



# Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum



## Annual Report Fiscal 2020



### JB Pritzker Governor



### Ray LaHood Chairman



# A Year of Service Under Challenging Circumstances

In 2005, when the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum opened its doors, an enthusiastic public was fascinated by a high-tech, immersive experience never imagined in the world of historic exploration. And as the ALPLM began 15 years of operation in January 2020, plans were underway to boost attendance, increase community engagement, and strengthen our education and research. Yet the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic required adjusting those well-considered plans.



In mid-March, the ALPLM closed to the public for 14 weeks. While not ideal circumstances, we are proud of our accomplishments during this unanticipated crisis.

Every employee developed an individualized remote work plan, ensuring that our mission would be fulfilled even if our doors were temporarily closed. Our availability to serve historic researchers continued uninterrupted, with our professional staff in close communication with authors, scholars and enthusiasts. Through social media, we began popular, weekly live conversations, engaging thousands of viewers from throughout the world. Staff from all divisions contributed to a blog that offered the public new insights into Abraham Lincoln and the ALPLM.

Our Education Division rapidly provided high-quality online offerings that meet Illinois' rigorous educational standards. To date, teachers serving more than 70,000 students have benefited. Nearly 2,000 hours of professional development units have been earned by Illinois teachers through the ALPLM this year. Never in our agency's history have we led such an aggressive educational agenda.

Working together with a new Board of Trustees, the ALPLM has advanced long-overdue guidelines, policies, and practices that a cultural institution of our caliber deserves.

With strong ethical standards and an insistence on transparency, the ALPLM is well positioned for success in FY2021. We intend to provide unmatched public service, fiscal efficiency, and results in education, tourism, and community engagement.

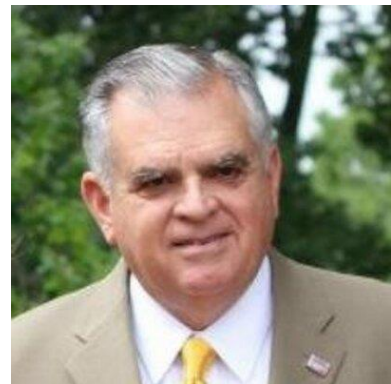
Our 2021 “Golden Birthday” year (16 years of operations in sharing our 16th President), will offer new insights into President Lincoln through in-depth exploration and partnership among scholars. Additionally, we will share Illinois’ contribution to the world of music through a new exhibit, *State of Sound*, highlighting the state’s greatest artists and influencers.

On behalf of our entire team, I invite you to join us in 2021 as we continue to strengthen one of Illinois’ finest institutions.

Melissa Coultas  
Acting Executive Director

## **New Beginnings, New Challenges**

This year, Gov. JB Pritzker appointed a diverse and talented group as trustees for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. It has been my honor to serve as chairman of this board as we work with ALPLM leaders to set the stage for a future of elevating the library to a new level. Our goal is to ensure that the ALPLM will be a place where the life and times of Abraham Lincoln are celebrated, and his vision of a united, evolving nation can be explored. History is most valuable when we examine how it relates to contemporary times.



The trustees have met nearly every month since January of 2020, aided by an administrative team determined to ensure the board is kept informed of the ALPLM staff’s vision. Vast improvements have been made in the ALPLM’s operations, ensuring increased transparency and a dedication to professionalism.

The new Board of Trustees has made significant progress in searching for an executive director with the skills and vision to lead an institution like the ALPLM. While the search has been slowed by the coronavirus, we feel confident a worthy candidate will be found in early 2021. The board has also worked closely with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation to raise the resources to continue our programs at the library.

This year has been one of new challenges and new beginnings. The ALPLM enjoys a positive outlook for next year and for many years afterward. 2021 will bring new leadership and new horizons.

Ray LaHood  
Chairman, ALPLM Board of Trustees

## Board of Trustees



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# WELCOMING VISITORS

The first half of fiscal 2020 saw the ALPLM introduce a new tour, expand opportunities for the community to visit, and use technology to improve attendance at events. We offered programs tied to our World War II exhibit, collected backpacks for needy students, and welcomed hundreds of children to an event the day after Thanksgiving. Then came Covid-19 and everything changed. Both the museum and library had to close their doors. The staff's focus was suddenly switched to providing online services and figuring out how to operate safely when we, inevitably, welcomed visitors again.

