

## 'Assassin's Creed' makers pledge \$565,000 to rebuild Notre Dame, make Paris-set video game free

Alix Martichoux | on April 17, 2019

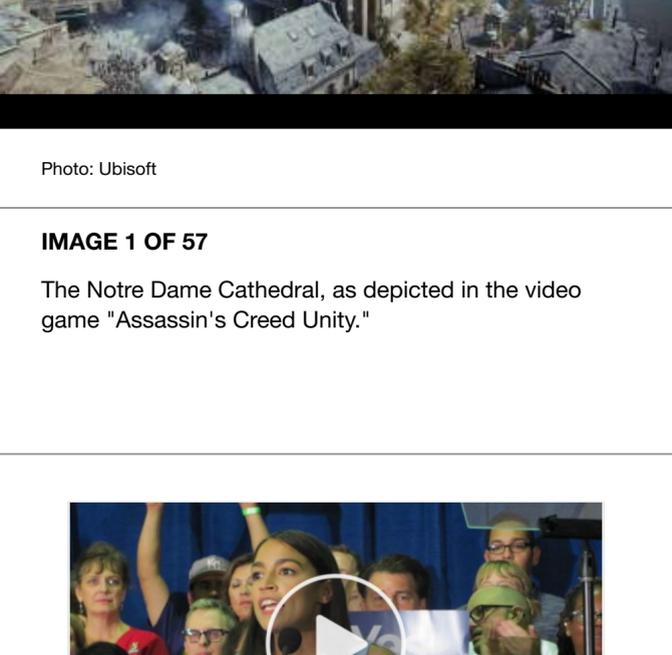
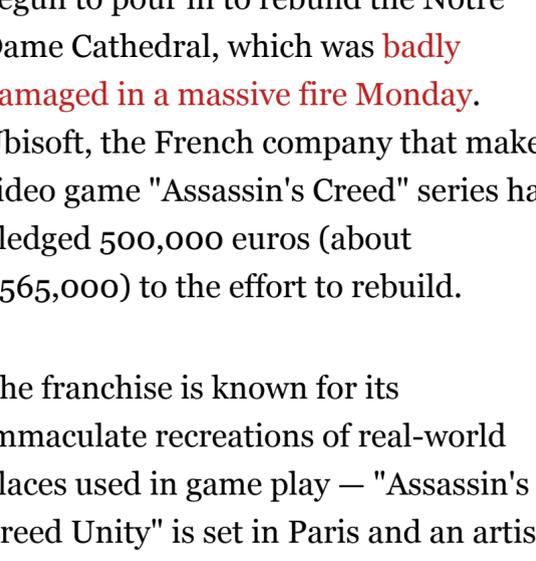


Photo: Ubisoft

### IMAGE 1 OF 57

The Notre Dame Cathedral, as depicted in the video game "Assassin's Creed Unity."



**CNN Refuses To Show This Video — Watch NOW Before It's Banned**

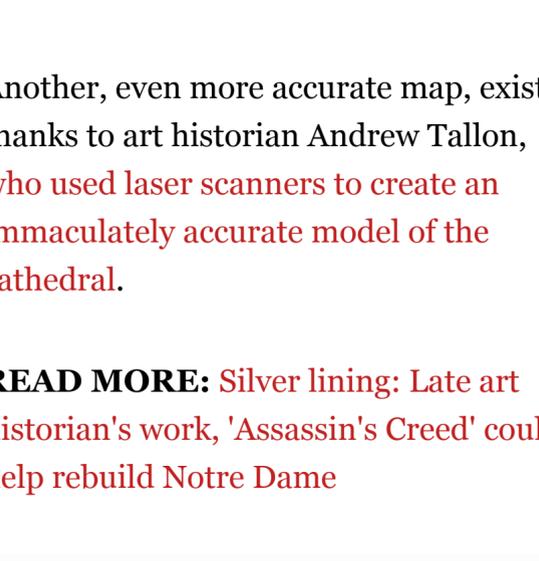
Advertisement

[Watch The Video](#)

As the shock has worn off, help has begun to pour in to rebuild the Notre Dame Cathedral, which was **badly damaged in a massive fire Monday**.

Ubisoft, the French company that makes video game "Assassin's Creed" series has pledged 500,000 euros (about \$565,000) to the effort to rebuild.

The franchise is known for its immaculate recreations of real-world places used in game play — "Assassin's Creed Unity" is set in Paris and an artist for the game, Caroline Miousse, told **The Verge** she spent two years finessing the appearance Notre Dame, down to each individual stone.



In addition to the large donation, Ubisoft **told BBC** they'd be happy to share the intricate plans with French authorities — though it emphasized the recreation isn't 100 percent accurate.

"While we wanted to be very precise with details, there are some differences in terms of scale and with some elements," said Miousse.

Another, even more accurate map, exists thanks to art historian Andrew Tallon, **who used laser scanners to create an immaculately accurate model of the cathedral**.

**READ MORE: Silver lining: Late art historian's work, 'Assassin's Creed' could help rebuild Notre Dame**

Ad

Ubisoft is also giving a gift to fans of the video game; for one week, the company is making "Assassin's Creed Unity" **available to download for free** on PCs.

"We want to give everyone the chance to experience the majesty and beauty of Notre-Dame the best way we know how," reads a statement from the company.

"We hope, with this small gesture, we can provide everyone an opportunity to appreciate our virtual homage to this monumental piece of architecture."

French President Emmanuel Macron pledged Tuesday to rebuild Paris' beloved Notre Dame Cathedral "even more beautifully." The fire destroyed its spire and its roof, but spared most of the structure, including the church's twin medieval bell towers.

**ALSO: Macron: France to rebuild Notre Dame 'even more beautifully'**

Macron said he wanted to see the renovation of the beloved Roman Catholic architectural landmark completed within five years.

Drone footage has revealed the shocking extent of the damage to Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, which was hit by a fire on Monday night.

Media: Euronews

"We have so much to rebuild," Macron said in a televised address to the nation. "We will rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral even more beautifully. We can do it, and once again, we will mobilize (to do so)."

Wealthy families and companies from around the world, including Disney and Apple, have pledged **nearly \$1 billion so far** to rebuild the cathedral.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

Read Alix Martichoux's **latest stories** and send her news tips at [alix.martichoux@sfgate.com](mailto:alix.martichoux@sfgate.com).

Start receiving breaking news emails on wildfires, civil emergencies, riots, national breaking news, Amber Alerts, weather emergencies, and other critical events with the SFGATE breaking news email. **Click here to make sure you get the news.**