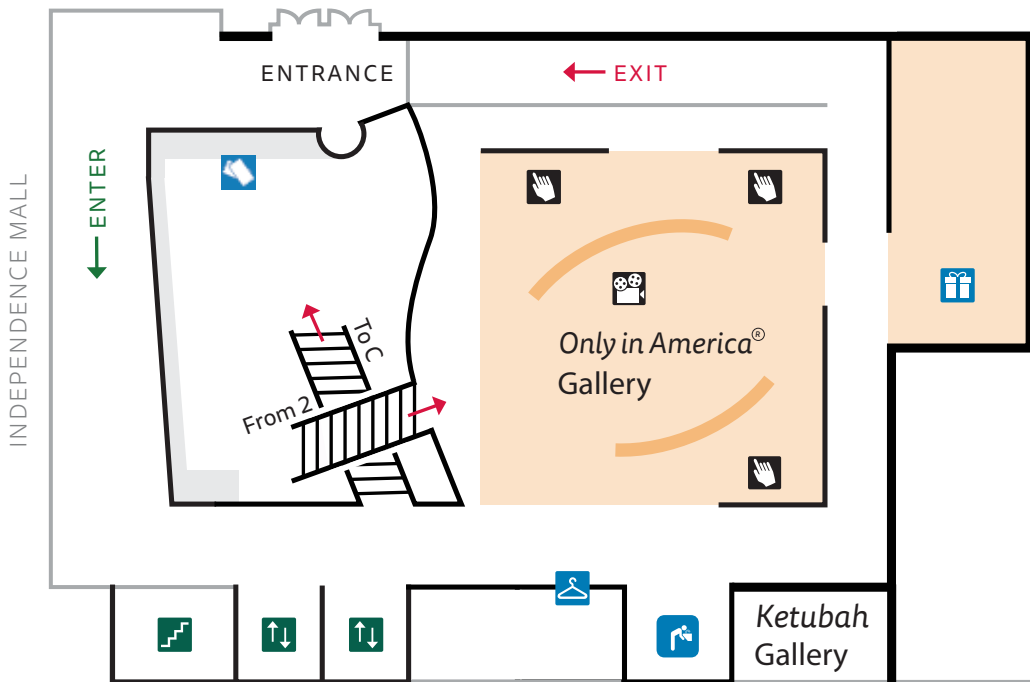











# 1 ONLY IN AMERICA<sup>®</sup> GALLERY

We invite you to begin your visit on the 4th floor. Starting with the very first Jews to settle in colonial America, the core exhibition flows chronologically as it highlights the diverse backgrounds, expectations, and experiences of Jews

who came to the United States and the generations that followed. The exhibition illustrates the choices they faced, the challenges they confronted, and the ways in which they shaped, and were shaped by, their American home.



The Only in America<sup>®</sup> Gallery features the stories of hundreds of individuals—some well-known, others less so—whose stories are emblematic of the American Jewish experience.

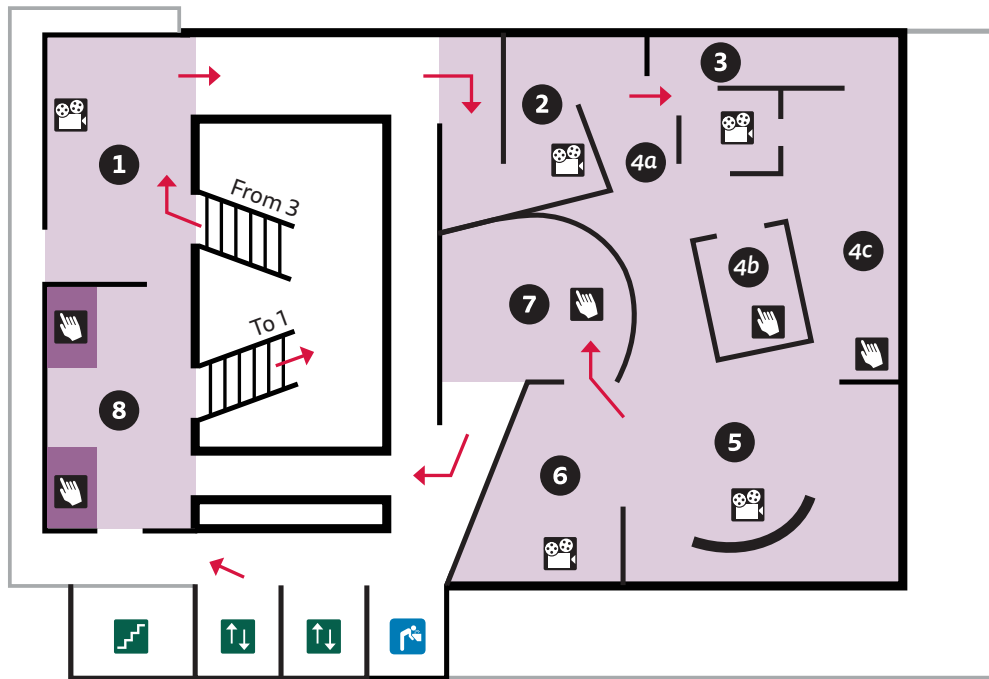
-  SUGGESTED ROUTE
-  ADMISSIONS DESK
-  MUSEUM STORE
-  FILM
-  STAIRWELL
-  COAT CHECK
-  WATER FOUNTAINS
-  INTERACTIVE
-  ELEVATORS

