Q-SYS Delivers Immersive Audio Experience at the Statue of Liberty Museum

New York, NY

With its combination of breathtaking views and living history, the Statue of Liberty Museum stands as an inspiring and dynamic part of the Liberty Island experience, inviting visitors to dive into the story behind the sculpture and immerse themselves in unique artifacts. Managed by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, the museum provides an opportunity for patrons to learn the story of the single most iconic symbol of immigration in United States history. Hosting over 4 million global visitors annually, the museum’s foundation was looking for a forward-thinking AV solution to help them create an immersive audio experience, and they turned to the Q-SYS Platform to help them deliver on that vision.

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Jeremy Bloom
Sound Designer
Challenges

Critical Sound System Design

A Q-SYS Core 1100 Enterprise Processor (for more information, explore the Q-SYS Core 5200 Enterprise Processor) processes and routes network audio throughout the three main galleries in the 26,000 ft² museum. “The design of the sound system was critical to the overall success of the project,” explains Steve Haas of SH Acoustics. “Q-SYS has a seemingly endless number of tools to direct the audio experience.” The tour begins in the Immersive Theater, introducing guests to pertinent information and supporting soundscapes as they are guided through the history of the Statue of Liberty. All audio tracks are stored as .wav files on the Core processor’s onboard media drive and played back via its built-in multitrack player through a massive matrix mixer that routes the tracks to the appropriate loudspeakers in the exhibit.
Unique Soundscapes Complement Exhibit

Sound effects were utilized to enhance the immersive experience in the galleries. For example, oral histories from one gallery are punctuated by cannon shots from another gallery. “Q-SYS offered more than enough flexibility for what we were trying to create,” explained Sound Designer Jeremy Bloom. “Each individual piece of the exhibit features a unique soundscape that complements nearby areas. From the complex routing to the equalization options, Q-SYS truly helped us deliver an exciting and educational experience.”

Three global volume settings – one for three possible crowd sizes – were programmed into the design and activated via third-party control system. This gives staff a ‘one-touch’ volume solution that lets them focus on running the museum.

Spectacular Results Achieved

Additionally, six CX302 Amplifiers (explore the Q-SYS ISA Series Commercial Amplifiers) provide power to the “Becoming Liberty” exhibit. These amplifiers feature a DataPort connector allowing networked control and monitoring via Q-SYS. “This was a complicated project to design and deploy,” shared Steve Haas, “but the end result is really spectacular.” The Statue of Liberty Museum demonstrates the immense potential of the Q-SYS Platform. From the routing of audio tracks to the use of sound effects and third-party control systems, the Q-SYS Platform allowed the museum’s foundation to create an audio experience that complements the museum’s visual elements while educating and entertaining visitors.