



# THE LADY LIBERTY PARTNERSHIP

— A Flame  
to Empower  
the Future

# THE PARTNERSHIP

## A Collaborative Vision for Franco-American Cultural Projects

The partnership between GEDEON Programmes, through its innovative department GEDEON Experiences, and the *Fondation des États-Unis* (FEU) is anchored in the powerful symbolism of the Statue of Liberty, embodying the shared values of freedom, hope, and transatlantic unity. This collaboration aims to strengthen cultural exchanges between France and the United States through innovative artistic projects that reflect these ideals.

By combining our expertise, we strive to create impactful cultural content that fosters intercultural dialogue, promotes works and talents, and deepens understanding of the essential historical, artistic, and societal themes that shape Franco-American relations.

**GEDEON**  
programmes

**FONDATION  
DES  
ÉTATS-UNIS**

### GEDEON Programmes

Founded in 1994, **GEDEON Programmes** is a leading French audiovisual production company specializing in creative documentaries across history, science, environment, arts, and culture. Producing 50-70 hours of content annually for channels like PBS, BBC, ARTE, France Télévisions or NHK, **GEDEON** has earned nearly 500 awards for its documentary rigor and technological innovation.

The cutting-edge branch of **GEDEON Programmes**, **GEDEON Experiences**, creates immersive, multi-format experiences, blending storytelling, high quality footage, and exclusive subjects. Specializing in 3D reconstructions of lost environments, **GEDEON Experiences** bridges cultural, historical, and scientific transmission with cutting-edge technology.

Notable projects include the **Pompeii** exhibition (2020) at the *Grand Palais* in Paris, the VR experience **Gaudi**, **The Atelier of the Divine**, and **Tonight with the Impressionists, Paris 1874** – which ran at the *Musée d'Orsay* from March to August 2024 attracting over 80,000 visitors – and **Versailles: Lost Gardens of the Sun King**, which opened in March 2025 at the Palace of Versailles and will run until the end of the year.

### FEU

The **Fondation des États-Unis (FEU)**, founded in 1930 in the heart of the *Cité internationale universitaire de Paris (CiuP)*, is both a student residence and a cultural institution dedicated to fostering Franco-American exchange through residency programs, scholarships, and vibrant cultural programming.

Its historic Art Deco building, funded by American philanthropists **Mabel and Homer Gage**, includes a top floor of artist studios and two wings, housing over 250 students, researchers, musicians, and visual artists.

Recognized as a Public Benefit Foundation in France (*Fondation Reconnue d'Utilité Publique*) and supported by a nonprofit organization in the United States, the FEU provides an inspiring environment where artists, students, and researchers can thrive, present their work, and engage with residents from the 45 other international houses at the **CiuP** – encouraging dialogue, collaboration, and cultural exchange.



The partnership between GEDEON Experiences and the *Fondation des États-Unis* (FEU) is centered around three key initiatives:

1



### Artistic & Innovative Creation

The partnership will support groundbreaking projects on Franco-American themes, exploring historical, societal, and cultural topics while pushing the limits of artistic creation and techniques.

3

## 3 Pillars of the Partnership

### Renovation of Accommodation

The partnership will support the renovations of living spaces at the FEU, enhancing the accommodations for scholarship holders and further solidifying the FEU's role in fostering an environment of creative exchange.



### Scholarship Funding

The partnership will fund scholarships for researchers and artists, promoting cross-cultural collaboration and encouraging the exchange of knowledge and creativity between France and the United States.



2



# THE VR PRODUCTION

## 2026: A First Artistic Collaboration about a Major Cultural Event

Two major milestones  
will be commemorated:

The  
**140<sup>th</sup>**  
anniversary  
of the inauguration  
of the Statue.

The  
**250<sup>th</sup>**  
anniversary  
of American  
Independence.

To mark these historic events, GEDEON Experiences, in collaboration with the FEU and the Musée d'Orsay, is producing an immersive virtual reality experience titled "Lady Liberty's Great Journey." This immersive story will trace the design and construction of the Statue of Liberty, offering visitors an engaging and emotional exploration of this iconic symbol of freedom.