# 2 CHOICES AND CHALLENGES OF FREEDOM 1945-TODAY

What's your story? Jews and Judaism became increasingly mainstream in the postwar years, as antisemitism waned and legislation prohibiting housing and employment discrimination became law. Jews joined the migration to the suburbs and pioneered new communities. They celebrated the new State

of Israel and joined the fight for civil rights, advocated for women's equality, and worked to free Soviet Jews. Share your thoughts on current events in the *Contemporary Issues Forum*, and add your story to the Museum's collection in our *It's Your Story* video recording booths.

INDEPENDENCE MALL



**1 Expanding Freedom**  
New Responsibilities and Increasing Diversity

**2 A Jewish State**  
• The State of Israel  
• Impact of the Cold War

**3 New Neighborhoods**  
• Moving to the Suburbs  
• Catskills and Leisure

**4 Judaism in Suburbia**  
a. Postwar Judaism  
b. Interactive Synagogue Experience  
c. Jewish Education and Summer Camp

**5 Freedom Now!**  
• Civil Rights Movement  
• Women's Movement  
• Freeing Soviet Jewry

**6 American Mosaic, Jewish Mosaic**  
Jewish Culture and Life at the Millennium

**7 Contemporary Issues Forum**  
Share your opinions with fellow visitors.

**8 It's Your Story**  
Record your story and become part of the Museum!

→ SUGGESTED ROUTE

STAIRWELL

FILM

WATER FOUNTAINS

ELEVATORS

INTERACTIVE

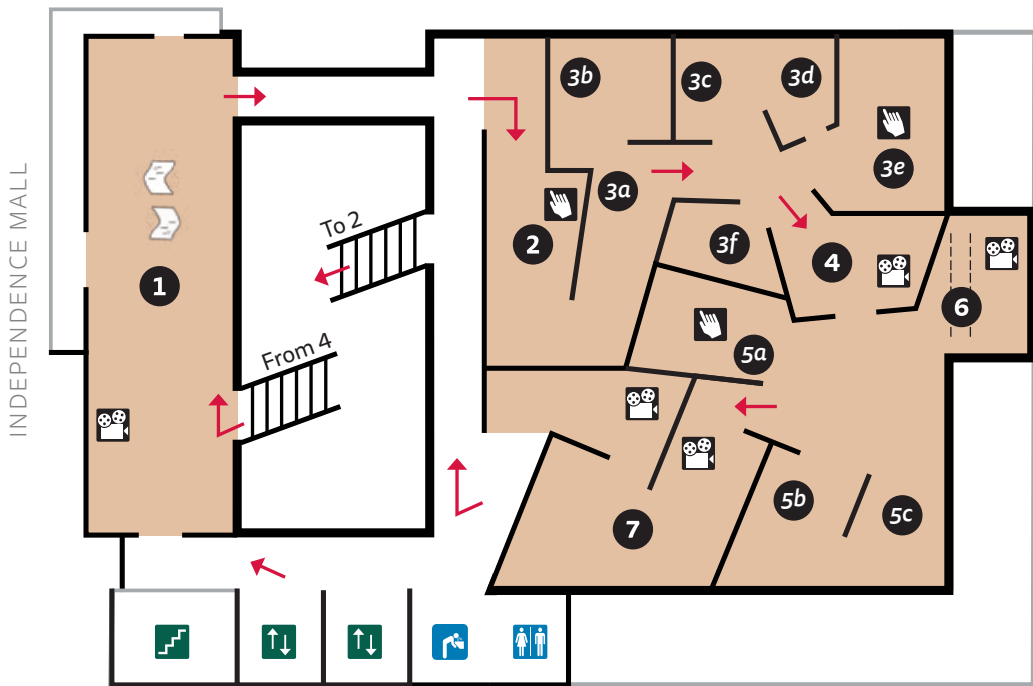
2) *Tzedakah* (charity) box, Jewish National Fund, The Weitzman, Dedicated in memory of Arthur Poley by Lyn and George Ross. 3) List family, Courtesy of the Family of Robert and Ernestine List. 4) Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Southfield, © Balthazar Korab Photography Ltd. 5) Poster, *Let My People Go*, 1969, Illustrated by Dan Reisinger, The Weitzman, Peter H. Schweitzer Collection of Jewish Americana. 6) Poster, *Levy's Rye Bread*, ca. 1975, The Weitzman.