Highlights for visitors included:

- We began participating in Museum for All, a national program that helps families of all backgrounds afford to visit museums. Anyone receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) can buy up to four tickets at just \$3 each by presenting a SNAP card and photo ID.
- The museum offered a new specialty tour called "Misinterpreting Mary." The tour, which took place weekly from January through March, details Mary Lincoln's upbringing, courtship with Lincoln, tremendous losses as a mother, and her very difficult final years.
- "In This Great Struggle: The Greatest Generation Remembers World War II" opened on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and ran until mid-January. Drawing from our Oral History Program, this powerhouse exhibit shared the memories of people who faced the war's turmoil and tragedy and paired those recollections with amazing artifacts, photographs and documents.
- The Theater Department reached an incredible milestone in February: its 70,000<sup>th</sup> performance of the popular "Ghosts of the Library" show. It also presented the 253<sup>rd</sup> performance of the two-person play "One Destiny," which has now been seen by more than 52,000 people since it debuted in 2009.
- For the museum's 15<sup>th</sup> year, the "Ask Mr. Lincoln Theater was transformed into the "The Mr. Lincoln Theater" and now features videos celebrating the ALPLM's creation. Eventually, the theater will be home to new content focusing on Lincoln's life and legacy.



The ALPLM offered a broad array of special events throughout the year. We hosted C-SPAN's collection of presidential portraits and discussed presidential history with C-SPAN's co-CEO. In conjunction with our World War II exhibit, we presented a look at fact vs. fiction in war movies.

Our "Tales from the Vault" and "Illinois History Forum" programs continued with presentations on Lincoln's foreign policy, Illinois and the Underground Railroad, a woman who served bravely as a Union soldier during the Civil War, and much more.

For children, we offered a Back to School Bash with games and brain-tickling activities and hosted our annual Fun Frosty Friday event on the day after Thanksgiving. We also collected 1,361 backpacks donated by our guests for the schoolchildren of Springfield.



We addressed the longtime problem of people reserving seats for free events but failing to show up, which meant seats that could have gone to other people were left unused. We can now send reminders through our ticketing system shortly before the event. For programs that are close to selling out, we can even ask people to let us know if they've changed their plans so we can give their seats to other guests. The change has dramatically reduced no-shows.

Once the ALPLM closed its doors to help in the fight against Covid-19, the visitor experience was limited to our online presentations. Initially, these were simply interviews on Facebook with some of our staff – our Lincoln historian talking about Lincoln, for instance, or our exhibits director explaining the process of installing a new exhibition. Later, we arranged more elaborate presentations that included experts from other institutions.

We discovered there was a real appetite for our virtual programming. It's not uncommon for a Facebook Live event to have around 1,000 to 2,000 views when live and just as many views in the days following a program. One benefit is that these sessions reached some people who otherwise would never have engaged with the ALPLM.

### FY 2020 Attendance

	FY20	FY2019	FY2018	FY2017	FY2016
July	27,932	29,131	32,237	33,578	37,849
August	19,512	20,190	26,735	23,454	26,945
September	15,518	16,534	18,764	20,093	20,584
October	21,425	25,811	24,571	25,768	27,274
November	12,551	12,507	13,430	14,959	14,926
December	6,594	8,181	7,630	7,046	9,463
January	5,218	5,527	5,209	6,318	6,239
February	11,284	12,088	12,227	14,350	13,145
March	3,608*	20,389	22,129	27,715	26,132
April	0	26,912	30,679	33,090	34,188
May	0	38,248	36,210	38,784	38,353
June	97	24,454	26,066	27,110	28,256
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,739</b>	<b>239,972</b>	<b>255,887</b>	<b>272,265</b>	<b>283,354</b>

\*Public access to the ALPLM for FY20 ended on March 13, 2020.

The ALPLM closed to the public on March 13, 2020. The severity of the coronavirus pandemic meant we were not able to open again at any time in fiscal 2020. That did not mean we ceased bringing Abraham Lincoln and Illinois history to the public. We produce a newsletter that reaches nearly 48,000 people each week. Social media posts, from quick Lincoln quotes to in-depth articles, go out to some 60,000 followers each day. Online presentations deliver the ALPLM’s information and expertise to the general public, teachers, parents, and students.

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The ALPLM shares knowledge through museum exhibits and artifact displays, of course, but that’s just part of the picture. The library services staff assists researchers of all sorts, from distinguished historians to children working on school reports. Our historians field questions from the public and also write articles, participate in conferences, and talk to journalists. Our education staff offers fun and informative activities for children while helping teachers find new ways to approach history in their classrooms.

