When preparing to declare independence from a nation, it is the job of those attempting to “dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another” to create an ideal, a reason for others to follow them -- a reason for a person to risk everything they have, something that is worth fighting for, dying for, even if the possibility of success is nearly impossible. The founding fathers of the United States of America determined they could construct not only a revolution but also a country based on the ideals of liberty. So they started by writing the *Declaration of Independence*, followed later by the *Articles of Confederation*, and the *Constitution of the United States of America*.

These documents form the foundation for promised liberty for Americans and are features of this exhibit. While viewing this exhibit, viewers had the opportunity to try signing their signature using a quill pen and inkwell that were typically used by our forefathers in signing the important historical documents of liberty.

Another feature of the display consisted of several pieces of political propaganda of our country’s struggle to the path of liberty and freedom. Included are the "*Bostonians Paying the Excise Man*” and the “*Obelisk under the Liberty Tree*” in Boston.

**Group members:** Rachel Bard, Will Earp, Chris Hill, Ludivina Marquez, Amanda Pine and Pat Turnick
Bostonians Paying the Excise Man

In a time before the radio and television people used drawings to show the public perception of certain events. The "Bostonians Paying the Excise Man" is one of the most famous political cartoons from the American Revolution. It depicts the tarring and feathering of a British excise man (tax collector), John Malcomb by a mob of colonists in Boston in 1774. In the foreground it shows Malcomb being tarred and feathered by angry colonists and forcing hot tea down Malcomb’s throat. Directly behind them ‘the liberty tree’ with the stamp act nailed to it upside down, and a noose hanging from a branch.

In the background it shows the Boston Tea Party taking place but in actuality these two events did not take place at the same time. The Tea Party took place December 16, 1773 whereas the tarring and feathering of Malcomb took place January 29, 1774; this was merely for dramatic purposes. This was a prime example of British propaganda portraying how the Boston patriots treated British officials. Drawings such as this can truly show one the political turmoil that took place during this time period.
Liberty Tree Monument

"A View of the Obelisk erected under the Liberty Tree in Boston on the rejoicings for the repeal of the—Stamp Act 1766," sculpted by Paul Revere is a schematic rendering of the events that took place during the many various stages on the path towards the repeal of the stamp act. Each of the four sides of the obelisk depicts a scene of one of the struggles the patriots faced during the process of repeal.

Each side was titled as follows; 1. America in distress apprehending the total loss of liberty; 2. She implores the aid of her patrons; 3. She endures the Conflict for a short season; and 4. She has her liberty restored by the Royal hand of George the Third.

This is a prime example of colonial propaganda towards the British. In one of the more important scenes on the obelisk it shows a Native American and 'lady liberty' on the left side and the British Parliament on the right with a devilish dragon hovering above holding the stamp act. The Native American represents America whereas 'lady liberty' represents liberty; together they symbolize the idealistic American Liberty. The left side depicts the controlling British parliament where one of the men has snakes instead of a Whig which shows what the patriots thought of parliament.