# 3 DREAMS OF FREEDOM

## 1880-1945

Did your family immigrate to America? From 1880 to 1924, nearly 20 million immigrants arrived in the U.S. More than two million eastern European Jews came with dreams of religious freedom and economic opportunity, hoping for success but facing the realities of starting anew. See how the Great Depression

challenged all Americans, especially the children of immigrants, and how the rise of Nazi Socialism brought alarm and tragedy. Don't miss the Entertainment Theater's films that show the role immigrants and their children played in the rise of Hollywood.



### 1 Dreams of Freedom

Award-winning Film Featuring Five Immigrant Stories



### 2 An Era of Mass Migration

Immigrants Enter America



### 3 Making America Home

- Adapting to a New Country
- City Streetscape
  - Home/Tenement Life
  - School
  - Organizations
  - Work/Factory Life
  - Rural Life



### 4 Freedom Challenged

- World War I
- End of Immigration
- Leo Frank and Antisemitism



### 5 Competing Visions

- Life during the Interwar Years
- Culture
  - Religion
  - Politics



### 6 Entertainment Theater

Three Films about the Early Days of Hollywood



### 7 Anxiety, Alarm and Fear

- The Nazis Threaten Europe
- World War II



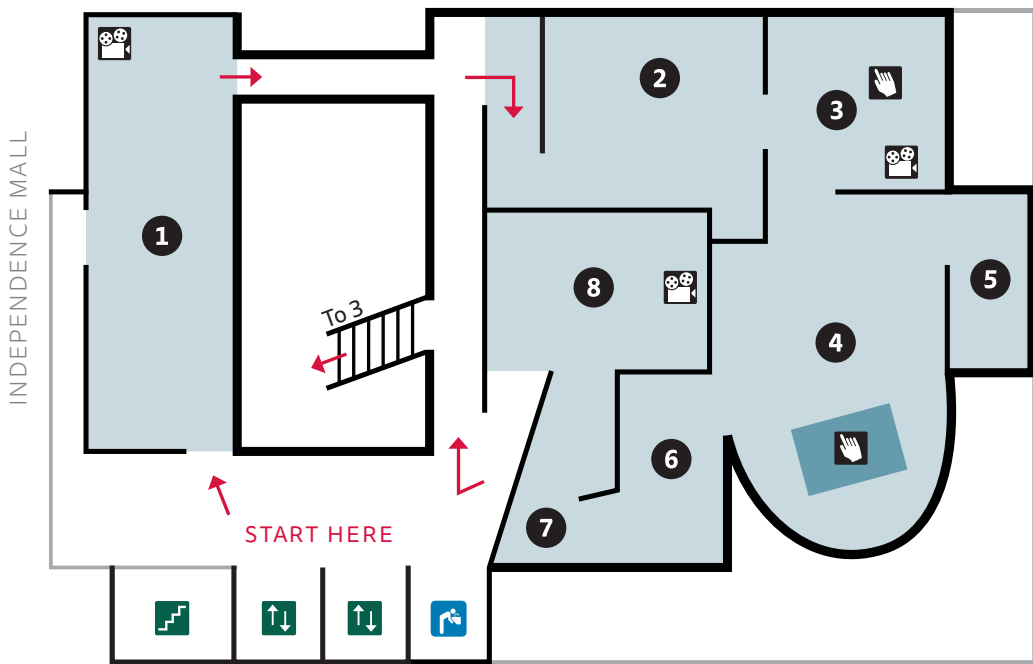
2)Poster, Red Star Line, Antwerp, ca. 1930, L. Gaudo, Private Collection/DaTo Images/ The Bridgeman Art Library. 3) Sign, B. Rosenberg & Sons, The Weitzman, Peter H. Schweitzer Collection of Jewish Americana. 4) Poster, Jewish War Sufferers, Illustrated by Lou Mayer, The Weitzman, Peter H. Schweitzer Collection of Jewish Americana. 5) Carving from Torah ark, Congregation Shaarei Eliyahu, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1918, Photo by Will Brown, The Weitzman, Gift of Congregation Shaare Elii. 7) Steamer trunk used by Josef Joseph on the MS St. Louis, photo by Will Brown.