### Duration

**30 to 40**  
minutes,  
enhanced with  
a pre and  
post show.

### Location-Based Entertainment

(LBE)

An immersive  
walkabout  
in virtual reality.



### Paris

Musée d'Orsay

From:  
September 21, 2026  
to February 7, 2027

**80,000**  
expected visitors.

The *Musée d'Orsay*, one of France's leading cultural institutions with over three million annual visitors, will dedicate its Fall 2026 season to American art and history, featuring a special exhibition on the Statue of Liberty, of which it holds a replica, accompanied by a retrospective dedicated to the American artist Mary Cassatt.

### New York City

Manhattan  
Location

Opening Fall 2026

Expecting significant  
attendance.

Deeply invested in new technologies, the museum sees virtual reality as a powerful tool for mediation and audience diversification. A pioneer in immersive experiences, it has already embraced this medium with *Tonight with the Impressionists, Paris 1874*, co-produced with GEDEON Experiences, which attracted over 80,000 visitors in 5 months.



## The Story

Step into the heart of history with a groundbreaking VR experience that lets you relive the iconic journey of the Statue of Liberty like never before. With state-of-the-art technology, you will immerse yourself in historically accurate environments, from Bartholdi's creative workshop to the engineering marvels designed by Eiffel. Experience the emotional power and symbolism of Joseph Pulitzer's fight for funding, this experience allows you to navigate the key moments of the Statue's creation. Move between the grand historical narrative and the intimate, behind-the-scenes world of Bartholdi, to uncover the challenges, triumphs, and determination that brought this masterpiece to life. From the struggles for public funding to the awe-inspiring unveiling of the torch, you'll see as though you're witnessing history unfold - making the Statue of Liberty's Journey unforgettable.





1. Opening / Dream – Bedloe Island – 1886



2. New York World office – New York City – 1885



3. Laboulaye Salon – Versailles – 1865



4. Bartholdi's Mind



5. Journey to America – Summer 1871



6. Atelier Gaget – Paris – 1875



7. Bartholdi's Mind



8. World's Fair – 1876-1878



9. Atelier Eiffel – Paris – 1879-1880



10. Atelier Gaget Exterior – Paris – 1884



11. Pulitzer Office – New York City – 1885



12. Inauguration – New York City – 1886

# THE RENOVATION PROJECT

## An Ambitious Renovation of the Famous 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

On the top floor of the FEU lies the celebrated 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, where 17 artist studios host a diverse group of American artists each year. Created for practicing musicians and visual artists when the building opened in 1930, the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor offers a dedicated space for them to focus on individual creative practices, interact and collaborate with their neighboring artists and scholars, and engage with the French and international art scene.



Each artist-in-residence is given a private, fully furnished studio to live and work. These studios are designed as flexible spaces to accommodate different types of work, such as painting, sculpture, writing, or digital media.



This ambitious renovation goes beyond modernization; it seeks to preserve and renew the spirit of exchange, creativity, and collaboration that has defined the FEU for over a century. Led by the internationally renowned **Viguiet Architects**, this project will combine heritage with cutting-edge design to enhance both the building's functionality and its symbolic resonance.

### Create collaborative and flexible spaces:

Design common areas that foster interaction and creativity, add a mezzanine to expand under-utilized spaces and accommodate various activities.

### Reinvent studios and enhance functionality:

Reclaim the full height of the roof, allow for natural light, update sound-proofing, improve the functionality of spaces for musicians and other users.

### Revamp the kitchen and make spaces more accessible:

Design an open kitchen layout, modernize bathrooms, ensure accessibility throughout to create a building for everyone.

### Enhance terraces for usability and sustainability:

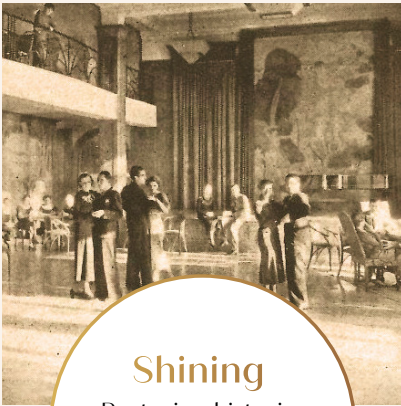
Re-imagine terrace spaces as green, functional areas that combine natural shading and renewable energy through solar panel.

