



# ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



**HERE  
I HAVE  
LIVED**

*Home in Illinois*



## FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GOVERNOR  
**JB PRITZKER**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**CHRISTINA SHUTT**

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# Who we are



## 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



**Christina  
Shutt**  
executive director

# Balancing yesterday and tomorrow

One of the eternal challenges for a historic museum and library is to protect and celebrate the past while still building for the future. Looking back, I can see that we achieved a wonderful balance in fiscal 2024. I am incredibly grateful for everyone – staff, trustees, donors, state officials and more – who made that possible.

What was so special about this past year?

We created a powerful, multi-layered exhibit about the people who have called Illinois home. It told stories about the famous and the anonymous, the rich and the poor, and earned a national Leadership in History award, the first time in the ALPLM's almost 20 year history.

We also offered an online version of *Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois* and of an earlier exhibit, *State of Sound*. And we put in many, many hours of work on two digital projects that made their debuts after the period covered by this report: an online archive of rare Lincoln photos and a digital app experience that will give visitors new ways to explore the museum.

Those are important examples of celebrating the past while building for the future, but there are more.

The ALPLM also achieved national accreditation, which is both a testament to our quality and a resource that will help us continually improve.

We brought in one special exhibit that looked back at the civil rights movement and another that focused on children building a better tomorrow.

We enhanced our volunteer program with "VolunTEENs," a squad of young people who bring their energy and enthusiasm to the ALPLM while developing self-confidence and learning new skills.

We acquired some truly amazing documents and artifacts while also landing a major grant to help us plan our historic interpretation for many years to come.

Accomplishments like that don't just happen--people contributed their skills, knowledge, time, finances, and sweat to make it possible. I thank them all.

# Gary Johnson

chairman



## Reaching milestones

2024 was a milestone year for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Nationally, it joined the select group of museums who are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It also won a national "Leadership in History" award for its exhibit exploring the many ways and reasons that people have made Illinois their home over the centuries. The award was bestowed by the American Association for State and Local History. Its winners represent "the best in the field and provide leadership for the future," the association said. The presidential library has produced an online version of *Here I Have Lived* with photos, videos, audio, and text descriptions of fascinating people from Illinois.

With offerings such as this alongside the Lincoln exhibitions, you will not be surprised that TripAdvisor says that its consistently great reviews put ALPLM among the top 10 percent of all attractions around the world.

These are blockbuster achievements but what makes me equally proud is the

steady stream of services ALPLM brings to Illinois and Springfield. Let's name just a few. The ALPLM co-hosted a job fair this year. There is an annual student art contest sponsored with the Illinois State Board of Education. We help children get ready to return to school with a Back to School Bash full of inspiring activities. ALPLM hosts the farmers market during the winter and brightens Springfield's cold nights with skating, ballet, crafts, and free admission on special evenings. The museum makes its greatest treasures more accessible to people with vision or hearing difficulties through the "Abe for All Initiative" – a commitment to make the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum as accessible as possible so everyone can share in Lincoln's life and legacy.

For all of this and so much more, our Board of Trustees thanks the museum and library's professional staff, its volunteers, and the people of Illinois. We can't wait to see what 2025 will bring us!



# Meet Our Trustees



**Gary Johnson**

Former attorney and former president of the Chicago History Museum



**J. Steven Beckett**

Attorney, of counsel to the Champaign-Urbana law firm Beckett Law Office



**Joan Brodsky**

Librarian and a book and paper conservator, trustee of Chicago's Newberry Library



**Jessica Harris**

Vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville



**Kathryn Harris**

Former director of library services at ALPLM



**Jason  
Lesniewicz**

Senior director of  
cultural tourism at  
Choose Chicago



**Dan  
Monroe**

Associate professor  
of history at Millikin  
University



**Tiffany  
Mathis  
Posey**

CEO and executive  
director at Boys & Girls  
Clubs of Central Illinois



**Martin  
Sandoval**

CPA, founding partner of  
Compass Associates



**Eunice  
Santos**

Professor and dean of  
the School of  
Information Sciences at  
the University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign



**Melinda  
Spitzer  
Johnston**

Managing editor at  
Encyclopedia Britannica

# Welcoming Visitors

In fiscal 2024, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum presented its world-class Lincoln treasures and exhibits alongside an endlessly changing array of special events. A temporary exhibit encouraged children to imagine and explore. Another celebrated the Civil Rights Movement. There was music, dancing and a visit from a Broadway star. Two new theatrical presentations debuted, and we offered more opportunities to chat with historians.