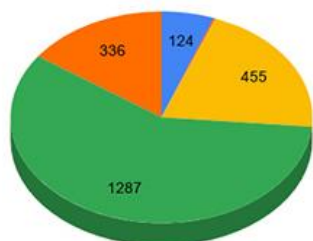
With a collection as massive as the ALPLM’s, a top priority is helping people find what they need. The Manuscripts Division, which is responsible for virtually all handwritten documents at the ALPLM, devoted hundreds of staff hours to creating “finding aids” for researchers and making them available online through [ArchivesSpace](#). This involved producing nearly 400 digital versions of multi-page finding aids and starting the task of creating online versions of more than 3,000 small collection records.

Likewise, the Audiovisual Division has added roughly 20 collections to ArchivesSpace, including resource records and finding aids for our Stevenson Family Collection. The division also helped develop the ALPLM’s new cloud storage system for digital images and data. The cloud storage system will also let us build digital collections on ArchivesSpace. Another major task completed was an in-depth inventory of our film and audio collections. From this inventory we were able to identify vulnerable material and have taken steps to further preserve it.

Library staff provide access to the collections in many ways. One is finding items that people want to check out while visiting the Steve Neal Reading Room for research. Another is bringing out items for special activities, such as a display in the museum or research visits by school groups.

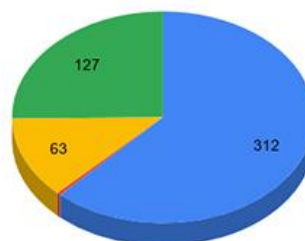
2,206 Items Checked Out in Reading Room

● Audio-Visual ● Default ● Manuscripts ● Microfilm ● Published Material



504 Items Checked Out for Special Purposes

● Exhibit ● Loan ● Presentation ● School Groups





Education is another key part of sharing knowledge.

During the summer months, the museum offered daily educational activities for young visitors. They could take part in story time, examine replica artifacts, take selfies and learn to make a Mary Lincoln fan or a spinning “thaumatrope” toy. Once school was back in session, we offered activities and crafts on special occasions. Children took part in activities 212 times on Martin Luther King Day, for instance, and 873 times on Lincoln’s birthday.

The Education Department launched several new initiatives, all free of charge to participants. They include Little Lincoln’s Fireside Tales, a mix of stories and activities for preschoolers, and a Summer Reading Club for pre-teens. Both programs continued online after the museum closed to visitors in March 2020.

The ALPLM also offers free children’s programs beyond our reading initiatives. Our Junior Historians programs help youths explore Civil War technology, learn what soldiers experienced during the war, examine records from the past to answer research questions, engage with our collections and staff during interactive events, and more. These programs served 274 children in FY2020.



Teachers can earn professional development credits, free of charge, through the ALPLM. This continued even after we closed, thanks to a new “Gone Virtual Boot Camp” series online. In all, 186 teachers benefited from professional development and even more obtained classroom materials and lesson plans.

Students across Illinois can take part in two competitions organized by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum: an art contest organized with the Illinois State Board of Education and the annual Illinois History Day competition, an affiliate program of the National History Day competition. More than 800 students reached the state finals (held online this year). Thirty-six projects, accounting for 65 students, advanced to National History Day, where one Illinois team received a first place and five others were finalists in their categories.

The Education Department continued its partnerships with the Gilder Lehrman Institute and the Springfield Informal Educators. It also established new partnerships with the Benjamin Harris Presidential Site to promote leadership and citizenship and with the National Humanities Center to share online educational resources for teachers.

Students can benefit from three grant programs that help pay for visits to the ALPLM. The Winnick Family Foundation, the John Ullrich Foundation and Frank Vala of Valco Awards provided funds for 1,587 students to visit. Because of the pandemic, only 415 were able to come, but the unused money will be carried over to next year.

The annual Conference on Illinois History is another important tool for sharing knowledge, both the expertise of ALPLM staff and the findings of historians around the state. The fall 2019 conference include the eminent Lincoln historian Wayne Temple and panels on topics as varied as baseball, a Confederate monument in Chicago, and serial killer H.H. Holmes.



And, of course, individual ALPLM staff shared their knowledge and talent in dozens of other ways, both formal and informal.

