



The Road to Accreditation

JB Pritzker
Governor


Christina Shutt
Executive Director

Abraham
Lincoln
Presidential
Library and
Museum

FY
20
23

ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

- A Note from the Director
 - Thoughts from the Chairman
 - Board of Trustees
 - Who We Are
 - Welcoming Visitors
 - Studying the Past
 - Sharing Knowledge
 - Serving the Community
 - Behind the Scenes
 - Senior Staff
- 

A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Christina Shutt



National recognition for hard work

The world knows about the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's vast collection of historic treasures and its emotional, thought-provoking exhibits. Fewer people know about our staff's expertise, the painstaking work that goes into protecting artifacts, the detailed procedures for keeping visitors safe, or the assistance we offer to outside groups and institutions. When I came to the ALPLM, I made it our mission to build on that vital behind-the-scenes work and obtain accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.

That triggered two years of reviewing ALPLM operations. We sharpened and improved what worked. We fixed what didn't. Again and again we asked ourselves how best to fulfill our mission. And then we shared everything with the American Alliance of Museums. We answered hundreds of questions about our

operations and welcomed reviewers to come check us out in person.

Museums routinely apply multiple times before demonstrating that they meet the rigorous criteria for national accreditation. Only 3.2 percent of American museums are accredited. But I am thrilled to say that the Alliance approved the ALPLM's application on the very first try. It called the ALPLM's operations "exemplary."

What does accreditation mean? It means Abraham Lincoln fans around the world can rest assured that the ALPLM follows best practices to preserve Lincoln artifacts and documents. It means Illinois citizens can be confident their tax dollars are being spent carefully. It means less red tape when we work with other museums and libraries because they know we follow the guidelines.

Fiscal 2023 saw many achievements at the ALPLM. A wonderful exhibit we designed and built in-house. Acquisition of unique artifacts. New fundraising efforts that paid off with support for a new children's area that will explore the importance of good citizenship. Creative public events in Springfield and Chicago. But in the long run, the work we did on the road to accreditation will carry the most weight.

My thanks to everyone on the ALPLM team who contributed.

THOUGHTS FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Gary Johnson



A year of teamwork

Every year I have a chance to look back at the work of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and every year I am impressed all over again by what Christina Shutt and her team have accomplished.

It's human nature to take things for granted after a while, even places as special as the ALPLM. Looking back at a full year helps us truly appreciate it all.

Look, for instance, at the ALPLM's efforts to be more welcoming and accessible to all people. The team opened a nursing suite for parents and their babies, offered free admission to community groups, set up multiple special days for the Deaf community and people with sensory disorders, let people see the Gettysburg Address and Emancipation Proclamation for free, and improved the tools available for people with vision impairments to enjoy exhibits.

Each initiative was worthy. Together, these initiatives show a real commitment to letting everyone share the legacy of America's greatest president.

You'll see similar results no matter where you look – educational programs, special exhibits, community outreach, acquisitions, or anything else. The staff and volunteers of the ALPLM constantly strive to serve the public in new and better ways.

It's no wonder the American Alliance of Museums so quickly approved the ALPLM's application for accreditation. The team worked hard for that seal of approval. Each and every staff member and volunteer shares the credit for this achievement. Congratulations to all of them!

Board of Trustees



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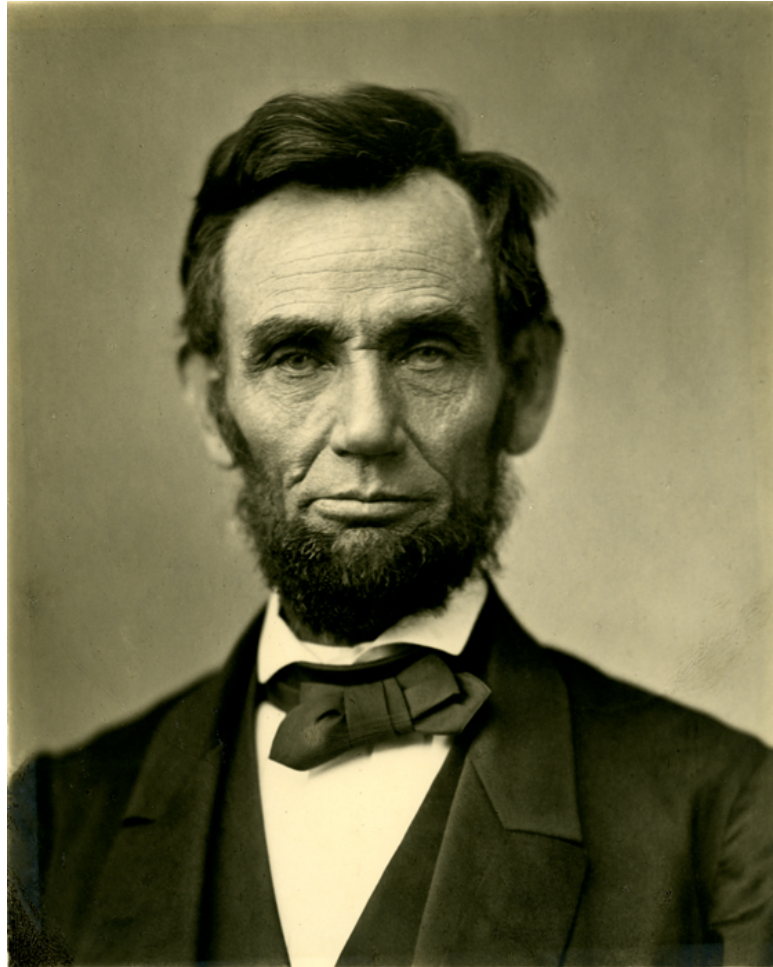


