon was ready to fight, so was I. I informed Clark Clifford, Senator Stuart Symington's adviser, of my decision. I also told Senator Henry Jackson of Washington, who had been under serious consideration. Then we made the announcement." Photograph © 1997 Jacques Lowe

he got a phone call from JFK asking him to come to his apartment in New York City.

"He [JFK] opened the door dressed in a towel," said Lowe, drawing a laugh from the audience. "He had just stepped out of the shower." Lowe went on to say he could hear water splashing from another part of the apartment and Jackie Kennedy calling

out, "Is that Jacques? Those were wonderful pictures."

Thus began a rather casual relationship that grew into Lowe becoming intimately acquainted with the family, creating in the process many of the photographs that have become icons connected with the Kennedys. One of the most familiar of

Jacques Lowe during an oral history interview at the Museum. *The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*



these is a family group portrait (seen on page one of this issue) which Lowe made of the whole Kennedy family the morning after JFK was elected president.

Lowe told of gathering everyone for that portrait only to find Jackie Kennedy missing. It was a cold, misty morning, he remembered, and Jackie was strolling back and forth on the beach beside the ocean.

"She was in a state of shock. A total state of shock. As a lot of people were. I was myself," Lowe recalled. "She was in a state of shock because she realized she was the First Lady. While she had wanted to be First Lady, she also had a lot of fears about it.

"Jack said he would go get her," Lowe continued. "When he returned she had to go upstairs and change. When she came back a few minutes later everyone stood up and applauded. . . . It was a wonderful moment."

When West placed a couple of new images on the projection screen, Lowe recalled that in the early days of the presidential campaign, while JFK was highly popular in his home state of Massachusetts, trips to places like Nebraska and Oregon often found no more than two people greeting his plane.

"Toward the end of the campaign it became amazing," he said. "After the debates [between JFK and Richard Nixon] the crowds would number in the hundreds of thousands."

Lowe received an especially hearty audience response detailing the events of the 1960 Democratic Convention when JFK won the presidential nomination. Lowe was in the midst of many behind-the-scenes negotiations. In fact, he was among those present when Kennedy offered Lyndon Johnson the vice-presidency. It has often been reported that, within Kennedy's circle of advisers, Johnson was a controversial selection as JFK's running mate.

When West flashed a slide on the screen of a scowling Bobby Kennedy stand-



In the early part of the presidential campaign, the Kennedys quietly slipped into an Oregon diner for breakfast. Nobody recognized them, and they sat undisturbed. Six months later neither Jackie nor her husband would be able to enjoy that kind of privacy ever again. Photograph © 1997 Jacques Lowe

ing between JFK and LBJ in a hotel room, Lowe said. "As you can see, Bobby was not too happy with that selection." His deadpan delivery of that remark drew a huge round of laughter from the audience.

In response to a question from West, Lowe said he turned down an invitation to become the official White House photographer. He was not interested in that post, he explained, because the White House photographer is charged with recording the activities of the president. He preferred documenting JFK's presidency. In that process, Lowe produced many photos that stand as art.

In summing up his impression of John F. Kennedy, Lowe said: "Well, he had a wonderful sense of humor . . . He never took himself too seriously . . . At the same time he knew exactly how to use his power . . . He

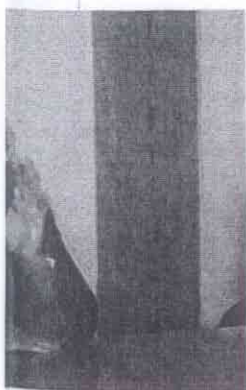
was very warm. And, of course, he was highly intelligent . . . He was a pleasure to be around."