### Incorporate modern furniture and design:

Reaffirm our commitment to the next generation of creators by providing the resources and environment to thrive.

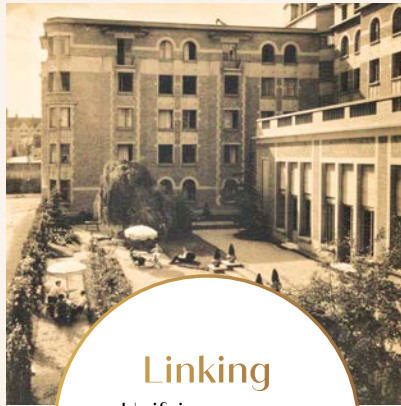
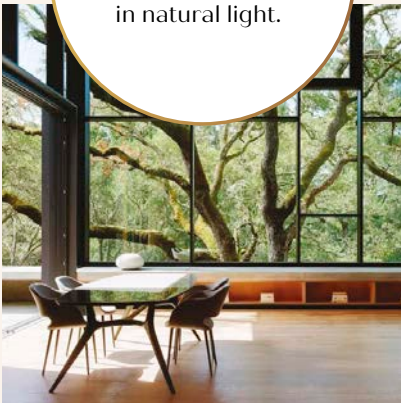


## "Transforming the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor into a Hub for Franco-American Cultural Exchange"



### Shining

Restoring historic splendor, revealed in natural light.



### Linking

Unifying spaces and people with fluid transitions between indoors and out.



### Inspiring

Encouraging connection, sparking creativity, and providing spaces for focus.



By modernizing the facility to improve accessibility, integrate sustainable building standards, and create flexible, future-proof spaces, we can ensure the FEU remains welcoming and functional for all.

New intermediary spaces will align with the FEU's commitment to a culture of *vivre-ensemble*.



Hear from the architect, Jean-Paul Viguier, himself:



# THE SCHOLARSHIP

## Supporting American Talents in Paris

At the core of its mission, the *Fondation des États-Unis* (FEU) has long supported emerging American artists, musicians, and scholars in Paris. Established in 1930 through Harriet Hale Woolley's trust fund, the FEU has provided essential €10,000 annual housing scholarships. However, these awards have not kept pace with rising living costs or the evolving needs of today's scholars.

During their residency, scholars have a unique opportunity to focus on their craft, collaborate with world-class artists, engage with Europe's top experts, and live in spacious Art Deco studios on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, immersed in Paris' vibrant creative community. They participate in curated programming, receive mentorship, and gain access to a wealth of artistic and networking opportunities.

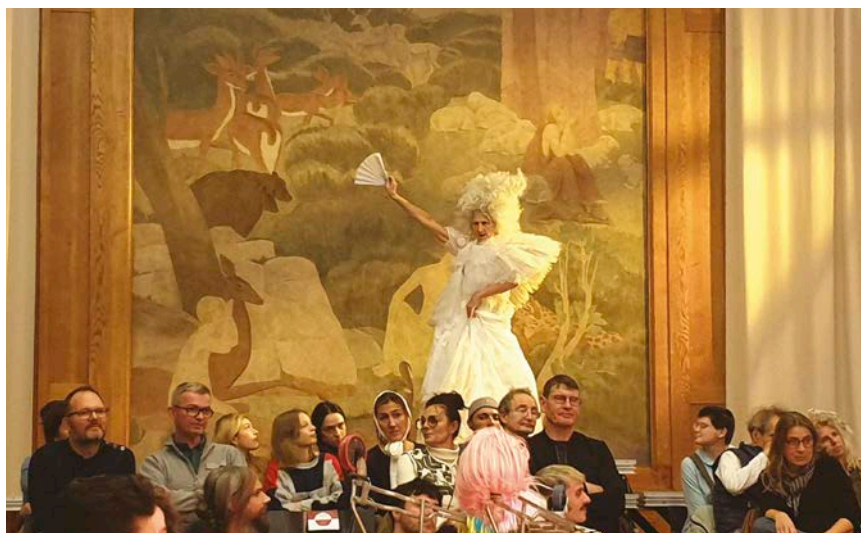


To amplify our impact and support the next generation of creative talent, we are focused on three key initiatives:

