



During this tour, some important topics are: **Art Deco, Symbolism, Representative Government, Citizenship**

City Hall is a vibrant municipal building that can be a different tour every time you enter. It's important to feel confident with the information & some of the tricky spots on this tour so that you can be ready for any surprises that may greet you that day. Here are some important things to keep in mind:

City Hall "Traffic"

- City Hall is the center of Buffalo government, as it has been since 1932, & people are here to conduct business, obtain permits, pay fines, etc. Throughout the tour, you'll want to make sure your group isn't blocking hallways or high-traffic areas so that employees & visitors can go about their business without our tours causing too much interference.

Drop off/Pick Up

- Buses **always** drop off & pick up in **front** of City Hall since it is easier for buses to navigate. However, we **must enter through the back entrance** off of South Elmwood Ave.
- If you notice that many of the students have backpacks, you will want to suggest to the teacher that bags be left on the bus to speed up the security screening.

Security

- **Always enter through the back entrance off of South Elmwood Ave.** The docent should ask the group to wait outside, then go in & let the security staff know you are with Explore Buffalo & your group is ready to enter.
- If you have young students (4th grade or below), ask to use the handicap entrance to avoid the revolving doors.

Elevators

- The elevators are old & will get stuck if they are above the weight capacity. Typically, you'll want to split up into at least 2 smaller groups when taking the elevator (8 - 15 people at a time). The docent should go in with the first group, making sure to tell the adult leader of the second group which floor to get off at.
- The adult should enter the car first & press the 'open door' button. The doors close quickly & are difficult to hold back.
- Practice good etiquette - other people may be getting on & off, so they should be able to be in the front of the car. If necessary, ask students to refrain from jumping or talking while in the car.
- As we all do, if the car stops at another floor before your stop - our reflexes make us start to exit the car. Be prepared to hold the students back from exiting.
- Be aware that some students may be anxious riding in an elevator. Be prepared to calm them.



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Respect Other Docents' Tours

- City Hall is the only entirely interior tour we offer to schools; it is also one of the busiest buildings in Buffalo. For these reasons, it is more important on this tour than on any other tour we offer to respect other docents' time by sticking to the route. Please make sure to:
 - Follow the tour order assigned by the Education Coordinator
 - Plan to spend a maximum of 10 minutes at each stop.
 - Ask your group to wait for you when you arrive at a tour stop while you check ahead to see if another group is already there. If there is another group at the stop, make sure to communicate to that docent that your group is here & waiting outside. This should be a signal for the docent already at the stop to wrap up within 3-5 minutes. Wait outside the stop with your group until the other docent is done. There should never be two groups inside one stop at the same time.

Common Council Chamber

- The Chamber door is locked when the room is not in use. Check the door to see if it's unlocked, but if not you'll need to go into the Council President's office to get the key. It is kept in a little dish on the right hand desk straight ahead when you enter. Let the staff know you leading a tour with Explore Buffalo. Ask if you may borrow the key. Keep the key with you, lock the Chambers when you leave, and **IMMEDIATELY** return the key. Do **NOT** keep the key with you until the end of the tour.
- **EXCEPTION:** If there is another docent with a group of students ready to enter the Chambers as you are leaving, you may pass off the key to that docent. It is then that docent's responsibility to return the key as soon as s/he leaves the Chamber.

Mayor's Office

- You'll need to sign in at the guard's desk as "Explore Buffalo" before entering.
- For security reasons, do **NOT** point out the Mayor's personal office.
- Sometimes, the staff will have "goodies" for the students - pins, stickers, etc. Before they start handing these out, make sure that there is going to be enough for all the students visiting with Explore Buffalo that day (not just your group).

Windows on Buffalo/Observation Deck

- Groups of primary students (4th grade & below) should **NOT** be taken to the open-air observation deck. The Windows on Buffalo exhibit on the 25th floor will be available instead.
- **EXCEPTION:** If a teacher asks to go to the open-air deck, let him/her know that there is blackened glass surrounding the deck that obscures the view for young students & that there are 3 flights of stairs to get there. If s/he would still like to take his/her young students there, then go for it.