We even threw a triple party to celebrate Lincoln’s birthday, the fun of reading, and the ALPLM earning national accreditation for the first time ever.

“The past year really demonstrated what happens when outside-the-box thinking meets the rich world of history. It produces more ways for people to engage with the past and learn from it,” said ALPLM Executive Director Christina Shutt.

The ALPLM presented three different temporary exhibitions in the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.





The first was *Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois*, a look at how and why people have lived in Illinois over the centuries. Some were on the hunt for business opportunities. Some wanted a new life after escaping slavery or leaving their native country. Others farmed the rich soil or wrote novels or turned their pain into humor. Some were Native Americans building a city centuries before Europeans even knew the continent existed.

*Here I Have Lived* included a soundtrack written specifically for the exhibit, a first for the ALPLM. The music was written by ALPLM actor Randy Erwin and recorded by local musicians so it could play in the exhibit gallery. We also arranged for special performances in the gallery by a string quintet and a flute ensemble.

Response to the exhibit, with its unique artifacts and diverse mix of stories, was tremendous. Visitors loved it – and so did the American Association for State and Local History, which honored *Here I Have Lived* with a national Leadership in History award.

*Here I Have Lived* was followed by a much different exhibit: *The Questioners: Read. Question. Think. PLAY!* Based on a series of books by author Andrea Beaty and illustrator David Roberts, *The Questioners* introduced five children – like Ada Twist, scientist, and Iggy Peck, architect – who loved to dream and explore. Our young visitors could join the fun by building rocket ships, peering into microscopes, designing a park, or just curling up to read a book.



*The Questioners*, which was created by the DuPage Children's Museum, was the ALPLM's first special exhibit intended for children. Some of what we learned from the experience will help with our planning of Citizen City, a new space that will let children explore how and why to be active citizens in their communities.

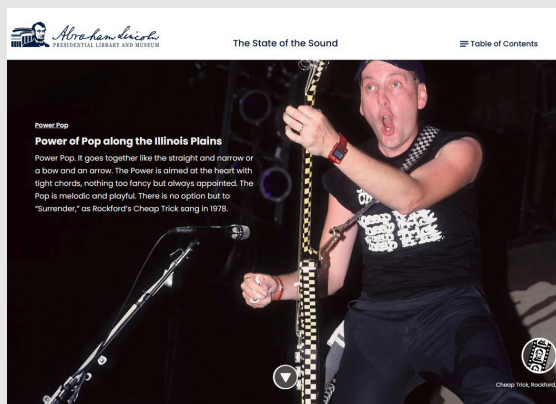
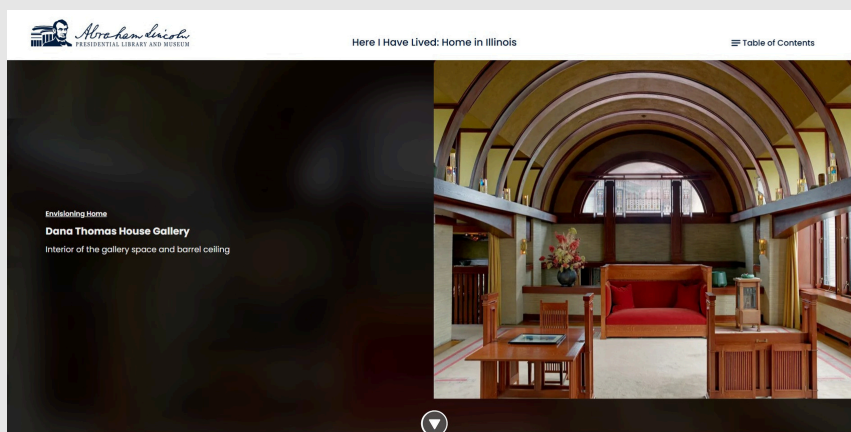
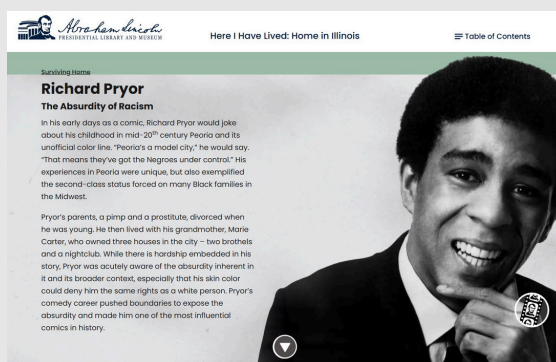
When *Questioners* wrapped up its three-month run, we opened a temporary exhibit from the Smithsonian that explored an often-overlooked episode in the Civil Rights Movement. *Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign* told the story of thousands of people who built and inhabited a 15-acre "city of hope" on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., for nearly six weeks to call attention to the crippling effects of poverty in America.