1. Launching 17 full-residency scholarships, one for each of our 17 available studios in the *Cité internationale universitaire de Paris* (CiuP).

2. Fostering transatlantic collaboration by connecting scholars with industry leaders and cultural institutions.

3. Expanding disciplines and research, by offering new scholarships not only for visual artists and musicians, but also scientists, fashion designers, culinary artists, etc.



Strategic partnerships, like the one with GEDEON, will connect grant recipients with expert mentors, creating transformative experiences that blend creativity, culture, and career growth. We will be able to offer American artists and scholars unmatched opportunities to develop their craft, build global networks, and promote meaningful cross-border dialogue.



*"As a Harriet Hale Woolley scholar, I profited greatly from the vibrant artistic community in the house and around the city of Paris. As a painter, I adored the abundance of natural light in my studio, and as an artist, I benefited from collaborating with other artists and musicians within the building, which proceeded to me making my first public introduction in French at the opening of my solo exhibition "Black(ness) is Beautiful" at the FEU. I am truly thankful for the time I spent at the FEU along with the community of friends I've gained in Paris and around the world."*

Alteronce Gumby  
Artist in Residence  
2016 - 2017



## Aron Frank is an award-winning composer, conductor, and violinist.

A laureate of the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, he served as an artist-in-residence at the Fondation des États-Unis for the 2021-2022 academic year. During this time, he studied at the École Normale de Musique de Paris and the Écoles d'Art Américaines de Fontainebleau, where he received the Ravel Prize in Composition.

Composing for film scores, ensembles, and soloists, his work has been featured at the Montclair Film Festival in New Jersey (Jury Award), Project Involve Los Angeles, and on stages across the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

Recent performances of his include appearances at Lincoln Center, the Juilliard School, United Nations, and with violinist Joshua Bell. He resides between New York and Paris.

Aron is currently composing the music for GEDEON Experience's immersive VR experience, "Lady Liberty's Great Journey". Aron is just one example of how our initiatives can continue to connect talented alumni with new partnerships, fostering fresh collaboration and continued opportunities for growth.



*"It was also a privilege to wake up every morning and watch the sun rise on the terrace, choosing my breakfast among a palette of traditional dishes from across the world, all within a few minutes of walking time at the CiuP. The FEU created a wealth of diversity, curiosity, and friendliness within its international community."*

Bertille de Baudinière  
Artist in Residence  
1983 - 1985



Read more from the alumni:



# THE DONOR IMPACT

## Lighting the Way

As the exclusive donor of the partnership between GEDEON Experiences and the FEU, you are at the heart of a transformative initiative that strengthens Franco-American cultural ties through groundbreaking artistic projects.

### Transform the Present



Your support brings to life a VR experience that chronicles the journey of individuals united by the core values of tolerance, freedom, and peace — symbolizing what we are building together.



The visionary redesign of 17 artist studios into a Franco-American cultural hub for creativity and collaboration, driven by sustainable energy solutions, will become a beacon for innovation.



Each scholarship recipient on the 5th Floor will gain a unique opportunity to broaden their horizons, pursue their passions, and engage in global conversations on peace and unity.

### Build for the Future

The impact of your contribution extends far beyond today, enabling the FEU and GEDEON Experiences to:

Forge deeper collaborations with cultural centers, research institutions, and academic bodies, creating more scholarships and cross-disciplinary programs.

Establish new partnerships aligned with the aspirations of talented American students, leveraging global networks to create innovative opportunities.

Prepare for the FEU for its centennial celebration in 2030.