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Tour Stop & General Info	Primary K-4 What is a community?	Middle 5-8 Individuals in a Community	Secondary 9-12 Regional/Global Communities
<p>#1 Exterior Niagara Square</p> <p>Long ago, Native Americans were the only inhabitants of this land. Europeans slowly began to settle this area, & eventually, it was largely acquired by the Holland Land Company. In 1804 Joseph Ellicott came to Buffalo (then called “New Amsterdam”) & laid out our street plan. Native Americans continue to live in this area & are active members of Buffalo’s community, both on & off reservations.</p> <p>Ellicott designed a radial street plan overlaid with a grid. He was influenced by his brother’s work on the radial plan of Washington, DC. Radial plan is typical of Europe, where it might center on a palace, cathedral, or other focal point.</p> <p>Niagara Square became the focal point of the city. Originally it was a residential area (former President Millard Fillmore lived where the Statler sits today), but transitioned to become a civic center.</p>	<p>There are significant individuals, historical events, and symbols that are important to our history. We use stories on our tours to teach about these things.</p> <p>A citizen is a member of a community. A community is a group of many people in a common location. The people who work in City Hall & in Niagara Square work to make sure everyone in the community is safe, healthy, & educated.</p> <p>On a map, this is the center of the community of Buffalo. If you were a bird flying over Buffalo, you’d see that it looks like a sun (center, rays)</p> <p>People used to live around here. It was a residential space. Now, people work here, mostly for the government.</p> <p>----</p> <p>Do you think anybody lives here today? Would you like to live here? Why or why not?</p> <p>Did you know Buffalo used to have a different name? It was called New Amsterdam! Why might we change the name of something over time?</p>	<p>A community is a group of various individuals in a common location. Describe the differences between urban, suburban, & rural communities. Activities & resources available to people in these different communities are different. The type of community a person grows up in will affect that person’s identity.</p> <p>This is the center of Buffalo. It’s a radial design - this would be the center of the sun, the streets are the rays. Designed by surveyor Joseph Ellicott over 200 years ago. He borrowed the design idea from his brother, who laid out Washington, DC. Describe some reasons Buffalo grew at this site.</p> <p>This area used to be residential. Millard Fillmore lived here, where the Statler is.</p> <p>----</p> <p>What type of community do you live in? What sorts of activities take place in your community? What similarities & differences do you see between downtown Buffalo & your community?</p>	<p>Describe urban v. suburban v. rural communities. Gloss of Buffalo’s history, some reasons why Buffalo grew at this site (on Niagara River, Buffalo Creek, Lake Erie, natural barrier/energy source of Niagara Falls). Prompt students to consider the impact of geographic factors on patterns of settlement.</p> <p>Holland Land Company; Ellicott was a visionary surveyor who wanted Buffalo to rival other major cities in the world. Laid out Buffalo (then “New Amsterdam”) in 1804, based design on European radial street plan, an idea borrowed from his brother who’d laid out Washington, DC. This is the center.</p> <p>This area was once residential - Millard Fillmore lived where Statler is today. Evolved into governmental center of Buffalo. Point out & describe some of the other buildings on the Square.</p>



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<p>#1 Exterior cont'd McKinley Monument 1907 - Carrere & Hastings</p> <p>Built to honor President William McKinley, who was assassinated at the 1901 Pan-Am Expo. On September 6, 1901. he was participating in a receiving line in the Temple of Music when he was shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz. McKinley died of infection at the Milburn house on Delaware Ave. on September 14, 1901.</p> <p>Vice President Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in at the Wilcox Home on Delaware Ave. Only 4 U.S. presidents have been sworn in outside of the Capitol.</p> <p>70-foot marble obelisk. Four 12-ton sleeping lions symbolize strength and courage. Eight turtles under the bowls symbolize eternal life.</p> <p>Other presidential references in the Square - City Hall statues representing the two US presidents who came from Buffalo - Millard Fillmore (13th, 1850) to the south & Grover Cleveland (22nd, 1885 & 24th, 1893) to the north.</p>	<p>Monuments remind us of important people & events. This monument reminds us of President McKinley, who visited Buffalo over 100 years ago and, sadly, died while he was visiting.</p> <p>Buffalo was a very important & impressive city at that time. We were having a huge festival called the Pan-Am to celebrate things like electricity! Buffalo was one of the first cities to have electricity, thanks to Niagara Falls. President McKinley had come here to enjoy the festival.</p> <p>----</p> <p>What do you see on the statue? What do lions/turtles make you think of? What other animals make you think of courage/life?</p> <p>What animal would you want on a statue to represent you?</p>	<p>Communities have unique historic figures, events, traditions, and holidays that help create a community identity.</p> <p>This monument commemorates Pres. McKinley, who died in Buffalo during his visit here. He came here to attend the Pan-American Exposition in 1901. Pan-Am was a world's fair, which showcased new technology (electricity), arts, & culture from North, South, & Central America. Roosevelt, his successor, was inaugurated in Buffalo - 1 of only 4 inaugurations that took place outside the Capitol.</p> <p>Monument inspired by ancient Egyptian obelisks. Animal symbolism.</p> <p>----</p> <p>Do you know which other Presidents have visited or are from Buffalo?</p>	<p>Communities are bound together by historic figures, events, traditions, and holidays that help to establish a shared identity.</p> <p>Explain Pan-American Exposition; McKinley's assassination at Pan-Am. McKinley passed away from an infection at the Milburn house on Delaware Ave. Roosevelt inaugurated at the Wilcox mansion on Delaware Ave.</p> <p>Carrere & Hastings, the firm who designed the monument, were the same architects who had been in charge of the Pan-Am Expo designs.</p> <p>Obelisk, animal symbolism.</p> <p>Discuss other presidents that visited/are from Buffalo</p>



