

# National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service



## American Faces:

### Portrait Photographs from the National Archives

**Exhibition Overview:** Among the millions of photographs held by the National Archives are thousands of stunning portraits. "American Faces: Portrait Photographs from the National Archives" showcases these likenesses, explores why government agencies took or commissioned them, and how they ended up in the National Archives. Starting with Mathew Brady and including portraits by Lewis Hine, Dorothea Lange, Russell Lee, and Danny Lyon as well as other less well known but superb photographers, the exhibition will display images that convey the uniqueness of an individual and his or her part in the American community.



## Exhibition Details

### Content:

40 framed and matted black & white and color photographs, text, graphic panels, and labels

### Curator:

Bruce Bustard, PhD, Senior Curator, National Archives, Washington, DC

### Supplemental Materials:

Educational and promotional resources

### Rental Fee:

\$3,000 for 7-week display

### Security Requirements:

Limited security & environmental controls

### Shipping:

Exhibitor is responsible for outgoing shipping costs

### Size:

175 linear feet

### Number of Crates:

2

### Insurance:

Insured by the National Archives

### Tour Dates:

"American Faces" will be available for tour 2017 through 2021. Dates are subject to change.

### Project Status:

In development

### Contact:

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## More About this Exhibition

The National Archives holds the records of Federal military and civilian government agencies. These organizations photographed or collected photographs of individuals for many reasons. The portraits in the National Archives reflect this variety of sources.

### For example:

- Public Building Service records have wonderful portraits from the late 19th and early 20th century of prominent individuals such as President Theodore Roosevelt as well as of Treasury Department workers and their families.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs took portraits of Native American leaders, women, and children and students at Indian boarding schools.
- The State Department required passport photos that sometimes included entire families.
- Civil War pension files sometimes included carte de visite and tintypes portraits
- Navy images cover sailors from the Civil War through Vietnam
- Lewis Hine took photographs of child laborers and industrial workers.
- Immigration case files sometimes include photographs, especially in their Chinese exclusion files.
- Presidential Library collections hold photographs of Presidents, First Ladies, and their families as well of members of their administrations.

**National Archives Museum**  
**700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW**  
**Washington, DC 20408**