Lowe's publications, including *JFK Remembered* and *A Tribute to Jackie*, are available in the Museum Store. ■

*Bob Porter is the Director of Public Programs at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.*

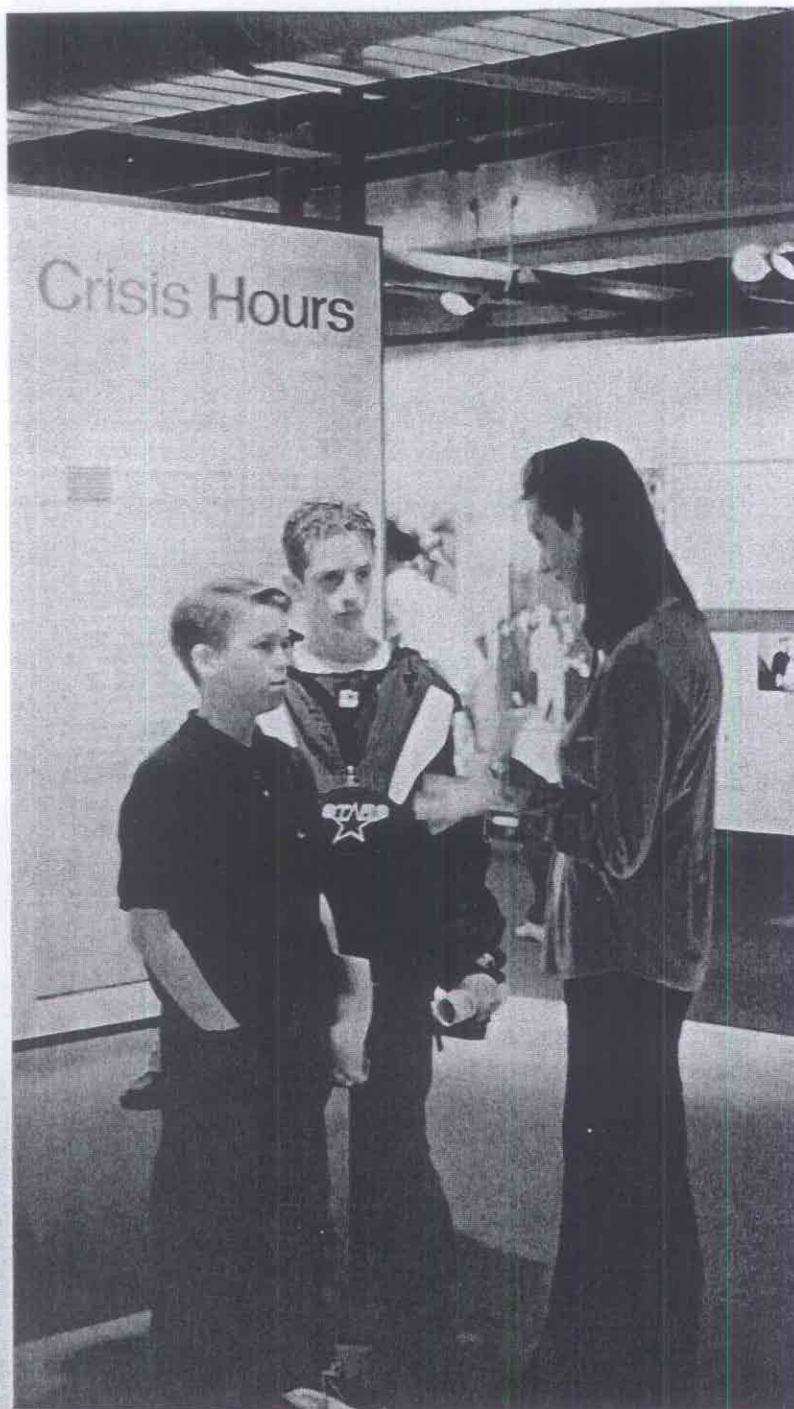
"Toward the end . . . it became amazing. After the debates, the crowds would number in the hundreds of thousands."

*Jacques Lowe, recalling JFK's presidential campaign*





## *Education Behind the Scenes* EDUCATORS, STUDENTS AND CIVIC LEADERS



Students from Caddo Mills Middle School work with Museum volunteer Taylor Kepler.  
*The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*

In May 1997 President Clinton, along with former Presidents Bush, Carter and Ford, General Colin Powell and countless others came together in Philadelphia to host the Volunteer Summit—a national rally to promote the importance of volunteerism in the United States. General Powell remarked during the summit:

*Working together, we have the power to . . . transform our nation. We can recover our sense of community—our pride in being a nation of neighbors who care.*

Volunteers at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza are great examples of that power. The Museum's volunteers stand as a cornerstone to Museum education programs. From docent tours, to assisting in the research and development of new programs, to critiquing and editing lesson plans, the value of their contribution is immeasurable.