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<p>#1 Exterior Cont'd Buffalo City Hall Exterior 1931 - Art Deco - Dietel & Wade</p> <p>In 1926, the Common Council found the City Architect's design for a new city hall unsatisfactory - it was shorter than the Statler Hotel. They turned instead to John Wade, who had written an article in 1925 titled "Choosing a City Hall Architect." Groundbreaking on Sept. 16, 1929; completed Nov. 10, 1931; dedicated July 1, 1932 (celebrating the city's centennial). Cost \$7 million (\$120 million today).</p> <p>City Hall is one of the largest & tallest municipal buildings in the country. It is considered an outstanding example of Art Deco architecture. Nt'l Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>Art Deco: geometric patterns (polychrome terra cotta tiles). Setbacks allow air & light to the streets below. Pays homage to Native American cultures - terra cotta detailing at the top evokes a Native American headdress.</p> <p>Frieze: citizens of Buffalo surround Buffalo herself depicted as a sybil (recorder of history.) The book she holds represents Buffalo's history. L to R: Electricity (3 men), Chemistry & Healing (2), Building (3), Architecture & Poetry (2), Buffalo (center), The Family (2), Water Commerce (3), Education & Culture (2), and Transportation (3).</p>	<p>This building was designed by an architect, a person who creates new buildings. Just like we have different hairstyles, buildings have different styles (architecture) too, and each style has a different name - this building is called Art Deco (bright colors, lots of patterns).</p> <p>The designs on City Hall remind us of Native Americans, because they are inspired by their styles of art. The dome has many bright colors & shapes. We'll have a chance to go up there later in the tour!</p> <p>The picture above the front entrance shows the different ways people worked to make Buffalo a great city. ----</p> <p>What interesting things do you see on this building? What shapes do you see? What colors? How does this building make you feel? (welcoming? like an ant?)</p>	<p>City Hall used to be a few blocks away, but the City Council wanted a new, taller, more impressive building. The architect who designed City Hall was named John Wade. Took 2 years to build & cost \$7 million.</p> <p>Native American groups such as the Haudenosaunee moved through & inhabited this area before European settlers arrived. Native American influences in the design are an attempt to pay homage to their living history in this area. Terra cotta dome.</p> <p>Different building styles have different names. Art Deco architecture - geometric patterns, strong colors, industrial influences, stepped setbacks.</p> <p>Bas-relief frieze above front entrance; describe what the figures represent. ----</p> <p>Why would this be a good site for Buffalo's City Hall? (center)</p>	<p>1926: Common Council wanted new City Hall, City Architect's proposed design was shorter than the Statler & unsatisfactory, hired John Wade as architect. Took 2 years to build, cost \$7 million. One of the largest & tallest municipal buildings in the US today.</p> <p>Native American history in this region; Native American art & culture inspired designs on this building. Terra cotta dome represents headdress.</p> <p>One of the best examples of Art Deco. Geometric patterns, bold colors, strong colors. Industrial influences, stepped setbacks.</p> <p>Bas-relief frieze; Fillmore statue on south side of City Hall; Fugitive Slave Act.</p>