Cement the FEU's position as a Franco-American cultural center, advancing innovation and fostering shared heritage.



# THE DONOR POTENTIAL

## Shaping a Legacy

By supporting the Lady Liberty Partnership, you are not only contributing to a historical moment – you are shaping a legacy that will inspire generations to come. As a distinguished donor, your generosity will be immortalized with exclusive recognition and benefits.

Founder Donor Badge



### Join us in shaping the next Century

Since 1930, the FEU has been supported in its events, exhibition, and activities by numerous supporters and sponsors including:

#### FEU Donor Wall

All donors will have their name displayed on the FEU Donor Wall, honoring their role in shaping the institution's future.

#### Prestigious Founder Distinctions

Exceptional donors will receive exclusive honors, including:

- The title of “Founder of the FEU – Second Century.”
- The chance to name a studio for 10 years.
- Named scholarships for exceptional artists and researchers.
- Dedication of a space on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, marking their legacy in the heart of creativity.

#### Visibility & Exclusive Engagements

Your contribution will be celebrated with high-profile exposure and exclusive events:

- Your name featured on official materials throughout the project's development: posters, VR experiences, events, websites, press releases, speeches, and more.
- Your name prominently displayed on-site, including on credit panels and entrance signage.
- Recognition in credits, inaugurations, and official communication events.
- Invitations to private donor galas, and exclusive events.
- Special Founder Badges, recognizing your key role in the Lady Liberty Partnership.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PARIS

The FEU will be accepting donations in the United States through Myriad USA, a U.S. public charity recognized under Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.



ÉCOLES D'ART  
AMÉRICAINES  
DE FONTAINEBLEAU



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY  
THE SCHOOL OF LAW



FULBRIGHT  
France  
COMMISSION FRANCO-AMÉRICAIN



NYU | PARIS



# THE CAMPAIGN GOAL

## Breaking Down the Financial Commitment for a Transformative Cultural Project

We are raising €10 million to bring *the Lady Liberty Project* to life. This initiative goes beyond funding — it's about empowering the next generation of artists, scholars, and cultural leaders.



# TESTIMONIALS of Support

## They Share our Vision

### Antoine Godbert

Regional Director,  
Paris Rectorat

*This ambitious project represents a pivotal moment for both the Fondation des États-Unis and the broader academic and artistic community. By bringing to life a new VR experience that explores the Statue of Liberty's profound historical significance, we are providing an innovative platform celebrating international collaboration and cultural diplomacy."*

### Julie Benetti,

Newly instated Rector  
of the Academy of Paris

*For decades, the Fondation des États-Unis has stood as a symbol of the enduring bond between France and the United States. As I reflect on its rich history, I am deeply moved by how this institution has always provided a home to those seeking to connect, create, and share. This project ensures that a new generations of American artists and students will continue to have the opportunity to thrive in the heart of Paris."*

### Jean-Paul Viguier

Architect, Viguier Architects

*Beyond improving individual spaces for artists and spaces that consume less energy, this renovation project presents an opportunity to rethink the roof structure and living environment on the top floor of this building, and integrate necessary changes in line with the community living and creative priorities of the Fondation des états-Unis. This major project will also create much-needed shared spaces — areas that currently do not exist but are essential to fostering collaboration and community."*

### Stéphane Milière,

Président,  
GEDEON Programmes

*The Statue of Liberty Project perfectly embodies our shared vision: combining innovation and heritage to offer a truly unique immersive experience. This ambitious partnership between GEDEON Programmes and the Fondation des États-Unis paves the way for a large-scale artistic and educational collaboration, fostering cultural exchange and the transmission of knowledge between France and the United States."*

### Agnès Garaudel

General manager, Producer,  
GEDEON Experiences

*By combining their strengths, GEDEON — with its expertise and creativity — and the Fondation des États-Unis — rooted in a rich cultural and educational heritage — are paving the way for ambitious initiatives. This partnership not only highlights talent and fosters the emergence of new perspectives but also creates a tangible and lasting impact on the audiences it reaches."*





**GEDEON**  
experiences

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