Lincoln Historian Christian McWhirter was a resource for national fact-checkers whenever a politician talked about Abraham Lincoln. Conservator Bonnie Parr conducted tours of her lab for visiting teachers, historians, and conservators. Mark DePue, head of the Oral History Program, wrote op-eds and appeared on radio and television to share some of the powerful stories he has collected. Daniel Worthington, director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, collaborated with experts around the country on the future of documentary editing. Staff from all sections of the ALPLM took part in online presentations or wrote for our blog as we established new ways of connecting with the public while closed because of Covid-19.

## STUDYING THE PAST

Presenting and explaining the past to visitors is just one part of the ALPLM’s mission. Another is researching the past – acquiring new artifacts, examining old documents anew, and recording memories from the people who lived history.

The ALPLM Oral History Program reached in important milestone: collecting its 1,000<sup>th</sup> interview. The interviews totaled more than 2,900 hours of conversation, include veterans telling war stories, farmers talking about rural life, activists recalling civil rights battles and athletes sharing moments of victory and defeat.



Few oral history programs anywhere in the country have built such a large and varied collection of voices. Among the treasure trove of memories are 275 interviews with Illinois veterans, 268 about education, 215 on Illinois government and politics and 88 related to agriculture. Audio from every interview is available online at <https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/research-divisions/oral-history>.

A miniseries about the 1970s battle over the Equal Right Amendment brought some unexpected attention to the Oral History Program. Multiple stories about “Mrs. America” cited the ALPLM’s interviews with ERA opponent Phyllis Schlafly as they sought to explain her views and impact. The Oral History Program showed up everywhere from Vanity Fair to Harper’s Bazaar to Chicago magazine.

The program also launched several new projects, including a look into the administration of Gov. Pat Quinn, interviews with legislators like former Senate President John Cullerton, and interview collections on civics education, a new school funding model, Illinois’s pre-history, and the tumultuous year 2020.

The most significant Lincoln artifact added to the collection during this period was a compass-sundial combination once owned by President Abraham Lincoln’s paternal grandfather, Captain Abraham Lincoln, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Donor



William Clary Jr. explains that Captain Lincoln gave it to his youngest daughter (the president's aunt), and it has been in the family's possession ever since.

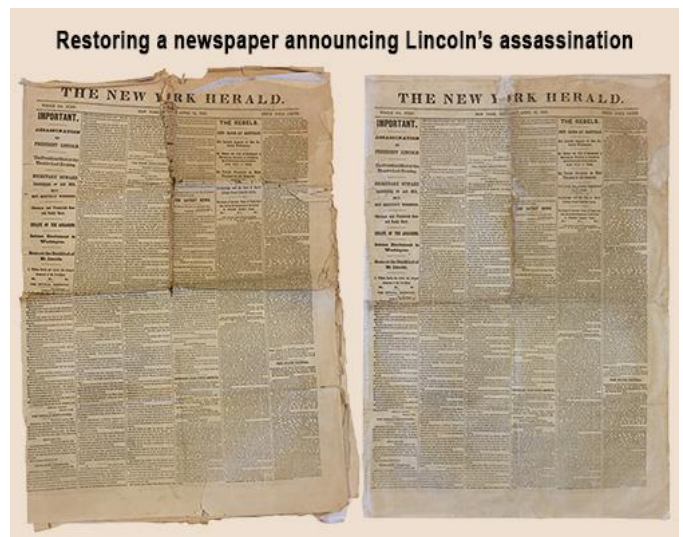
Among the other unique items added to the collection with ties to Abraham Lincoln was an 1859 letter by Lincoln to Norman Judd discussing the possible purchase of a German language printing press. This highlights early efforts by the Lincoln campaign to reach out to immigrant voters in 1860. We also received 133 books that had belonged to Lincoln scholar Benjamin Thomas. He used them in writing several pivotal works, including *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography*. Filled with Thomas's highlights, personal notations, and observations on other historians' work, they are invaluable today for scholars who might be considering updating his work or simply learning where he stood on certain historical topics.

Even with the uncertainties of the pandemic during the final three months of the fiscal year, the library accepted 53 new artifact collections which added thousands of manuscripts, hundreds of photos, and dozens of new books and other artifacts for the benefit of researchers and museum visitors alike.

Those acquisitions must be inspected by the ALPLM Conservation Department to assess their condition. If necessary, restoration and repairs can be made, just as the department cares for material that has been in the collection for decades.