It was the first large-scale, nationally organized demonstration after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. As a multiethnic movement that included African Americans, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans, Asian Americans and poor whites from Appalachia and rural areas, the protest attracted demonstrators from across the nation.



# Exhibitions Online

The ALPLM created interactive, online versions of two recent exhibitions, *Here I Have Lived* and *State of Sound*, so they could reach more people over many years. The plan is to offer online versions of all major exhibits in the future.



# Sharing Treasures



Each year the ALPLM displays its copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address, giving the public a rare chance to see two of the most important documents in American history.

Visitors found an inspiring new sculpture that celebrates the powers of Lincoln's words. The *Beacon of Endurance* is an obelisk almost 25 feet tall and located on the east side of the museum building. A bottom section features some of Lincoln's most powerful quotations. The top two-thirds are emblazoned with words describing Lincoln and his legacy, such as "unity," "honor" and "hope." These words will be lit up at night, and some will be projected onto the museum's east wall. The \$223,000 project was made possible by the Illinois Capital Development Board's Art-in-Architecture program.

ALPLM historians were instrumental in researching and selecting the Lincoln quotations inscribed on *Beacon of Endurance*. They also began sharing their knowledge with visitors through a series of pop-up events known as "Four Score and More." These are brief presentations on topics such as the Gettysburg Address or the actress who cradled Lincoln's head in her lap after he was shot. Taking place in our Mr. Lincoln Theater, they give visitors a chance to hear directly from historians in an informal setting that encourages questions.

The Theater Division continued to deliver the shows that have become a signature experience at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. These include "Lincoln's Eyes" and "Ghosts of the Library," which have appeared since the ALPLM opened, but also innovative productions that offer new perspectives on history.

"Lilacs & Letters" joined "Small Beginnings" in our rotation of one-act plays followed by question-and-answer sessions between the actors and the audience. Written and performed by Zaxxon Nation, "Lilacs & Letters" is set in a Washington military hospital in the early morning. Poet Walt Whitman, a hospital volunteer, sits among the sleeping wounded as he reflects on national grief and puts the finishing touches on poetry eulogizing President Lincoln.



The ALPLM also celebrated Juneteenth with a special presentation entitled, "The Nature of Freedom: A Literary Commemoration of Juneteenth." It featured actors reading the words of some of America's greatest activists for freedom and equality, from Harriet Tubman to Martin Luther King Jr. to Maya Angelou. The 35-minute piece, directed by the ALPLM's Reggie Guyton, was a readers theater presentation, meaning the actors depended on their voices and the power of the script to engage the audience, not costumes or dramatic staging.