Eunice Santos



**Melinda Spitzer
Johnston**

Who we are



A. Lincoln

Mission

To inspire civic engagement through the diverse lens of Illinois history and sharing with the world the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

Core Values

- **Honesty and Integrity**
- **Intentional Leadership**
- **Equitable Collaboration**
- **Learning-Centered**
- **Transparent Accountability**



Welcoming Visitors

The ALPLM offered its visitors two powerful exhibits in fiscal year 2023, took new steps to make the institution welcoming for everyone, and presented an array of entertainment and educational events. It also strengthened community ties with special displays at the museum and a Chicago-based version of the popular exhibit “The State of Sound: A World of Music from Illinois.”

building new lives, artists and inventors pushing boundaries, singers and comedians launching their careers. They see Abraham Lincoln’s mirror, Tina Turner’s dress, and Ronald Reagan’s sweater. And they tour the exhibit to the sounds of a musical score written and performed especially for “Here I Have Lived.”

Part of the exhibit’s purpose was to remind visitors that history is made by everyone, not just politicians and generals. Lincoln is part of Illinois history, but so is the mother who kept a farm running while her husband fought in the Civil War. So are the people, their names lost to time, who built an immense city at Cahokia Mounds. So are Harvey and Johnetta Clark, the Black couple who stood up to a violent mob when they moved into an all-white suburb.

That idea was explored further in a series of displays in the area where visitors wait to enter the immensely popular “Ghosts of the Library” presentation. The “Ghost Queue” case was devoted to telling stories from various Illinois groups and communities using materials they loaned to the ALPLM.

Our historians worked with outside organizations to mount displays about the Illinois State Fair, African American sororities, Lewis and Clark State Historic Site, and Shawnee National Forest.



Teddy bear from "Stories of Survival"

The year began with “Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory.” in the Illinois Gallery. This exhibit, on loan from the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, helped visitors understand the vast impact of genocides around the world by focusing on the details – what people chose to take with them when they fled the Holocaust or the Killing Fields of Cambodia or ethnic violence in Rwanda. Every doll or photograph, every passport or piece of jewelry, told a story of someone making desperate choices. Some of those stories were inspiring. Others were heartbreaking or infuriating. All were unforgettable.

“Stories of Survival” was followed by an exhibit created entirely by the ALPLM team. “Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois” looked at the countless ways, and the many different reasons, people have made the Prairie State their home. Through a combination of unique artifacts, rare photos, and insightful videos, the exhibit features dozens of people from different eras, regions, and classes. Visitors meet immigrants and former slaves



Sorority figurine from the Ghost Queue



A young visitor explores "Here I Have Lived"

Part of the ALPLM's magic is that visitors can see amazing presentations. Some are offered multiple times a day while others are literally once-in-a-lifetime events, but all of them offer new perspectives on history. Special presentations in FY23 included a thought-provoking look at what artificial intelligence can do – and what it can't – when it comes to interpreting history. Questions from our historians and the audience showed ChatGPT did a fair job of explaining some things but seemed to randomly add errors or bizarre interpretations. Another event – one now tinged with sadness by violence in Israel and Gaza – featured a group of Jewish and Muslim visitors from Israel talking about their lives and hopes for the future. Our guests also heard from sports broadcaster Jason Benetti, who spoke with incredible grace and humor about the challenges of living with cerebral palsy.

Music and dance played a big role, with two new events that proved incredibly popular. In the summer of 2022, Beatlemania descended on Union Square Park for a concert by Beatles impersonators. Some 1,850 people turned out for a gorgeous evening of musical fun. And in December, the Copper Coin Ballet Co. brought its version of "The Nutcracker" to the ALPLM for performances on the nights of the Downtown Springfield Holiday Walks. Night after night, crowds filled every seat to watch local children dance their hearts out.

Everyone deserves a chance to learn about Abraham Lincoln and what he stood for. The ALPLM has worked hard to make the institution accessible to everyone, an

initiative we call "Abe for All." That effort continued in fiscal 2023 with days where we made special accommodations for the Deaf community and for people overwhelmed by lights, sounds and other stimuli. The museum also offered free admission on multiple days to help people stretch their dollars further. Those free days included days when we displayed the Gettysburg Address and the Emancipation Proclamation, two of the most important documents in American history. We have also expanded our accessibility initiatives so visitors can more easily find information about items exhibited in the museum. Now every label can be found online in multiple languages, as can a transcript if the item is a written document. Narrations of the written information are available, too.