Debbi Lelewicz has volunteered as a docent and an education program assistant for more than three years. An accomplished artist and community organizer, wife and mother, Lelewicz has enhanced the education of tens of thousands of students. Lelewicz initially came to the Museum because of her interest in President Kennedy.

"My husband saw a listing for docents in the 'Volunteer Opportunities' section of *The Dallas Morning News* and encouraged me to check it out," she recalled.

In teaching students about John F. Kennedy, Lelewicz stresses the importance of personal contact. "President Kennedy meant a great deal to the people of my generation," she elaborated. "The only way for children of the post-Kennedy generation to truly understand his impact on not only the people of the early 1960s but also of today, is to talk to them."

Volunteers come to the Museum not only to contribute to their community, but also to learn. Although SMU seniors Ray Langton and Taylor Kepler were born twelve years after the assassination, their interest is just as strong as those who lived through the Kennedy era.

"As a history major, I'm thankful for the opportunity to utilize my research and writing skills," said Kepler, who assists with the development of teacher materials. "Growing up in Dallas, I always knew about the Kennedy assassination. It's important



that people learn the whole story. My work with the Museum can help in that task."

"This opportunity is one-of-a-kind," said Langton who, along with his duties of assisting with the Museum's oral history program, also facilitates gallery guide sessions with students. "Nowhere else in Dallas is there an opportunity to work with such a well-known subject."

Working with the Museum also gives students a competitive edge in the outside world. Both Kepler and Langton see their volunteer work as a way to explore career and educational opportunities in the museum and history fields. As Langton elaborated, "Working at the Museum shows that you're well-rounded, intelligent and committed. A definite plus for future employers and graduate schools."

As much as volunteers learn from us, we also learn from volunteers. Members of the Educators Advisory Council (EAC) have done a great deal to keep new education programs on track. For instance Alan Nyugen, a first grade teacher at Cesar Chavez Learning Center in Dallas, is always ready to lend his expertise in creating activities that engage primary school students. Long-time Museum supporters Carl Henry, a history and English teacher at First Baptist Academy, and Bruce Shipp, science teacher at Seagoville Middle School, are always available with their enthusiasm and flair for creative lesson plans.

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Caddo Mills students complete gallery guides titled *Who Was JFK?*  
*The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*



## Ways You Can Volunteer

MANY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.  
HOURS ARE FLEXIBLE.

### SCHOOL PROGRAM DOCENTS

Present orientations and distribute Museum gallery guides, assist students and teachers with gallery assignments and help with the evaluation and revision of the gallery guide program. A one-day training session is required. Gallery guide sessions with students take place Wednesdays from 9:15 a.m. to noon and as arranged with area teachers. Minimum commitment is two Wednesdays a month.

### EDUCATION PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

Develop curriculum-related materials for the Museum's school program—including activity sheets and lesson plans for teacher packets, information sheets and gallery guides. A minimum commitment of twelve hours per month is required. Hours vary with each assignment, but are generally flexible within regular office hours, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On-the-job training provided.

### COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEERS

Work closely with the Museum's Interpretation team to inventory and catalog artifacts and transcribe oral histories in the Museum archives. Collections volunteer positions are limited and competitive. All those interested must complete a screening process. A minimum commitment of twelve hours per month is required. Hours vary with each assignment, but are generally flexible within regular office hours, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On-the-job training is provided.

### VISITORS CENTER ASSISTANTS

Assist Museum visitors and create a user-friendly environment in the Museum. Volunteers respond to the "ebb and flow" of visitation in peak areas of the Visitors Center. Duties include assisting visitors waiting for admission to the Museum, and providing information about the Museum and other Dallas-area attractions. On-the-job training is provided.

### VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

Benefits for all Museum volunteers include complimentary parking, free admission to the Museum for friends and family members, a subscription to *ml·m·spea*, invitations to special events and discounts in the Museum Store. Docents, education and collections volunteers may arrange to receive unpaid college internship credit.



For more information contact:  
Mia Larena  
(214) 747-6660, ext. 6692



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Dr. Peggy Mitchell, Principal of D.A. Hulcy Middle School in Oak Cliff and a member of the EAC since its inception, sums up the reason for the educators' involvement.

