



News Release**Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026**

Contact: Karis Erwin, National WWI Museum and Memorial, 816.888.8122, kerwin@theworldwar.org

“Liberty’s Beacon” to Transform the National WWI Museum and Memorial into a Canvas of Light This Fall

Debuting Sept. 25, the artistic light installation marks 100 years of the Museum and Memorial and the nation's 250th anniversary.

View Liberty’s Beacon promotional video [here](#).

KANSAS CITY, MO. – A century ago, a promise was made: to remember those who served, and to carry their stories forward. This fall, that promise takes an artistic form. As the National WWI Museum and Memorial marks its 100th anniversary alongside the nation's 250th, the Memorial itself will become the canvas, transformed into a painting of light, sound and motion for a brand-new installation called [Liberty's Beacon](#).

For seven weekends this fall, the Museum and Memorial's North Wall and Great Frieze, as well as the Liberty Memorial Tower, will glow with eight- to 10-minute projection mapping experiences unlike anything ever staged on the grounds. Three internationally acclaimed light artists have been commissioned to take the Museum and Memorial's limestone and turn it into a living surface, drawing out the virtues carved into its architecture: Honor, Courage, Sacrifice and Patriotism.

"A century ago, the founders of this Memorial built it on values meant to outlast their own time, along with a hope that future generations would know peace," said Matt Naylor, President and CEO of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. "As our nation marks 250 years, *Liberty's Beacon* is our way of honoring the last hundred years of this Memorial and imagining what the next century will ask of each of us."

Liberty's Beacon debuts Friday, Sept. 25 through Sunday, Sept. 27, and returns every weekend after that, building to an extended run through Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11. The experience is FREE and open to the public, no tickets required. Each night, the eight- to 10-minute show begins at 7:30 p.m. and repeats every 15 minutes (on the :00, :15, :30 and :45) until the final showing at 10:30 p.m. Guests are invited to spread a blanket or set up a picnic on the North Lawn and return throughout the season, since every artist's interpretation offers something new to see, hear and feel. Access details and FAQs are available at libertybeacon.org.



The artists' lineup features [Xavier de Richemont](#), a French video painter who spent a decade as artistic director of the Festival of Lights in Chartres and has illuminated cathedrals and landmarks from Mexico to India; [Leslie Epsztein](#) and [Camille Gross](#), the Paris-based projection designers behind large-scale light works across Lyon, London and Avignon; and [Onionlab](#), the Barcelona studio whose projection mapping has appeared everywhere from the Museo del Prado's bicentennial to the Spanish Pavilion at Expo Dubai 2020. Each artist brings a distinct visual language to the Memorial, paired with an original score composed to match.

Liberty's Beacon is a project of the National WWI Museum and Memorial, guided by a board-appointed committee whose members bring decades of experience in arts, museum leadership and public history to ensure the installation honors the Memorial's mission while giving each artist creative freedom to interpret it in their own voice.

Liberty's Beacon is supported by Premier Sponsors Kemper Family Foundations, Capitol Federal Foundation, Kornitzer Capital Management, Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation and The Hackman Family. A full list of supporters can be found at libertysbeacon.org.

###

About the National WWI Museum and Memorial

The National WWI Museum and Memorial is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The Museum and Memorial holds the most comprehensive collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum and Memorial takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National WWI Museum and Memorial inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit theworldwar.org.