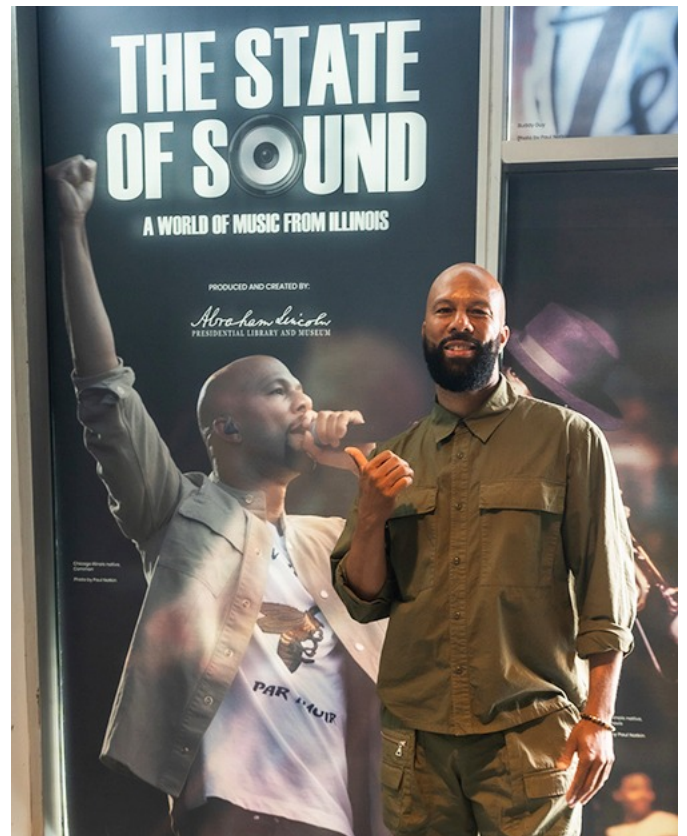


Sportscaster Jason Benetti meets with fans after speaking at the ALPLM.

Thanks to a generous donation by Mariet Hamrah of Brooklyn, NY, the ALPLM opened a room for nursing mothers to feed their babies and pump milk. The lactation suite offers a comfortable, private space with a refrigerator, sink and changing table. It even has a television and children's books to occupy older children while mom is busy with the baby. State law requires businesses to make "reasonable efforts" to provide basic accommodations for nursing mothers at work. It does not require a dedicated room for lactation or that the space be open to the public. The ALPLM is going above and beyond the legal requirements.

The ALPLM also welcomed visitors to its first major exhibit in Chicago. We created a new version of our "The State of Sound: A World of Music from Illinois" exhibit to run at Navy Pier throughout the summer of 2023. The location allowed us to connect with hundreds of thousands of people, and the offbeat topic made it clear the ALPLM is not a stuffy, old-fashioned museum. We threw a successful launch party with the Navy Pier team, and also took part in a popular end-of-summer event where we got to interact directly with visitors. In the end, more than 539,000 people spent at least 15 minutes exploring the exhibit.

Attendance at the ALPLM campus in Springfield continued to climb from the lows of the COVID 19 pandemic. The total for FY2023 was 167,310, with children accounting for more than two-thirds of that number. More than 66,000 children visited during the year. Nearly 38,000 were on school trips, and some 28,000 visited with family.



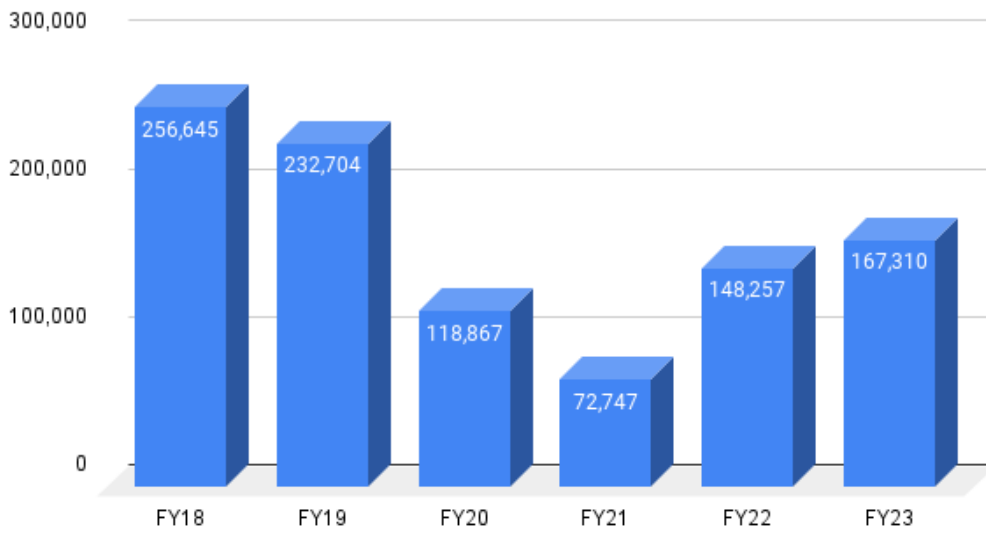
Common was among hundreds of thousands of visitors to "The State of Sound" at Navy Pier



