

California State Capitol Museum Interactive Virtual Tour

California's State Capitol is both a historical resource and home to California's State Legislature. Thus, the California State Capitol Museum, housed in the Capitol and its surrounding Park, is a unique combination of past, present and future. As active custodians of the Capitol's legacy and as the Capitol's public face for the Legislature, the Museum's staff has created informative, lively and engaging tours and activities for Museum visitors that interpret the beautifully-restored building and encourage citizens to become involved in their state government.



The Challenge

The State Capitol Museum needed a way to extend its reach among the increasing population of California while maintaining the historic integrity of the Capitol. Tour guides needed the ability to introduce visitors to the many locations and resources at the Capitol, including spaces that they often cannot take a group (e.g. the cupola, the Speaker's office, etc.). Additionally, it was important to improve the quality of user visits to the Capitol, particularly by supporting visitors who didn't speak English or whose schedules could not accommodate guided tours.

The Solution

The State Capitol Museum contracted with Design Media to create an extensive interactive program, including two virtual tours, that interprets the California Capitol and Legislature's history and mission, and supports their efforts with the public. Through a wealth of interpretive material that includes 360-degree QTVR movies, animations, other engaging multimedia elements, the ADA-compliant program:

- Increases outreach through its three delivery platforms: Web, CD-ROM, and Handheld Web Tablet.
- Provides more opportunities for groups and individuals to tour the Capitol, in particular providing support for speakers of the following languages: Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, and English.
- Provides opportunity for those who could not visit the Capitol in person to tour the Museum virtually.
- Supports the Museum's mission by helping the public understand how state government works and helping them to become involved citizens.
- Presents California's governing body, past and present, to the public in a clear and straightforward manner.
- Provides detailed information about the legislative process and about how citizens can get involved.