# 4 FOUNDATIONS OF FREEDOM

## 1654-1880

What are our roots? America began as a sleepy colonial outpost and by the mid-nineteenth century had become the world's most energetic society. Unprecedented economic growth, technological innovation, and territorial expansion made it a particularly attractive destination to

those escaping the poverty and economic upheaval of central Europe. American Jews sought to preserve heritage and tradition while integrating into American society—a balance that minority communities strive for today. Don't miss the interactive map, or trying on a costume in our family gallery!



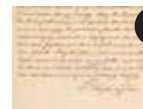
### 1 An American Story

Introduction to the Core Exhibition



### 2 Establishing Communities

Jewish Life in Colonial America



### 3 Embracing Freedom

- The Revolutionary War
- The Famous Washington/Seixas Correspondence



### 4 Innovation and Expansion

- Immigration from Central Europe
- Westward Migration



### 5 Fanny Brooks's Journey West

Hands-on Family Gallery



### 6 Union and Disunion

The Civil War



### 7 Revival and Renaissance

A Distinctly American Judaism



### 8 Choices and Challenges

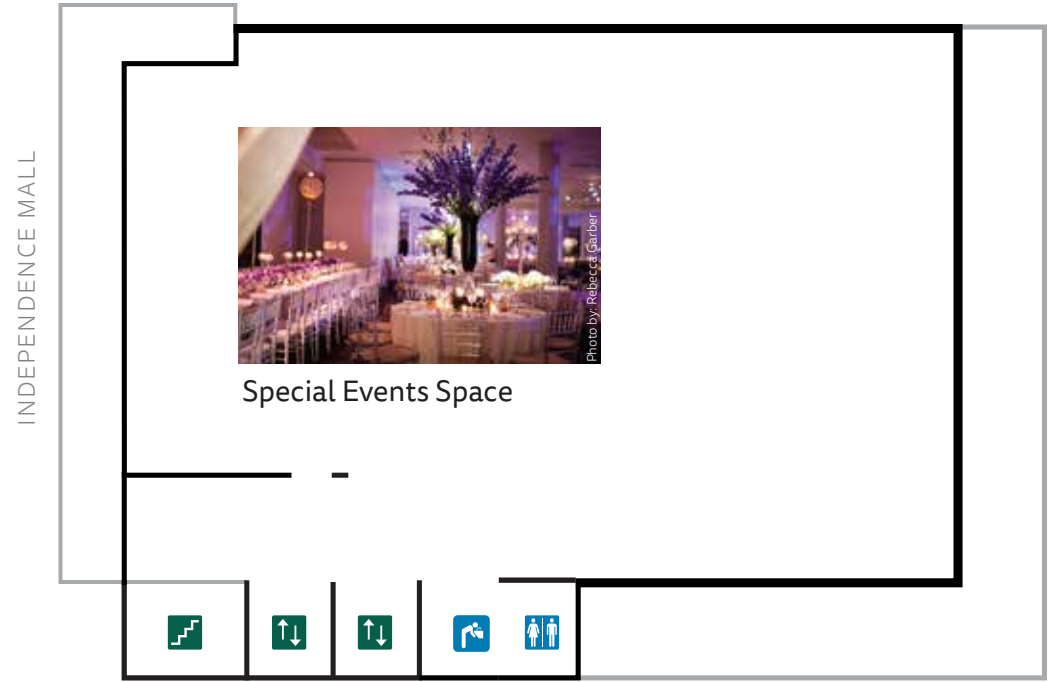
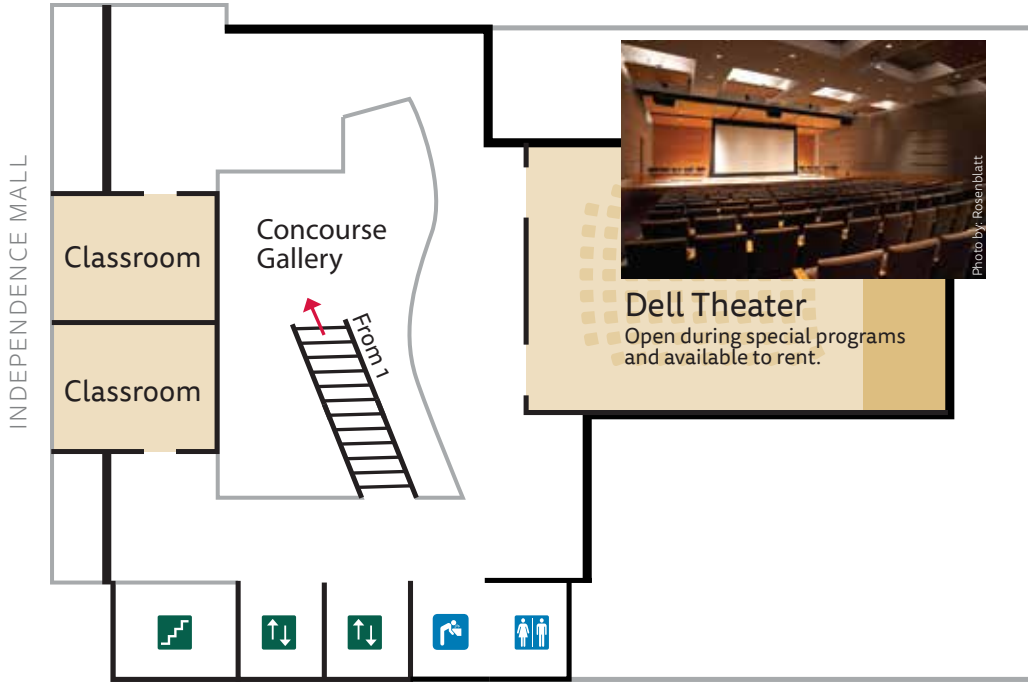
- A Maturing Community
- Purim Balls and Philanthropy