The ALPLM's new nursing suite



Annual Attendance



Nearly 2,000 people at our Beatles tribute concert



Studying the Past

Nothing exemplifies the ALPLM's commitment to studying the past like the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, a groundbreaking project that puts Lincoln documents online with detailed notes and biographical information. The project is creating a searchable database of everything written by Lincoln or to Lincoln. Already, it has published everything from Lincoln's early years and his time in Congress. The Papers team is now working on the period from 1849 up to Lincoln's election as president in November 1860, including the Lincoln-Douglas Debates and the race for U.S. senator. In fiscal 2023, the team produced intensively researched annotations for 284 documents and published 122.

The project makes Lincoln's words – and, just as importantly, their full context – accessible in a searchable format to anyone in the world. Most of the site's users have been from the United States, Canada, China, and the United Kingdom, but there have also been visitors from Russia, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, India, Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates. The site's value as a tool for scholarship will only grow as more documents are added.

Every October, our historians bring together dozens of people to share insights, challenge assumptions, and explore new possibilities at the Conference on Illinois History. Participants include university professors, eager students, independent researchers, and leaders from groups like the Illinois State Historical Society and the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. The 2022 conference, devoted to the theme "Stories of Resilience," discussed Stephen Douglas's political motivations, Chicago's Puerto Rican community,



Images of historic documents collected by the Papers of Abraham Lincoln

racial violence in Illinois cities, and more. We're particularly proud that the conference attracts a large number of people outside the "professional history" world, something that is very rare. It shows a real appetite for clearly presented Illinois history.

Illinois history never stops. In the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic, our Oral History Program set out to document how Illinoisans weathered the disaster. Released in the summer of 2020, the "Tumultuous 2020" project collected some 80 oral histories. The people who shared their stories included teachers, college students, business owners, nurses and undertakers. Some led efforts to keep the public



Images of the COVID 19 pandemic, which was chronicled in "Tumultuous 2020"



A magnifying glass offers a better look at Lincoln's signature

safe, others scrambled to save businesses and community groups, and most simply endured.

Our historians' research shapes what museum visitors see in exhibits. ALPLM historians spent countless hours looking into people who might be highlighted in our "Here I Have Lived" exhibit. They found one fascinating story after another, pinned down the facts, and wrote descriptions that placed each person into the larger context of Illinois' complex history. Sometimes that meant exploring a little-known moment in the life of a famous person, such as Michelle Obama or Tina Turner, and sometimes it meant finding people who had largely been forgotten over the years, including community activist Hazel Johnson and inventor Fred Francis.

Changes based on historical research can also be subtle. For instance, researchers updated and refined the information presented in the museum scene of Lincoln describing the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet. Earlier they did the same for the scene in which Mary Lincoln and Elizabeth Keckly are surrounded by dresses worn by other Washington women of the era. The goal is to ensure descriptions in the ALPLM exhibits reflect the latest insights into history and use respectful language for everyone.

Another way to study the past is expanding the ALPLM's collection of historic documents and artifacts. A major acquisition in fiscal 2023 was a letter that Lincoln wrote about his political frustrations. The 1843 letter captures Lincoln complaining that his support in Sangamon County was slipping as critics falsely painted him as a rich aristocrat opposed to religion and criticized him for nearly taking part in a duel. "The people of Sangamon have cast me off," Lincoln wrote to a friend. That friend and his descendants held onto the letter for 179 years before generously donating it to the ALPLM so that it could be preserved and shared with the public.



A speaker at the Conference on Illinois History

Sharing Knowledge

One way or another, everyone at the ALPLM helps share knowledge, whether by working directly with scholars or by keeping the place clean and welcoming for our visitors. Helping people learn about Abraham Lincoln and Illinois history is the whole reason we are here.

The Education Division pursues that mission on two fronts: students and teachers. The team offers story times for toddlers, history-themed programs for schoolchildren, and back-to-school activities for parents and children. They promote reading and collect books on Lincoln's birthday, visit schools, and provide a week of development opportunities for promising high school students. That program, the Future Presidents of America, has proven particularly successful at inspiring students to aim high and serve their communities.

But the way to reach the most students is to help the people who teach them. The Education Division offers online professional development programs for teachers, arranges for them to receive credit for attending ALPLM programs, and provides written classroom materials teachers can use – for instance, a guide highlighting letters written to President Lincoln by African Americans. The division also teams



3D scan of a Lincoln life mask

with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to hold a week-long seminar for teachers from across the country each summer. In all, the ALPLM awarded 3,110 hours of professional-development credit, and the teachers who took advantage of these services went back to their schools and helped 33,967 students.

