

Exhibit Highlights

Skateboard

Tony Hawk, *Professional Skater*

Hammer

Jimmy Carter, *39th President of the United States*

U.S. Constitution

Sandra Day O'Connor, *U.S. Supreme Court Justice*

Microphone

Jay Leno, *Host of The Tonight Show*

Pointe Shoes

Sara Mearns, *Ballerina*

Baseball Bat

Dustin Pedroia, *Professional Baseball Player*

Telescope

Neil deGrasse Tyson, *Astronomer*

NASA Flight Suit

Terry Wilcutt, *Astronaut*

Laurel Wreath & Typewriter

Robert Penn Warren, *First Poet Laureate of the United States*

Fiddle

Charlie Daniels, *Musician*

Film Splicer

Ken Burns, *Film Documentarian*

Soccer Cleats

Mia Hamm, *Professional Soccer Player*

Jeweled Sandals

Liza Minnelli, *Actress & Entertainer*

Sculpting Tools

Chester Daniel French, *Sculptor*

Clowning Props

Patch Adams, *Doctor & Social Activist*

Page Draft & Pen

Judy Blume, *Author*

Saddle Bags

Daniel Boone, *Frontiersman*

Racing Shoes

Dale Earnhardt, *Racecar Driver*

Tennis Racket

Chris Evert, *Professional Tennis Player*

Braille Bible

Helen Keller, *Author & Social Activist*

Paint Brush

Thomas Kinkade, *Artist*

Golf Bag

Kenny Perry, *Professional Golfer*

Enjoy these and many more items in the Instruments of American Excellence exhibit.

MAP TO WKU



Directions from North and South I-65

1. Take exit 26 off Interstate 65 and turn toward Bowling Green.
2. Continue straight for about three miles. Cemetery Road becomes Fairview Avenue and then 6th Avenue. At about 2.5 miles you will come to the 31-W Bypass intersection; continue going straight through 31-W Bypass. Shortly after, you will pass a fire station on your left, Chestnut Street, and Bowling Green's Performing Arts Center before you come to the intersection labeled Kentucky Street.
3. Turn left onto Kentucky Street (this Street name changes to Adams Street).
4. Immediately after Alumni Avenue, you will see a parking lot on your left. This is the Adams Street Lot where you can park as a visitor.
5. Turn left into the Adams Street Parking Lot and continue straight to the opposite side of the parking lot. There are several "V" (visitor) parking spots lined up along the black fence facing the Kentucky Museum building across the street.
6. For additional parking and handicapped parking, there are parking spaces directly in front of the Kentucky Museum entrance across the street from the Adams Parking Lot.



INSTRUMENTS OF
AMERICAN EXCELLENCE

Visit us at:

instrumentsofamericanexcellence.com

or contact:

Kentucky Museum
Western Kentucky University
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Bowling Green, KY 42101

Email: iae.exhibit@wku.edu

Phone: (270) 745-2592

[facebook.com/iaeExhibit](https://www.facebook.com/iaeExhibit)

[@IAE_exhibit](https://twitter.com/IAE_exhibit)

Other museums and nearby areas of interest

About Bowling Green
visitbgky.com

National Corvette Museum
www.corvettemuseum.org

Lost River Cave
lostrivercave.com

Historic Railpark & Train Museum
historicroailpark.com

Mammoth Cave
www.mammothcave.com
www.nps.gov/mac/index.htm

Riverview at Hobson Grove
www.bgky.org/riverview

Shaker Museum at South Union
www.shakermuseum.com



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IAE

INSTRUMENTS OF AMERICAN EXCELLENCE

AN EXHIBIT AT THE KENTUCKY MUSEUM





John A. "Bud" Hillerich (1866-1946) turned professional bats in the Louisville Slugger factory. Baseball greats such as Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb would have likely had their bats turned on this lathe.

INSTRUMENTS OF AMERICAN EXCELLENCE

This unique collection showcases the ordinary means by which Americans from many fields of study have achieved extraordinary things— the actual “tools” that have shaped the course of this nation’s history. Serving to educate and inspire, these items remind us that the actual instruments used by the highest of achievers are not magical or highly unusual, but rather that the attainment of excellence is often achieved only by the imagination and perseverance that personify the American spirit.

A fascinating collection of **original instruments** by which Americans have achieved extraordinary success.

It’s difficult to imagine what a typewriter, a skateboard, a telescope, and a space suit could possibly have in common. While at first glance it is difficult to make a connection, they are all part of a fascinating new collection at the Kentucky Museum on the campus of WKU. This new exhibit, called *Instruments of American Excellence*, is the only one of its kind and is designed to educate and inspire. It features hundreds of original items – the actual instruments that shaped American history – that successful Americans used on their path to extraordinary achievements.

In virtually every field of study, many of the greatest American icons of our time have personally made generous contributions to this collection. The exhibit is housed at the Kentucky Museum and features items from prominent figures from across America. For the music lover, there are items used by Elvis Presley and Charlie Daniels; sports and entertainment connoisseurs will be delighted to see a skateboard donated by Tony Hawk, one of Jack Nicklaus’ golf clubs, and a tennis racket from Chris Evert; and those interested in history and politics will appreciate Sandra Day O’Connor’s personal copy of the U.S. Constitution.

All items in the special collection were donated or loaned by the people to whom they belong, and the collection will continue to grow and evolve over time.

“Once we collected a few incredible pieces and it was evident that the concept was going to work, a small team was brought on board and the collection began growing at an impressive rate.”

Dan Murph
IAE Exhibit Chairman

This marks the beginning of a new era at the Kentucky Museum, which welcomes more than fifty thousand visitors every year. The Museum is currently seeking accreditation by the American Association of Museums, and the Museum staff is also working toward affiliations with other local and national museums, which will provide additional benefits for its members.

Learn more about the Instruments of American Excellence exhibit and membership at the Kentucky Museum at:
www.instrumentsofamericanexcellence.com