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<p align="center">#1 Exterior Cont'd Portico</p> <p>Carvings above each doorway representing the toil of the early settlers in Buffalo: a woman harvesting, man slaying a deer, woman weaving a basket, man building a log cabin.</p> <p>City flag carving to the right of the doors, city seal carving to left of doors.</p> <p>The columns are neither Greek nor Roman, but represent tightly bundled reeds wrapped with cables for strength (suggesting instead Mesopotamia or Egypt & the origins of architecture). They represent strength in unity, stronger together than alone. Ancient civilization symbolism paired with then-contemporary symbolism - industrial machine nuts, rivets.</p>	<p>This is the main entrance to City Hall. This is called a “portico,” which is a fancy word for porch!</p> <p>Point out the City seal to the left of the doors. Explain that a seal is an important symbol that represents our city. Symbols like this help to unite members of a community.</p> <p>----</p> <p>Do you see anything here that look like designs we already saw on the outside of City Hall?</p>	<p>Describe portico, pointing out some prominent design elements (Art Deco patterns, colors, modern industrial & ancient influences in columns)</p> <p>Point out & describe the City seal. Explain that the seal is an official symbol that represents Buffalo & that is used on important City-related documents.</p> <p>----</p> <p>What might be the symbolism behind these columns (many individuals reeds bundled together)?</p>	<p>Describe portico, pointing out some prominent design elements (see left).</p> <p>Point out & describe the City seal. Explain that the seal is an official symbol that represents Buffalo & that is used on important City-related documents.</p> <p>Discuss the columns.</p> <p>----</p> <p>What symbolic elements do you see here that help continue to tell the story of City Hall?</p>

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<p>#2 Security/Back Entrance</p>	<p>Avoid revolving doors; ask to use the handicap entrance.</p>	<p>Revolving doors: only one student at a time. Docent goes first.</p>	<p>Revolving doors: only one student at a time. Docent goes first.</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;">#3 Lobby</p> <p>The lobby is 3-stories tall with a barrel-vaulted ceiling. The interlocking tiles form a continuous curved vault surface whose designs derive from Native American symbology.</p> <p><i>Two murals:</i> FRONT (East): “Frontiers Unfettered by any Frowning Fortress” Buffalo’s geographic location & the peace since 1815 between the U.S. & Canada, & economic goods of both countries in 1930. REAR (West): “Diverse Talents Find Vent in Myriad Forms” the industry & natural bounty of Buffalo, including: grain storage, agriculture, water commerce, steel, construction, & transportation.</p> <p>4 “braziers” recall ancient temples & display allegorical representations of character traits which are expected of all govt. officials: virtue, diligence, fidelity, & service.</p> <p>The carvings, paintings, & sculptures around the lobby strive for equal male/female representation.</p>	<p>Welcome the students inside City Hall. Explain that this is a busy building where people work, have meetings about how to run the city, and come to pay taxes. Remind them to be respectful that people are trying to work here - so keep together & use inside voices.</p> <p>The Mayor and many other people who help to run the city work here.</p> <p>Point out the colors, shapes, and patterns of the ceiling, as well as the stone bands that reach to the floor. On the floor, point out the metal/brass shapes - triangles called butterflies.</p> <p>Point out the murals.</p> <p>----</p> <p>What shapes and colors do you see in here? What do they make you think of?</p>	<p>Welcome inside City Hall! Explain that this is an active public building, so we must be respectful of people working & visiting here by not blocking hallways/doorways.</p> <p>Discuss design elements of the barrel vault ceiling. Point out that it features similar colors & designs as the exterior, but the material here is different (acoustic tile).</p> <p>Stone bands connect ceiling & floor, symbolic braziers show the qualities of good workers (virtue, diligence, fidelity, service).</p> <p>Murals.</p> <p>----</p>	<p>Welcome students to City Hall, explain its function as a public government building. Explain some of the people & departments who work here: the Mayor, Common Council, Buffalo Public Schools, etc.</p> <p>Discuss design elements of lobby (barrel vault ceiling, Guastavino tiles, geometric motifs, Art Deco) as well as their symbolism.</p> <p>Describe both murals & their symbolism.</p> <p>----</p>