Online tools help the ALPLM provide a fuller picture of Abraham Lincoln and Illinois history to people around the globe. The biggest innovation of fiscal 2023 was a collection of incredibly detailed three-dimensional images of historic artifacts. These images let people look at historic treasures in more detail and from more angles than would ever be possible during a visit to the museum. Want to



Our Education Division reaches students by visiting schools but also by bringing them to the ALPLM for programs such as Future Presidents of America.

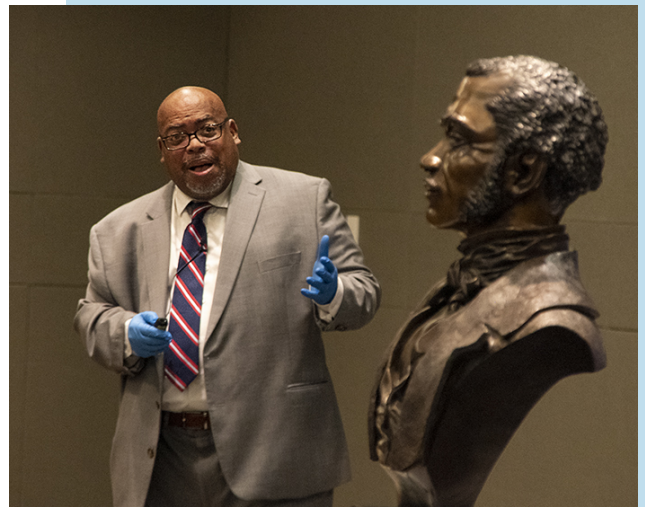
examine the nooks and crannies of a Lincoln life mask? Curious about how Mary Lincoln's nightcap was made? Want to peer into a bucket from a battleship? You can explore all that and more at www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov/3D. Another innovation was an online tool for studying the Emancipation Proclamation. It lets people see the ALPLM's copy of the proclamation and click key phrases, triggering pop-up windows that provide context and explanation. It also includes historic images and links to other sources of information.

ALPLM librarians have also placed an updated Obituary Index on the website and added nearly 1,500 online records describing items in our Manuscripts Collection. These resources give researchers a better idea of what they can find by visiting the ALPLM, whether they're looking for an ancestor's death notice or letters written by soldiers on the battlefield.

Of course, researchers who do visit the ALPLM receive knowledgeable, efficient assistance. Nearly 700 people visited the library to dig into our files, spending a combined 2,146 hours in the reading room and making 3,960 requests for documents, photos, and artifacts. Library staff fulfilled 577 records requests – each of which could involve multiple scans from the ALPLM's collections of newspapers, photos, and manuscripts – from researchers across the globe. And on 66 occasions, the library team gathered and prepared material to share with the public through exhibits, presentations, or loans to other institutions.

ALPLM historians and librarians regularly share their expertise through public events, news interviews, blog posts and more. "Tales from the Vault" presentations let them show off amazing items touching on anything from Independence Day to Civil Rights. These lunchtime events give visitors an up-close look at items that rarely go on display in the museum. The ALPLM also works with the Illinois State Museum to present "History Happy Hours" at a downtown Springfield tavern, where the approach is more casual.

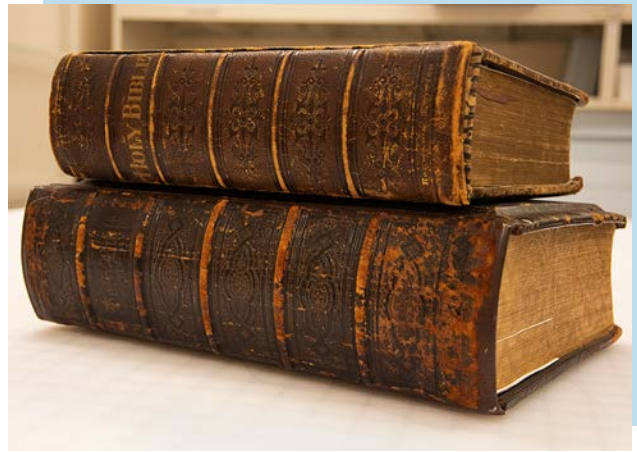
The list of organizations that got a helping hand from the ALPLM is long and diverse. Illinois Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution received exhibit consulting for their "Museums on Mainstreet"



Historians share their expertise in many ways, including Tales from the Vault events where visitors can see rare artifacts, and at History Happy Hour

project. News outlets such as the New York Times and the Daily Beast turned to us for fact-checking help. We explained Juneteenth at an Army National Guard event. The internet allowed us to discuss the ALPLM's mission with students in New Mexico and delve into Reconstruction and the 13th Amendment with teens in New Orleans. The Indiana State Museum and Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture sought our assistance with developing content for their exhibits.

Our experts also share their knowledge with colleagues from other institutions by speaking at conferences or serving on boards. For instance, two members of our education team spoke at national conferences on social studies instruction.



Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker took the oath for his second term using two ALPLM Bibles, one owned by Lincoln and one by former Gov. Henry Horner.