Another theater-related experience was a special evening with actor Christopher Jackson. Jackson, who grew up in Cairo, Ill., appeared on Broadway in "The Lion King," "In the Heights" and, most famously, as George Washington in "Hamilton." He also co-starred in the television show "Bull" and won an Emmy for a song he wrote for "Sesame Street." Jackson shared memories of his childhood in Illinois, the support of his teachers and mother as he dreamed of performing, and his big breaks on Broadway

When the holidays rolled around, the ALPLM joined downtown Springfield's tradition of Holiday Walks. We offered free admission on Wednesday and Saturday evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas, set up a skating rink in Union Square Park, and provided hot chocolate and crafts for children. We also hosted performances of "The Nutcracker" by the Copper Coin Ballet



Company, delighting audiences with the skill of the dancers, the color of the scenery and costumes, and the special effects that made it snow in the theater. The initiative helped support local businesses, reached people who might not otherwise visit, and offered fun, low-cost activities for the community.



**“This Museum takes you on a journey unlike any other. Allowing you to walk through the phases of Abraham Lincoln's life, from his humble beginnings in a log cabin in Kentucky to his rise to power in the White House.”**

“We really enjoyed our visit to this fun & informative museum. Lots of exhibits, many utilizing modern technology, which makes things so much more realistic. Museum employees were kind & helpful. Everything was spotlessly clean.”

“Each scene is intricately authentic, and seems vividly alive. I felt absorbed into their story in a way a book or movie could never accomplish.”

**“THE CHILDREN WERE ENGAGED, ASKED QUESTIONS, ENJOYED THE SCAVENGER HUNTS, AND ASKED TO WATCH “LINCOLN'S EYES” A SECOND TIME. THANK YOU!”**



# Studying the Past

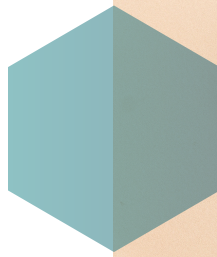
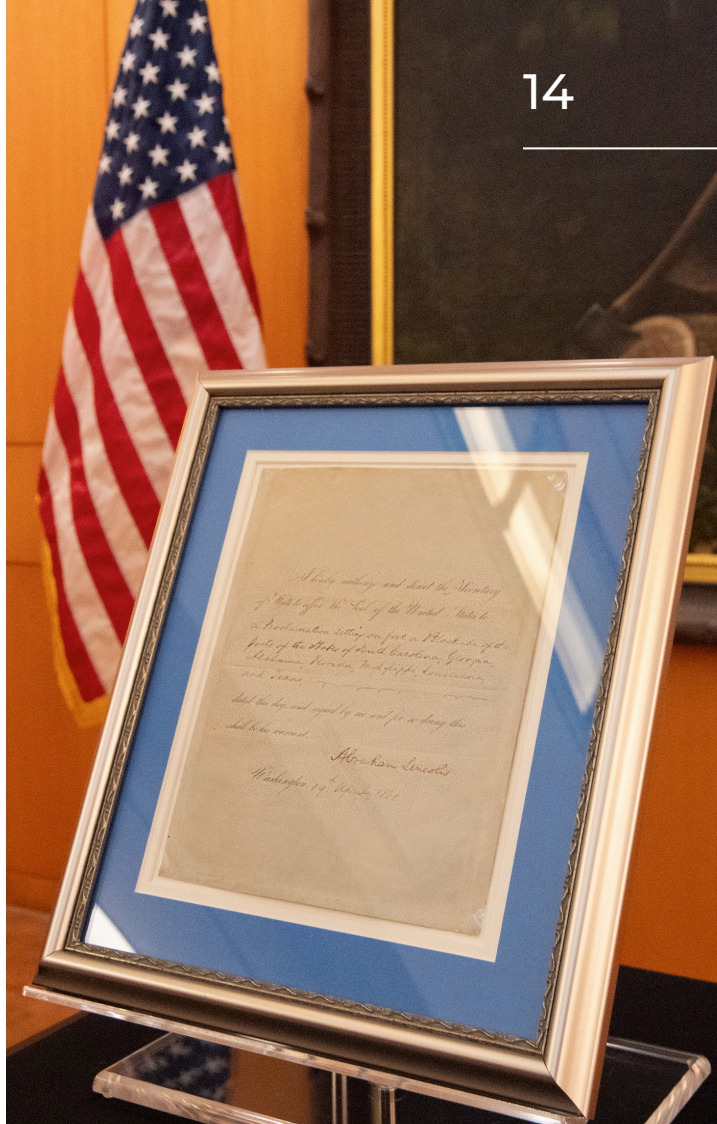
Nothing connects us to the past like physical objects. They link us to the people who touched them over the generations and provide clues that help experts better understand and explain the past. The ALPLM acquired some truly amazing objects during fiscal 2024.

