

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Travis Gillum and Lara McGlaughlin

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
IHPA Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-V-L-2015-040

Travis Gillum and Lara McGlaughlin, two of the artists from Life Formations who helped create the many figures in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum which opened in 2005, made a presentation, followed by a Q and A on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 18, 2015 Location: Union Theater, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

Interview Format: Digital video

Moderator: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Sam Cooper and the ALPLM Tech Department

Transcription by: Patty Maynor

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

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Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Travis Gillum & Lara McGlaughlin, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-A-L-2015-040

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Travis Gillum and Lara McGlaughlin served as artists for LifeFormations, the company that created the many figures that populate the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, which was opened in 2005. Lara received her bachelor's degree from the Columbia College of Art and Design, and Travis graduated from Bowling Green State University. During the development of the exhibits for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Gillum and McGlaughlin both worked for LifeFormations, the company that created the forty-eight highly realistic historical figures that are seen throughout the museum's many exhibits, to include several Lincoln figures. The two demonstrated the process of creating these figures, from the beginning stage of conducting historical research and creating artistic drawings, through the many steps that it takes to actually bring the figures to life. The first step they discussed was what LifeFormations calls 'project review and reference identification,' where they focus on getting the history right. Following that are the 'head rough sculpt', the 'head finish sculpt' and 'body sculpt,' then skin painting, hair application and costume development. Travis and Lara demonstrated each of these steps for the audience, and included a member of the audience for one of their demonstrations. Bob Rogers' team from BRC Imagination Arts had been working on exhibit design when Rogers hired LifeFormations to create the figures.

This presentation was part of the *Evening With the Creators* series that celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Lara spent a year working on the museum's exhibits, which opened in April, 2005. Both Travis and Lara found their work on the Lincoln figures to be the most rewarding. Lara stated that the figures for the slave auction to be the most challenging. At the conclusion of the presentation, the two answered numerous questions from the audience, many of whom were volunteers who have worked in the museum for many years.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum; LifeFormations; Bob Rogers; BRC Imagination Arts; creating historical figures for museums

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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