2) Touro Synagogue model, The Weitzman, The Mr. and Mrs. Robert Saligman Purchase Fund. 3) George Washington letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, August, 1790, Courtesy of the Morris Morgenstern Foundation. 6) Uniform of Jacob da Silva Solis-Cohen, on loan from the Collection of the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia, and uniform of Major Abraham Myers, The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. 7) Portrait of Isaac Leeser, by Solomon Nunes Carvalho, ca. 1840, Private Collection. 8) Silk gown from the Solis-Cohen family, nineteenth century, The Weitzman.

# C CONOURSE LEVEL

# 5 SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS and EVENT SPACE

*We invite you to visit this floor during special exhibitions and events.*



# What to see in an hour...

**Short on time?** Here's a must see guide to The Weitzman. You'll be tempted to stray, but if your time is limited, stay this course. Just match the section numbers under each image with the section numbers on the floor plan, and enjoy the stories behind some of our most beloved objects.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



**1. Touro Synagogue Model**  
Establishing Communities  
Section **2** on map



**2. George Washington Letter**  
Embracing Freedom  
Section **3** on map



**3. The Gratz Family**  
Establishing Communities  
Innovation and Expansion  
Sections **2** and **4** on map



**4. Civil War Uniforms**  
Union and Disunion  
Section **6** on map

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor



**5. Yiddish Typewriter**  
Making America Home  
Section **3a** on map



**6. Eva Davidson**  
Freedom Challenged  
Section **4** on map



**7. Workmen's Circle Plaque**  
Competing Visions  
Section **5c** on map



**8. Helga Weiss's Teddy Bear**  
Anxiety, Alarm, and Fear  
Section **7** on map

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



**9. Establishment of the State of Israel**  
A Jewish State  
Section **2** on map



**10. The Borscht Belt**  
New Neighborhoods  
Section **3** on map



**11. The Soviet Jewry Movement**  
Freedom Now!  
Section **5** on map



**12. American Menorah**  
American Mosaic,  
Jewish Mosaic  
Section **6** on map

## 1<sup>st</sup> Floor



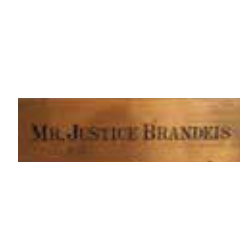
**13. Irving Berlin's Piano**  
Only in America



**Leonard Bernstein's Grammy**  
Only in America



**15. Henrietta Szold's Autograph Book**  
Only in America



**16. Louis D. Brandeis's Nameplate**  
Only in America