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<p>Treasury (OPTIONAL)</p> <p>The Treasury is the banking room of City Hall. This is where money is collected for parking tickets, taxes, permits, etc.</p> <p>Inside the Treasury are different scales, which were the official weighing & measuring devices for the city. Four massive columns, evenly spaced in the middle of the room, are used to support the weight of the twelve stories above, joined by a marble counter wall to form a large center office area lined with intricate bronze teller cages. There is bronze molding along top of the counter, and decorative details including stars, rosettes, and Native American symbology.</p> <p>On the west wall is a map of Buffalo in 1928.</p>	<p>On the way to/from the Treasury, point out lunettes at ends of the corridors (charity, protection, education, & construction).</p> <p>This is the official banking room of City Hall! This is where people come to pay taxes and finer. Taxes are one of the ways that citizens contribute to their communities. Taxes are used to provide the community with goods and services - like parks, libraries, or your school!</p> <p>Point out the scales, and describe how people used to count money by weighing it.</p> <p>Point out the map of Buffalo, and show the students where Niagara Square & City Hall are. Point out the radial street plan, & let them know we'll get a real-life view of it from up high later on in the tour!</p>	<p>Point out and describe the lunettes you pass on the way to/from the Treasury. (Wade is depicted in SW corridor's "Construction")</p> <p>The Treasury is the official banking room of City Hall. This is where people come to pay fines and taxes. Taxes are one of the ways that citizens contribute to their community. Tax money is used to provide goods and services such as public education, welfare programs, and things like road repairs and garbage pick-up.</p> <p>Point out the map of Buffalo. Ask students if they can identify any familiar street names or geographical features. Ask students to identify Niagara Square and Ellicott's radial street plan.</p> <p>----</p> <p>What symbols or objects do you see in this room that help to tell the story of Buffalo or of this room's purpose as a banking room? (stylized eagles, tellers cages, City Hall "dome")</p>	<p>Point out & describe the lunettes you pass in the ancillary corridors on the way to/from the Treasury. (Wade is depicted in SW corridor's "Construction")</p> <p>The Treasury is the official banking room of City Hall. This is where people come to pay fines and taxes. Taxes are one way that citizens are expected to contribute to their community. Tax money provides goods and services such as public education, social welfare programs, and infrastructure.</p> <p>Ask students to identify familiar street names or geographical features, including Niagara Square and Ellicott's radial street plan, on the map.</p> <p>----</p>



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<p>#4 Mayor's Office ** Do NOT point out the door to the Mayor's personal office **</p> <p>A large office area is separated from the visitors' area by a low bronze railing. Along the walls of the visitors' area hang portraits of past mayors of the city. Display cases in the visitors' area represent our relationships with some of our Sister Cities. Buffalo has 18 Sister Cities spanning 15 countries, from France to Ukraine to Nigeria to South Korea. Sister City relationships help to create links with other cities around the world in order to increase awareness of other cultures & facilitate human contact with those in other countries.</p>	<p>Outside of Mayor's Office: Ask students what a mayor is (the person who is in charge of making decisions about the city). Do they know the name of Buffalo's mayor?</p> <p>Explain the railing separating the visitors' area from the official office area, & that we must stay behind the railing. There is a really cool fish tank to look at, but please don't touch or tap since this can hurt the fishes' ears.</p> <p>Inside: These portraits (paintings) show all of the people that have been Mayor of Buffalo! One of them, Grover Cleveland was also a President.</p> <p>There is another image of the City Seal we saw outside.</p> <p>Did you know that cities can be friends? These display cases contain things from our Sister Cities, or cities around the world that are best friends with Buffalo. This means that we have special programs to help people from those cities visit Buffalo & learn about us, & vice versa.</p>	<p>Outside of Mayor's Office: Explain that this is a large office space separated by a railing & that we must stay in the visitor's area. Explain the fish tank & ask the students not to touch or tap it.</p> <p>Why is it important to have a visitors' area in the Mayor's office?</p> <p>Inside: The mayoral portraits depict our former mayors. Fillmore (who wasn't a mayor) & Cleveland, whose statues we saw outside, have portraits here.</p> <p>Point out the City Seal.</p> <p>Explain the Sister Cities program, which facilitates cultural understanding between Buffalo & cities around the world.</p> <p>----</p> <p>What are some reasons international cities might want to have formal relationships?</p>	<p>Outside of Mayor's Office: Explain that we must stay behind the railing inside the visitors' area, and ask students not to touch or tap the fish tank.</p> <p>Inside: This is a good place on the tour to go into a little more detail about Fillmore & Cleveland's work in Buffalo & as presidents (Fugitive Slave Act, non-sequential terms, etc.)</p> <p>Point out the City Seal & that it's different from the one on the portico in that there's no packet boat.</p> <p>Explain Buffalo's Sister Cities partnerships & the way that they facilitate cultural understanding between Buffalo & cities around the world.</p>