The Conservation Department, which consists of two full-time staff, two summer interns and a handful of volunteers, did a total of 1266 treatments during FY20 – which means preparing condition reports, removing dirt and mold from the surfaces of historical materials, repairing torn paper and loose book covers, making custom housings, and more. Conservation staff worked on and mounted 54 items for eight exhibits and loans. The work included:

- Unfolding creases and extensive mending of tears on the 3 a.m. issue of April 15, 1865 New York Herald, the only genuine copy of that newspaper issue in the ALPLM's collection
- Conservation treatment to stabilize Grand Army of the Republic charters for Illinois GAR posts – 42 charters were conserved in FY20
- Rescuing an oversize 1922 panoramic photograph stuck to



broken glass in a frame – it was successfully separated from the glass while keeping the image layer intact

- Writing policies for collections care and integrated pest management.

Meanwhile, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln received important grants from government agencies and private organizations, a vote of confidence in the direction of this project to publish every document written by or to Lincoln in his lifetime. It was awarded \$350,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for FY2020-22 and \$121,625 from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission, the Shapell Foundation, and the Abraham Lincoln Association for FY2021.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln collected images of 11 new Lincoln documents and published 509 documents and 944 associated biographies. It averaged 750 users per month, from such locations as France, Russia, South Africa, China, Australia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The Research Division also continued a major initiative to update and organize its research files. The goal is to pull together information on items in the collection – provenance, historical context, and previous ALPLM interpretations of the items – in one easily accessible place. What’s more the effort isn’t strictly limited to material in the collection. It also includes topics the department has researched over the years.

The ALPLM is developing a permanent display of material from its large collection related to the Stevenson family, including presidential nominee Adlai Stevenson II. The Research Division devoted significant time to selecting items, researching the family, and writing biographies of key family members.



## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Abraham Lincoln understood the importance of helping those in need. The ALPLM takes his example seriously and attempts to be a positive force in the community.

Staff and volunteers contributed books to benefit a children’s community library in the economically challenged Enos Park neighborhood. The ALPLM staff hosted two blood drives. We hosted the unveiling of the St. Joseph’s Home annual Christmas ornament, which visit the huge “Return Visit” sculpture that stood outside the museum. We put an “angel tree” in the museum gateway so visitors could donate gifts for children in need.

The ALPLM also partnered with NPR Illinois and area Rotary Clubs to host a student scholarship program in March. The winners of “This I Believe,” an essay program for area high school seniors, appeared at a special awards presentation in our Union Theater.



Our huge Fun Frosty Friday event was held again the day after Thanksgiving as a family-friendly alternative to Black Friday shopping.

More than 1,100 guests took part in the free event’s mix of games, crafts, and educational activities.

Another program to help children is our annual backpack drive. We encourage our guests to donate backpacks for use by needy Springfield students. Each donation is rewarded with a certificate for free entry to the museum. During the month of July, we collected 1,361 backpacks.

As fall neared, we hosted a “Back to School Bash” meant to help children start getting ready for the classroom after a summer of fun. Projects included sending telegraph messages in Morse code, designing bridges and building ironclad ships. It attracted 125 students.

## Behind the Scenes

The **Marketing** staff pursued a complete redesign of the ALPLM’s brand image to revitalize and unify the organization’s promotional materials as we entered our 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The new brand included updating the ALPLM’s logo to include President Lincoln’s signature and redesigning each division’s informational brochures and flyers to provide a unified look across the organization. We believe these updates will help patrons more readily identify materials, programs, and research connected with the ALPLM in the future. Following the finalization of the new brand and its implementation, the Marketing Division continued work on a new website that would match the new brand and provide a better user experience.



In addition to promoting numerous special events, the division focused heavily on attracting new and returning guests to the ALPLM. FY20 saw the completion of our statewide “ABEmazing” campaign, which yielded over 26 million impressions using billboards, magazines, and television commercials. We saw a 38% increase in group tours and held our typical 10 percent attendance drop to just 5 percent. Unfortunately, the debut of our next campaign was delayed due to the ALPLM’s closure in the last quarter of FY20. Silver linings for the division during this time, however, included the introducing a weekly email newsletter that generated an open-rate of 17.1 percent in its first two months, which is above the industry average.