What educators say

The ALPLM considers it a priority to help teachers appreciate history and find new ways to present it to their students effectively. We offer many professional development opportunities each year. Here's what participants say about them:

- 98 percent agree or strongly agree that the session will “impact my professional growth or student growth in regards to content knowledge or skills, or both.”
- 99 percent agree or strongly agree that our presenters are “knowledgeable about the content provided.”
- 98 percent agree or strongly agree that “the materials and presentation techniques” used by ALPLM staff “were well-organized and engaging.”

"The course was excellent and the discussions were inspiring."

"I'm delighted with the focus on Mexican American history/culture as well as the strategies"

"The information presented could literally be taken directly into the classroom."

"I hope this class will give me courage to have a good and thoughtful conversation with my students. Thank you for the opportunity to learn and improve my teaching."



Serving the Community

"It is a cheering thought throughout life that something can be done to ameliorate the condition of those who have been subject to the hard usage of the world." That was Abraham Lincoln's view in 1862, and it is the ALPLM's view today. Whenever possible, this institution uses its resources and expertise to help the community, whether that means Springfield specifically or people everywhere.

The Education Division leads many of these efforts. It has focused the annual "Back to School Bash" on providing useful services in addition to end-of-summer diversions. It has built the Future Presidents of America program around the idea of preparing teens for public service. Two members of the team co-chair the Springfield Informal Educators Group, working to create a more robust, inclusive, and meaningful group for informal educators in the Springfield area. The division took part in Black Children's Book Week, Girl Scouts' Day at the Capitol, and summer programming for Compass 4 Kids.

The division also oversees two important joint projects with other organizations. The "Lincolns 4 Lincoln" collaboration with Springfield's Lincoln Library promotes literacy and collects books for children on Lincoln's birthday. And an annual art contest sponsored with the Illinois State Board of Education encourages students to look at the world through an artistic lens.

The Public Programs and Community Engagement Division arranged other important outreach efforts. The ALPLM collaborated with the local Juneteenth Celebration committee to host a scholarship awards breakfast and staff a booth at the local Juneteenth Celebration. Staff also offered children's activities and crafts during the annual PrideFest in



A young artist's vision and her visit to see it hanging at the ALPLM.

downtown Springfield, hosted a blood drive on Martin Luther King's Birthday, and supported local business by welcoming a bi-weekly farmers market to Union Station during the winter months. Low-income families could take advantage of a special discount program to stretch their dollars when buying fresh meat, dairy products, and fruits and vegetables.



The ALPLM supported the arts by partnering with the University of Illinois Springfield and the Springfield Arts Association for “Making Our History: Artists Render Lincoln’s Legacies,” an innovative physical and digital art exhibit in our library atrium. It also aided local government agencies by installing a Lincoln-themed wall welcoming travelers to the Springfield airport and helping Sangamon County include Lincoln in a renovated county building.

The museum offers free or discounted admission many times a year, including Lincoln’s birthday, the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, Juneteenth, and National Museum Day. Admission is free on Wednesday and Saturday evenings in December for people who donate toiletries and personal hygiene items for people in need. Free admission is also available for military veterans, first responders and community groups on specific days.

Abraham Lincoln is a powerful symbol for government agencies planning special events. Sometimes the ALPLM is able to grant their requests to hold events here. We welcomed the Illinois Supreme Court when Lisa Holder White was sworn in as the court’s newest justice, and we have teamed



Admission is free on Nov. 19, the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.

with federal courts and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to hold naturalization ceremonies at the museum. Most of the new citizens have family and friends with them as they take the oath, making the events joyful and touching.



New citizens at the ALPLM



Behind the Scenes

Pursuing accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums was a major behind-the-scenes priority for all divisions. Accreditation is a lengthy, rigorous process. Just 3 percent of the nation's museums – 1,080 out of 33,000 – have achieved it. To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers.

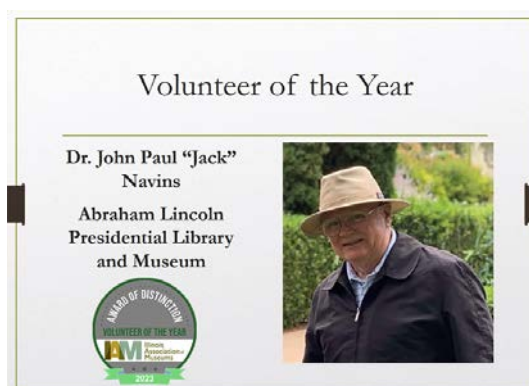
That meant everyone at the ALPLM was called upon to review procedures, make improvements, and document how we operate. The team collected statistics, filled out questionnaires and provided records. And then we welcomed the reviewers, who met with staff, volunteers, and community representatives. They examined museum exhibits, education programs, library services, technical support and more. Late in calendar 2023 the word came down: The ALPLM had met the AAM's requirements. "This means the museum ... joins a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence," said the head of the AAM Accreditation Commission. "The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum serves an important role in the nation and is an institution the State of Illinois can take great pride in."