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<p>#5 Observation Deck</p> <p>Some describe the Observation Deck as a gift from the city to its people - we get this amazing view! Open to the public during normal business hours, except during particularly inclement weather.</p> <p>On a clear day, you can see the mist from Niagara Falls beyond Grand Island.</p> <p>From this vantage point, you get a bird's eye view of Ellicott's street plan, with 8 streets leading from the center.</p> <p>Some prominent features to point out include: Lake Erie, the Peace Bridge, Canada, the windmills, the Statues of Liberty, Statler City, Kleinhans, Central Terminal</p>	<p>Let students enjoy the view, & inspire their curiosity by encouraging them to ask questions and/or point out familiar shapes.</p> <p>You can point out some of the buildings you already saw on Niagara Square to encourage students to think about how different & similar those building look from different angles.</p>	<p>Let students enjoy the view, & inspire their curiosity by encouraging them to ask questions & point out familiar landmarks.</p> <p>What shape has 8 sides? (Octagon) That's the shape of the Observation Deck!</p> <p>Ask them to identify Ellicott's radial street plan. Encourage them to compare the experience of standing in Niagara Square, in the center of the radial design, and now seeing it from this bird's eye view.</p>	<p>Let students enjoy the view, & inspire their curiosity by encouraging them to ask questions & point out familiar landmarks.</p> <p>Ask them to identify Ellicott's radial street plan. Encourage them to compare the experience of standing in Niagara Square, in the center of the radial design, and now seeing it from this bird's eye view.</p>



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<p>#6 Council Chamber</p> <p>This is the major public gathering space in City Hall. The room is a 3-story semi-circular amphitheatre seating 383 people. This is where the legislative body, the Common Council, conducts meetings & public hearings. The Council approves or rejects appointments made by the Mayor, & has the final word on spending the City's money. Fasci on main doors was Roman symbol of authority.</p> <p>Sunburst skylight, represents the sky above. Everything occurring in this room is done in the open, under the watchful heavens, as well as the scrutiny of the onlooking public. All the decorative symbols & design elements of this room symbolize representative democracy.</p> <p>12 columns were supposed to represent 12 exemplary Buffalonians - but the committee couldn't decide, so instead the artist just depicted desirable qualities of citizens & representatives. Animals carved along doors: dog (loyalty), lion (courage), hawk (forcefulness), pelican (self-sacrifice).</p> <p>Taking an active role in government could include voting, taking part in civic groups, attending council meetings, writing to representatives...</p>	<p>Welcome to the Common Council Chamber! People create governments to establish peace & order. Governments protect citizens' rights & promote the common good. This is where many decisions about government in Buffalo are made.</p> <p>Look up at the skylight!The stars & planets are meant to represent the open sky watching over everything that happens in this room.</p> <p>Citizens are always welcome to join the Common Council meetings so that they can be informed about what's happening in their city. When citizens feel they are being treated unfairly, they can come here to ask for social action & change.</p> <p>The words on the columns behind you are qualities that good council members and citizens should have. Council members are responsible for making sure citizens feel heard.</p>	<p>Communities have the responsibility to make & enforce laws & rules that provide for the common good. Some of the leaders responsible for making & enforcing those laws in Buffalo are the council members. The council votes whether to approve appointments made by the Mayor & how Buffalo's money can be spent.</p> <p>Symbolism of representative government in the skylight, columns, etc.</p> <p>When they feel they are faced with prejudice & discrimination, citizens can make their voice heard at Council meetings. The concept of universal human rights suggests that all people should be treated fairly & have the opportunity to meet their basic needs.</p>	<p>All levels of government - local, state, & federal - are involved in shaping public policy. In Buffalo, the major governing body is the Common Council. Explain Council responsibilities, relationship between Mayor & Council.</p> <p>Active, engage, & informed citizens are critical to the success of US representative democracy. The symbolism in this room enforces that idea. This chamber is the physical embodiment of the idea of representative, democratic government. Skylight, columns, fasci & carved animals on doors.</p>