The **Community Engagement Division** looks for ways to publicize our programs and build relationships that will benefit both the ALPLM and central Illinois communities. Prior to the pandemic, this meant appearing at community events and festivals (such as the Route 66 Mother Road Festival in downtown Springfield and the annual “Lincoln Bowl” football game) and speaking to community groups. Between August 2019 and mid-March 2020, these efforts reached more than 7,800 people directly – not counting the tens of thousands who learned about the ALPLM at the “Looking for Lincoln” exhibit at the Illinois State Fair.

Once the museum closed to visitors, engagement efforts switched to reaching people online. The division took over production of the weekly newsletter, which reaches thousands of people and includes observations from our historians, stories of our

dedicated volunteers, information about rare documents and artifacts, and more. We began offering weekly Facebook broadcasts digging into those same topics or exploring entirely new ones.

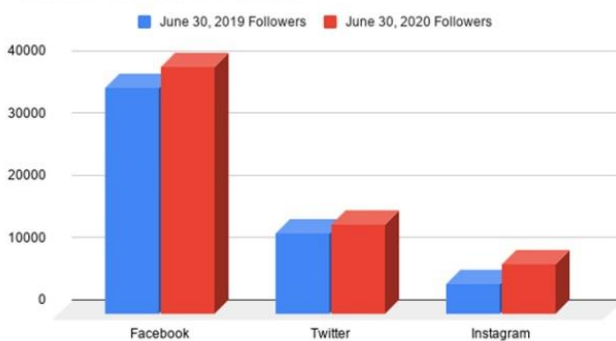
During the first three-quarters of the year, the **Communications Division’s** emphasis was on promoting the ALPLM’s huge array of events and services – for example, the World War II exhibit *In This Great Struggle*, the Conference on Illinois History, and grants for schools hoping to visit. Another key part of the job was responding to press questions about changes in personnel, new plans for exhibits, and other topics that could be sensitive.



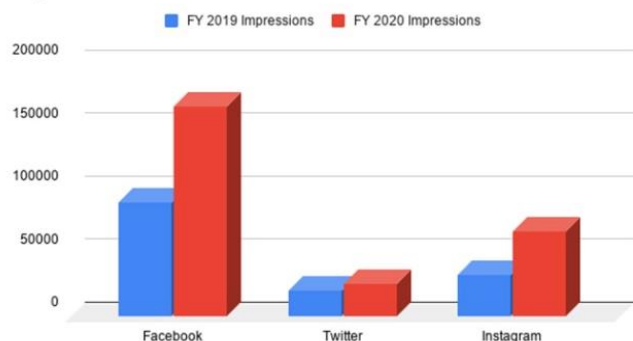
The pandemic’s arrival shifted the division’s focus to communicating directly with the public about the ALPLM’s status and the work going on even when the doors were closed. This involved working with staff on blog posts about Lincoln and Illinois history, arranging for a historian to write an op-ed column for the Chicago Sun-Times, writing original content for the Internet about ALPLM holdings, and much more.

Social media was more important than ever as a tool for maintaining a connection with our supporters even when they could not visit. Our followers on the top three social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) climbed 14 percent over the course of the fiscal year. Total impressions shot up more than 80 percent.

Followers: 6/30/19 and 6/30/20



Impressions: FY19 and FY20



As the “Heart of the Museum,” **Volunteer Services** is a core component of ALPLM. This became more apparent with the uncertainties of the last year, as VSD adjusted its manner of support to staff and guests. In FY2020, the ALPLM’s 573