"The Sixth Floor Museum is a hidden treasure for students and teachers," she said. "Ripe for all levels of instruction, from basic TAAS objectives to reading, science, math and social studies, it's an interdisciplinary cornucopia of information."

The education staff of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza is greatly indebted to our hard-working volunteers for sharing their time, enthusiasm, commitment and talent. Their work will benefit students for generations to come. ■■■

*Mia Llorena is the Museum Educator for The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.*



Students discuss *Who Was JFK?* in the Museum. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

## Museum Offers Unique Venue for After-Hours Events

Dallas is now recognized as the second largest convention city in the United States. Thousands of individuals visit Dallas annually as participants in a major convention, an association's conference or even a company meeting. Most of their time is spent at meeting sites and hotels. But often the meeting planner or conference organizer will be charged with creating a special after-hours event for all attendees, or a select group of VIPs. These events are usually designed to show guests how much the organizers or sponsors appreciate them. Consequently, the planner needs to find a site that is unique, unusual, popular, impressive and one that

would be of interest to their guests. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza is just that venue.

With the recent expansion of the Museum's Visitors Center, the staging of sit-down dinners, receptions, seminars or simply private tours has become an increasingly popular after-hours group activity. Since the Museum is the number one visitor site in Dallas, it is generally a safe bet that most out-of-town conference and convention participants will want the chance to visit the Museum while they are in Dallas. With often hectic, fast-paced meeting schedules, there may not be much "free" time for conference attendees to get to the Museum

during the day. But with an after-hours event, planners now have the ability to provide that opportunity to their guests without impacting conference schedules.

In the past few months, the Museum has hosted formal sit-down dinner parties for companies such as Coopers & Lybrand, the Greater Dallas Chamber and the Young Presidents' Organization. After-hours receptions and tours have been staged for clients such as Chilton Communications, Zeserson & Associates, the SMU Alumni Association and the Leukemia Society of America. In addition, the lobby of the Visitors Center has been converted into meeting space for presentations by Merrill Lynch and the National Newspaper Association. Private, after-hour tours of the Museum have also been conducted with groups like The SABRE Group and Dresser Industries.

The prospect of holding a private event in such a historical site as The Sixth Floor Museum is not limited to convention and conference attendees. Several local individuals and organizations have organized personal functions at the Museum also. Now, like any popular site, the calendar of available evenings is filling up into the latter part of 1998.

For more information about hosting a special event at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, contact Keith Hickman at (214) 747-6660, ext. 6610. ■■■

*Keith W. Hickman is the Business Development Associate for The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.*



*Photo by Ruda Blair/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*



## Museum Develops Relationships with Other Institutions

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza has forged several long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with other prominent local and national institutions.

A significant example of this cooperation came earlier this year, when the Museum was contacted by Tina Houston, Supervisory Archivist at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin. Two years previously the Library had received a large collection of papers from Mrs. Jeanne Reilly of Plano. Reilly lived in Austin at the time of President Johnson's death and had worked at the Library as a volunteer. Her experiences there prompted her to save materials relating to LBJ; she had already been collecting materials related to President Kennedy since his assassination in 1963. In 1995 Reilly decided to donate her collection to an organization where the materials could be shared with others.

The Library kept the materials pertaining to Johnson, and earlier this year contacted the Museum about the Kennedy materials. Reilly was happy to donate that portion of her collection to The Sixth Floor Museum, writing, "I feel confident that the Museum will make the best possible use of these items." Her Kennedy collection consists of seventeen boxes of books, newspapers, magazines, and videotapes of television programs relating to the Kennedys.

"It makes a large and significant addition to the Museum's historic collections—an addition that never would have happened without the help of the LBJ Library and its staff," said Dr. Marian Ann Montgomery, Director of Interpretation.

Another institutional relationship involves the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts. Museum and Library staffs frequently assist each other with photographs and research topics about President Kennedy. A tangible example of the Museum's developing relationship with the JFK Library is the recent loan of artifacts from the Library's collection. In conjunction with the installation of items from the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the JFK Library agreed to loan the Museum eight children's drawings from their JFK condolence mail collection. Four of these drawings are now on display on the sixth floor and will be rotated every six months with the other four. The loan represents the first in what we hope is a continued exchange of ideas, resources and artifacts.