Development

The ALPLM membership program, Team Lincoln, continued to grow in its second year, reaching nearly 800 members. Membership money helps us continue researching, collecting, and sharing stories of Lincoln and Illinois with visitors from all over the world. Members get unlimited free admission, access to exclusive events, museum store discounts, sneak previews of new exhibits, and access to over 300 history museums through the Time Travelers Network. In fiscal 2023, members enjoyed a preview of our newest exhibit, "Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois," intimate conversations with ALPLM historians during our "Coffee with the Curator" events, a behind-the-scenes tour of our Preservation and Conservation Laboratory, and a live performance of some of Lincoln's favorite songs.

The division's fundraising efforts paid off with a stream of important grants and generous donations, including:

- \$100,000 in memory of Dr. Jack Navins, a beloved ALPLM volunteer
- \$250,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop an interactive "Citizen City" exhibit for children
- \$100,000 pledge from Mariet Hamrah to transform Union Square Park into a community oasis featuring native plants, flowers, and herbs that would have been found in Mary Lincoln's garden
- \$100,000 from the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust to help the ALPLM develop an interpretive plan that will shape exhibits for decades to come.



The sisters and brother-in-law of ALPLM volunteer Jack Navins made a generous contribution in his name so we could add to our offerings for children. He was also named Volunteer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Museums.

Communications

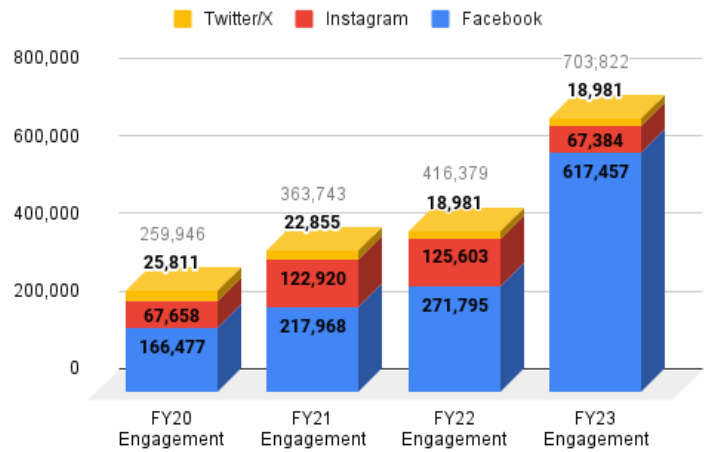
The communications focus for fiscal 2023 was on sharing good news, from exhibits to acquisitions to donations. Responding to crises or clearing up confusion was, thankfully, not necessary.

The "Here I Have Lived" exhibit gave the division an opportunity to reach out to all regions of Illinois to explain how local figures were represented. The division also got to share the ALPLM's acquisition of a rare Lincoln letter, a technology initiative involving Google, an online gallery of 3D images, and the opening of a nursing suite. All received strong coverage.

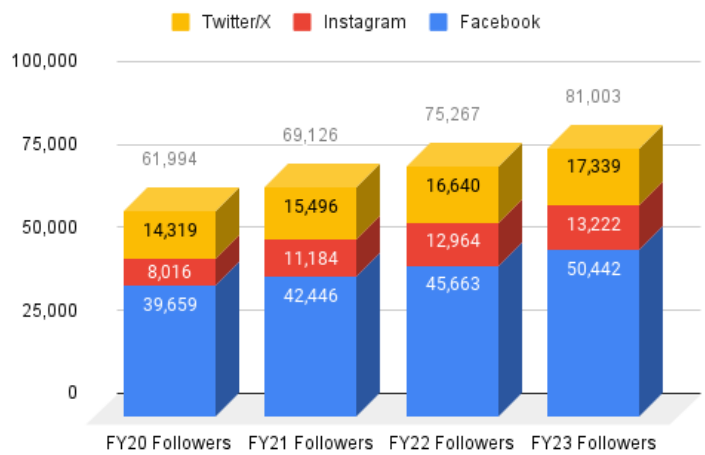
Communications collaborated with ALPLM historians to launch an online tool letting people explore our copy of the Emancipation Proclamation and study its powerful message. Coverage of that tool and our annual display of the proclamation generated nationwide broadcasts with an audience of at least 9.1 million people.



Social Media Engagement



Social Media Followers



Fiscal Services

The Fiscal Services Division completed major procurements for the museum store, cafe, and parking garage. It saw the new ALPLM Public Trust Fund reach \$1 million and significantly decreased payable processing time over previous year. The division processed 1,854 payments, completed 104 procurements, and collected \$2.35 million in revenue.