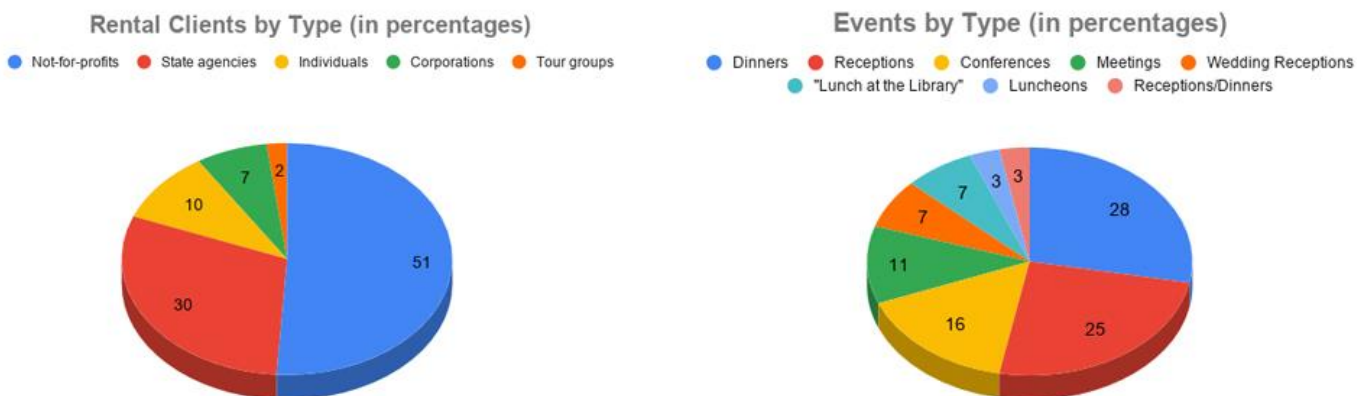


volunteers donated 25,934 hours of service (down approximately 12,000 hours due to the ALPLM’s extended closure) with a monetary value of \$640,310.

The division offered over 20 educational programs and events for volunteers, including new customer-service training.

Although the virus created new challenges, Volunteer Services quickly adjusted to these restrictions with daily Zoom meetings, online educational programs, and tasks that volunteers could complete from a remote location. Several of these procedures were adopted by other volunteer programs locally and around the country. Recognizing that some volunteers have minimal technological resources, the divisional staff utilized a myriad of communication devices and techniques to stay connected with the volunteer corps.

FY 2020 looked like it would be a good year for **Venue Rentals** after a fantastic FY2019. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic closed the ALPLM, and all rental events beginning March 13 through the end of the fiscal year were canceled. The office rented, planned and produced 51 bookings in fiscal 2020 (30 others were on the schedule when the ALPLM closed and more undoubtedly would have been added), down from 124 the previous year. The ALPLM works with clients that had to cancel events to reschedule when possible, though we refunded deposits for canceled events for clients that could not reschedule.



The highlight of the year for the division was earning national recognition when the ALPLM was voted “Best Venue for Unique Experiences” in the 2019 Unique Venues magazine Best Of awards.

The **Facility Services Division**’s accomplishments include completing a \$900,000 upgrade to climate controls at the Library and Museum, replacing carpet in the Ghost

Theater queue and the Union Theater area, and repairing or replacing several exterior doors.

Facility Services is upgrading lighting, evaluating the repair of missing clay tile at Union Station, and working with the Capital Development Board to plan resealing and coating the roof, replacing surveillance cameras and adding chillers to serve the artifact stack areas.

The technical support side of the **Shows Division** also made important upgrades. It conducted the first inspection of theater rigging in six years and repaired any problems that were discovered. The tech team converted Plaza lighting to LEDs, which are more energy-efficient and allow tremendous control over colors; worked on the ambitious communications and exhibit systems in the Stevenson Room; and began upgrading communications and wireless microphones in meeting spaces. The team was also vital to quickly launching a slate of online events to serve the general public, educators and children. Without their hard work, the ALPLM would not have been able to maintain its connections to the public during this difficult time.

Another key in the ALPLM's quick response to the pandemic was the **Information Technology Division**. Its staff ensured all employees had the necessary remote access to work from home, that the website and the agency intranet were updated with important information, and that posts quickly made it to our new blog. Other accomplishments include creating a Microsoft Teams site for transcription of Oral History interviews by volunteers from home, migrating data to new network locations so can be found more easily and fewer security groups are needed, and creating disaster recovery documentation for the building environmental system server.

The **Exhibits Division** devoted significant time to projects that have not yet seen the light of day. Using a grant directed to the ALPLM specifically for this purpose, the division created a room dedicated to the political contributions of the Stevenson family, including Vice President Adlai Stevenson I, Gov. Adlai Stevenson II, and Sen. Adlai Stevenson III. When it opens to the public, it will display material from the ALPLM's extensive Stevenson Collection in cases, graphics, and interactive screens, but it will also serve as meeting space for staff or for rent to outside groups.

The Exhibits team also worked on creating the museum's next major exhibit, *State of Sound: A World of Music from Illinois*. This high-profile exhibit will explore the state's contributions to music in genres from country to rap and classical to gospel. Look for Louis Armstrong's trumpet, Buddy Guy's guitar, and Steve Goodman's Cubs jersey among many artifacts on display.

Exhibits also helped plan for the day that visitors would return to the library and museum. They helped determine whether exhibits would need to be altered, designed graphics to inform visitors about new instructions, and installed signs and screens to ensure everyone would see the information.



