

INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

through Women's History



“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that **ALL MEN AND WOMEN** are created equal..”

—From the *Declaration of Sentiments*, signed at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848

THE CHALLENGE

Since the founding of our nation, American women have been at the forefront of political and social change. Whether marching for suffrage, protesting Jim Crow, or fighting for worker's rights, women faced incredible challenges with boundless courage and strength. With or without permission, with or without legal precedent, and with or without a clear path before them, American women made history. Yet, this history remains untold so that every time a student opens a textbook, they see only half of our nation's story.

It's a fact: history books leave women out.

Social scientists repeatedly found these texts do not equally represent women. The latest study, published in 2016, showed that women make up only 14% of figures in K-12 US history textbooks¹—including text, illustrations, and sidebars. The National Women's History Museum's investigation of state social studies standards found that only 178 women are mentioned and only 15 are mentioned more than 10 times. In addition, the standards overwhelmingly emphasize women's domestic roles. We don't know the direct impact of womanless textbooks on children. However, countless social scientists have found that stereotypes affect self-esteem. In leaving women out, history textbooks perpetuate stereotypes that women were not historically significant.



¹ Kay A. Chick and Stacey Corle, “Confronting Gender Imbalance in High School History Textbooks Through the C3 Framework,” *Social Studies Research and Practice* 11, no. 2 (Summer 2016): <http://www.socstrpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/MS6671-Chick.pdf>

Women are not new to leadership but are still outnumbered.

From Capitol Hill to the boardroom and every place in between, men outnumber women in the most prestigious positions. A study by the American Association of University Women examining the causes of women's underrepresentation in leadership roles states that it is good for both men and women to challenge stereotypical ideas about gender roles. Unconscious or implicit bias can cloud judgment in ways people are not fully aware².

The National Women's History Museum works to empower tomorrow's leaders—both girls and boys—to build a better future. To forge ahead, we must look squarely at our past, learn from it, and take the next leap. Each new generation must break barriers and shatter glass ceilings.

THE PROJECT

Women's History on the Road: Breaking Barriers and Shattering Glass Ceilings

The Museum is taking history to communities across the country with an innovative traveling multimedia exhibit using augmented reality (AR) technology to inspire students and young adults from the ages of 10 to 24 years old.

This state-of-the-art exhibit will showcase women's accomplishments from the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, through the suffrage movement, and include contemporary women's success stories. The exhibit will include diversity and inclusion themes, and a mobile app to engage audiences nationwide. This disruptive, interactive, experiential exhibit will educate girls & boys and inspire them to see there are no obstacles to becoming whatever they want to be, regardless of gender.

While currently in the exploratory stage, the goal is for the exhibit to launch in August 2019 and travel across the country through August 2021 during the centennial celebration of the suffrage movement. As part of the study, a team of noted educators and scholars are undertaking extensive research to ensure the exhibit will be inclusive of the full breadth of women's history, and will also be one of the first large-scale traveling exhibits to utilize this cutting-edge technology during this important milestone in women's history.

² Catherine Hill, PhD, et. al., "Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership," American Association of University Women, March 2016, https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/pdf_download/show_pdf.php?file=barris-and-bias.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- 1 Take our survey—what would you like to see in the exhibit? Give us your ideas for a successful tour: WomensHistory.org/Road-Show-Survey
- 2 Visit the Museum's website to find out more about the exhibit and how you can bring it to your hometown: WomensHistory.org/Suffrage-Centennial-Road-Show
- 3 Learn more about the women's suffrage movement at our online resource center: CrusadefortheVote.org



“Each time a girl opens a book and reads a **WOMANLESS HISTORY**, she learns she is worth less.”

—Myra Pollack Sadker
Professor, Author, Researcher, and Activist