Fund	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget	% Change	FY22 Spend	FY23 Spend	% Change
General Revenue	\$7,969,300	\$8,587,000	7.80%	\$7,770,734	\$8,278,728	6.50%
Tourism Promotion	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	0.00%	\$3,318,598	\$3,285,235	-1.00%
ALPLM Operating	\$4,154,000	\$4,154,000	0.00%	\$1,538,419	\$2,320,598	50.80%
King Hostick Trust	\$258,000	\$162,500	-37.00%	\$131,681	\$76,309	-42.10%
ALPLM Public Trust	N/A	\$243,200	N/A	\$12,691	\$79,074	523.10%
Totals	\$15,981,300	\$16,746,700	4.80%	\$12,772,123	\$14,039,944	9.90%



Public Programming & Community Outreach

Our community outreach efforts seek to make the ALPLM a “gathering spot” for the community by offering space for special events and programs. We also take the ALPLM out into the community to share information about the activities, programs, and services we offer. That means appearing at concerts, parades, and other community events and arranging for ALPLM team members to address civic organizations, church groups, and senior organizations.



The annual "Back to School Bash" offered fun for children and services for parents. The ALPLM was represented at community concerts by our Development and Community Outreach staff.

The division oversaw 78 ALPLM public programs and events in fiscal 2023 that resulted in just over 10,000 people attending in-person or virtually. Among the highlights:

- A summer celebration in Union Square Park featuring a Beatles tribute band attended by nearly 2,000 people.
- Trivia Night at the ALPLM attracted some 120 trivia players for our first trivia night at the museum to raise money for the ALPLM Public Trust.
- Canvas and Cocktails, a collaboration with the Springfield Art Alliance that offered an evening of creating take-home artwork inspired by our exhibit, “Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois.”
- The “Lincolns-4-Lincoln” read-a-thon and “Back to School Bash” were successful collaborations with the ALPLM education team.



Venue Rentals

The ALPLM continues to win awards as a beautiful and accommodating location for special events. Case in point: being voted the top Small-Market Venue in the 2022 Unique Venues Planner’s Choice Awards. Even better, the rentals program resumed full operations after being shut down or scaled back during the COVID 19 pandemic and its aftermath. In FY2023, the ALPLM earned revenue from 167 bookings, compared with 137 in the pre-COVID year

of FY2019. Rental charges were up \$12,800 from FY19, and billings for audio-visual equipment and other services were up \$15,400. The program began offering rental clients the option to make event deposits and payments online in the fall of 2022, which has simplified operations for many of clients. Dinners remain the most popular event for clients to host at the ALPLM, followed by meetings, then receptions.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Division oversaw filling important vacancies and creating new positions, shepherding them through the state's rigorous approval process. The division's outreach efforts helped the ALPLM reach a substantial milestone in gender diversity this year: 60 percent of new hires were women in fiscal 2023, compared to 30 percent a year earlier. The increase demonstrates our commitment to promoting diversity and gender balance, setting a positive trajectory for the future.

The ALPLM HR director played an essential role in successfully negotiating the AFSCME contract for 2023, serving as a key member of the management team. Additionally, the director was appointed to the remote work committee, representing management statewide alongside a team of six individuals.

Volunteer Services

The Volunteer Services program renewed its efforts to recruit volunteers who represent the state's diverse population. Preparations moved forward for a new VolunTEEN program to launch in 2024. This included conducting more extensive background checks on staff and volunteers through the Illinois State Police so that everyone on the team, no matter what their age, could be confident of a safe environment. The program also created an Administrative Review Committee to monitor the background status of every volunteer.

Volunteer Services implemented a new recruitment strategy with the main objective of increasing the number of ALPLM volunteers by attracting people from more races, ethnicities, ages, and abilities. To that end, the program held three new orientation and training sessions instead of the usual two. The additional session was aimed at recruiting high school and college students.

About 440 people volunteered during fiscal 2023, up 10 percent from a year earlier. They assisted 12

And the award goes to ...



The ALPLM again won the Planner's Choice competition by Unique Venues and the Illinois Times's Best of Springfield. It also earned the elite "Travelers' Choice" label from TripAdvisor.

ALPLM departments. The program hosted about 40 educational opportunities and special events for its volunteers. In the spirit of building relationships and sharing best practices, the program offered a unique educational program at the renovated Illinois Governor's Mansion and consulted with the Friends of the Sangamon Valley to help the environmental group reboot its volunteer organization.



Volunteer director Jeremy Carrell discusses the program with a news reporter.



Abraham Lincoln keeps bringing people together! Sandy Hudgins-Brewer (left) began volunteering at the ALPLM and was thrilled to learn Sallie Flynn is a longtime volunteer here. They first met in 7th grade and went to high school together but hadn't seen each other in nearly 35 years!

ALPLM Senior Staff

- Christina Shutt – Executive Director
- Mark Mahoney – Chief of Staff
- Christen Stanley – Chief of Operations
- Marlene Allen – Director of Human Resources
- Joe Crain – Director of Community Engagement and Public Programming
- Lauren Dodge – Director of Development
- Summer Griffith – Director of Marketing and Guest Experience
- Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross – Director of Facilities and Sustainability
- Gloria Legette – Chief Legal Counsel
- Tammy Miner – Chief Fiscal Officer
- Brian Mitchell – Director of Research and Interpretation
- Heather Nice – Director of Education
- Lance Tawzer – Director of Exhibits and Shows
- Jeremy Tedrow – Chief Information Officer
- Christopher Wills – Director of Communications

*As of Dec. 31, 2023