The **Legislative Affairs Division** coordinated the introduction of legislation in House Bill 357, which added the ALPLM to the Public Use Trust Act, ensuring we continue to have access to our public trust fund account. This bill passed the Illinois General Assembly and was signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker. Along with working to pass essential legislation, Legislative Affairs attended many conferences, including the Council of State Government Conference in Chicago and the American Alliance of Museum's Advocacy Conference in Washington D.C. These conferences allowed for the ALPLM to engage with Illinois officials whose constituents visit the ALPLM.

Lastly, the division has worked with elected officials to partner on programs and engage their constituents. Legislative affairs welcomed many officials to our facilities, including Congressman Rodney Davis, Congressman Steve Scalise, State Sen. Ann Gillespie, State Rep. Tim Butler, First Lady MK Pritzker, and many more.

# Analysis Pursuant to Executive Order 2017-1

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum was separated from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and established as an independent agency by Executive Order 2017-1. This was later written into law by Public Act 100-120, and the new structure took effect July 1, 2017. The executive order required three annual reports from the presidential library analyzing “the effect of the reorganization on State government and the Illinois taxpayers.”

Three years of experience clearly demonstrates that the new structure has improved operations, benefited taxpayers and expanded programs. In the past year alone, the ALPLM has continued to thrive as a stand-alone agency. One of the most significant changes since our previous report has been the success of the recently appointed ALPLM board. In this short time, the ALPLM board has revised, updated and created a variety of critical policies that were long overdue for the agency, such as a Library Collections Policy, Artifacts Security Policy, Loan Collection Policy, Budgeting Policy and fiscal transparency practices and policies. These are critical procedures that were not previously implemented and are in place now to ensure that the ALPLM is compliant with state law and best practices. The ALPLM Board has also placed a high priority on hiring a new executive director for the agency through an executive search firm. The board and search firm have worked to create a diverse applicant pool and will be looking to hold interviews for the final candidates in early 2021.

The pandemic forced the ALPLM to close its physical doors for a significant amount of time in 2020 but that has not stopped the work of the staff. The ALPLM has hosted 84 digital programs including 28 Junior Historian Digital Programs, 23 Virtual Field Trips and in total over 99 programs in 2020. The ALPLM education department has provided strong content to educators and has had an impact on nearly 80,000 K-12 students in Illinois. Lastly, the ALPLM staff has worked to initiate their own agency-driven grant application efforts to help offset some financial struggles that the agency will be facing.

## Legislation

The director of legislative and governmental affairs pursued several updates to the ALPLM enabling statute, (20 ILCS\_3475), and to other related statutes. In spring 2019, the ALPLM proposed legislation to include the presidential library in the Public Use Trust Act (30 ILCS 160/2). The corrective legislation, SB531, would have named the ALPLM in the Public Use Trust Act to ensure the agency had continued access to its public trust fund, the King Hostick Trust Fund. The ALPLM worked with the

Governor's office and various legislators to reintroduce this legislation as HB4043. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic HB4043 was stalled, but language to include the ALPLM in the Public Use Trust Act was included in HB357, the budget implementation bill.

Regarding future legislation to address the split from IHPA, the ALPLM will be looking to file legislation to update and modernize the ALPLM statute (20 ILCS\_3475). This legislation would address references to positions with titles that have changed since July 1, 2017, and addressing administrative decisions mentioned that do not need board approval. It would also correct inconsistencies in duties laid out for the state historian in the ALPLM statute and the State Historical Library Act while also repealing the State Historical Library Act to eliminate redundancies. Further legislation will also ensure that all duties laid out in the State Historical Library Act will be included in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Act. The ALPLM will look to reintroduce this legislation in the Spring of 2021.

## ALPLM Senior Staff (as of Dec. 31, 2020)

- Melissa Coultas, acting executive director
- Toby Trimmer, chief operating officer
- David Kelm, general counsel
- Brett Cox, chief financial officer
- Joe Crain, director of public programming and community engagement
- Phil Funkenbusch, theater director
- Tammy Grant, human resources director
- Lisa Horsley, library services director
- Patty Knepler, director of marketing and guest experience
- Heather Nice, education director
- Lawrence Patterson, facility services director
- Kayla Sorenson, legislative affairs director
- Lance Tawzer, exhibits director
- Jeramy Tedrow, IT director
- Christopher Wills, communications director



Annual report edited by Communications Director Christopher Wills