The Museum has also recently received assistance from the Dallas Museum of Art. The five *Man in Space* plates acquired by the Museum at the auction of the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis were part of a set of ten plates that had been split in half for the sale. The Museum was

unable to acquire the other five, but the individual who purchased them donated the plates to the Dallas Museum of Art. The DMA had no immediate plans to display the plates and agreed to lend them to the Museum to be displayed alongside the rest.

Further assistance from the DMA came during the installation of the Trade Mart luncheon place setting which Kennedy would have used on November 22, 1963. The silverware was quite tarnished and The Sixth Floor Museum staff did not have the capabilities to complete the conservation in-house. However fellow museum professionals at the DMA came to the rescue. The place setting was delivered to John Dennis, DMA conservator, who immediately set to work on the silver with the appropriate materials and methods in order to remove the tarnish. Thanks to Dennis the silverware on display is gleaming.

Growing professional relationships with other museums opens doors for future joint projects and exhibits. We are delighted to be cooperating with these institutions for the benefit of Museum visitors. ■■■

*Megan Bryant is the Registrar for  
The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.*

## Certification Program Identifies Outstanding Tour Guides

The Sixth Floor Museum is proud to be participating in a new venture between the Dallas Historical Society, the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau and Yellow Rose Touring Company to develop and implement a certification program for area tour guides. The program grew out of a need for tour guides to have access to historically accurate information from a central and recognized source.

"There is so much misinformation passed on to unsuspecting tourists," said Jeff West, Executive Director of The Sixth Floor Museum. "It is important that we work with guides to give them clear,

factual information and ensure the best experience possible for our city's many visitors."

The program is scheduled to begin in February with a series of three classes, which provide participants with nine hours of class time. The program's tentative schedule includes: the History of Dallas, Dallas Myths and Legends, Buildings of Downtown, Dallas Destinations, the Kennedy Assassination and Tour Etiquette. Classes will be led by local historians including Michael Hazel, Ph.D., Darwin Payne, Ph.D., Rosemary Rumbley, Marian Ann Montgomery, Ph.D., and Gary Mack.

Tour guide certification will be bestowed upon completion of class hours and a final examination. The guides will then be endorsed by the DCVB, Yellow Rose Touring Company, the Dallas Historical Society and The Sixth Floor Museum as the most accurate and foremost tour guides working in the city of Dallas.

■■■  
*Support for this program has been  
generously provided by the  
Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau.*

*For more information call the  
Dallas Historical Society at (214)421-4500.*

## ret·ro·spect

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### THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM at Dealey Plaza

411 Elm Street • Dallas, Texas 75202-3301  
(214) 747-6660 • Fax (214) 747-6662  
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The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza is a non-profit organization.

The Visitors Center is located directly behind the former Texas School Book Depository building in the Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark District. The entrance to the Museum is on Houston Street between Elm and Pacific; wheelchair access is on the north side of the building. All Museum films are captioned. The Visitors Center has a Museum Store, and is located in the West End Historic District, which offers numerous restaurants, shopping and entertainment.

Museum memberships start at \$50 and offer such benefits as free admission and audio tours, reduced price tickets for guests, Express Entry at the box office, a 10% discount in the Museum Store and a subscription to *ret·ro·spect*.

The Sixth Floor Museum is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Closed Christmas Day.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Administrative Offices.....(214) 747-6660  
Corporate and Group Tours.....Keith W. Hickman  
Research Center and Archives.....Gary Mack  
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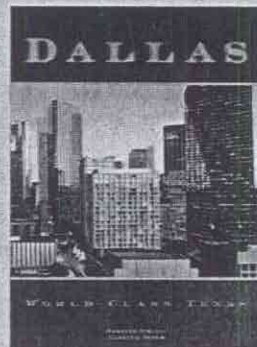


# One Gift is Twice as Nice



Museum Board member and former Dallas mayor Annette Strauss, autographing copies of her book *Dallas: World Class Texas*.  
*The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*

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Carolyn Brown—an exquisite  
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