One was a document that Abraham Lincoln signed on April 19, 1861, shortly after Confederate troops started the Civil War by attacking Fort Sumter. The document gave the final go-ahead to a naval blockade of Southern ports. For the first time, Lincoln was giving explicit permission for direct military action against slave states attempting to secede. He was also launching the “Anaconda Plan” that isolated the Confederacy and contributed significantly to victory.

The document – formally entitled “Order to Affix Seal of the United States to a Proclamation of a Blockade” – had been owned by anonymous private collectors. It was auctioned, and Governor Pritzker and First Lady MK Pritzker purchased the piece on behalf of the people of Illinois and donated it to the ALPLM.

Another generous donor gave the ALPLM an original photo of Abraham Lincoln taken during his 1858 campaign for a U.S. Senate seat.

Lincoln had given it to a supporter who was gravely injured while preparing for a campaign rally. Charles Lane was nearly



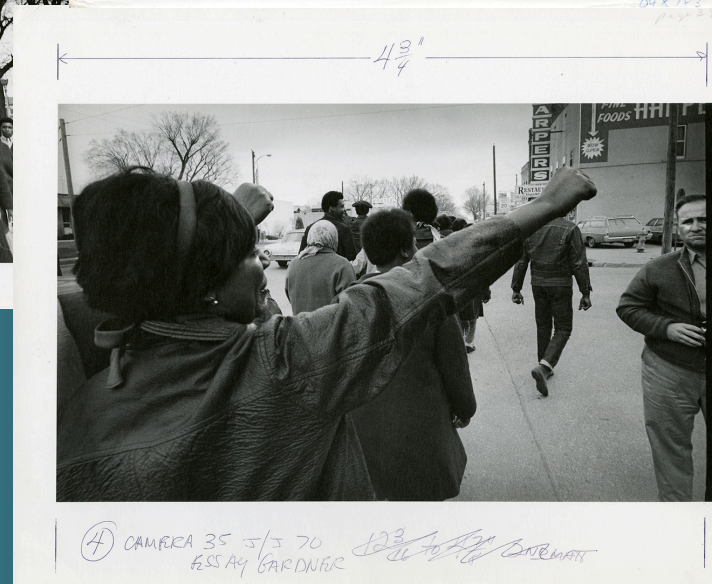
killed when a cannon went off prematurely the day before a Lincoln political rally in Pittsfield, Ill. The next day, Lincoln arrived, held his rally and then tried to visit Lane. The doctor would not allow visitors, but Lincoln arranged for Lane to receive a photo that had been taken that day.

Lane recovered, and his family held onto the photo (a type of image technically known as an ambrotype) for generations. His descendants donated it to the ALPLM so it will be protected and shared with the public.

Another photo acquisition captures a more recent, but still fascinating, moment in Illinois history. A series of photographs by George W. Gardner document the southern Illinois town of Cairo in the wake of riots triggered by the 1967 death of a young Black man in police custody. In the years afterward, Black residents marched to demand civil rights, fair housing, and full participation in local government, and banded together to feed the poor and educate children.

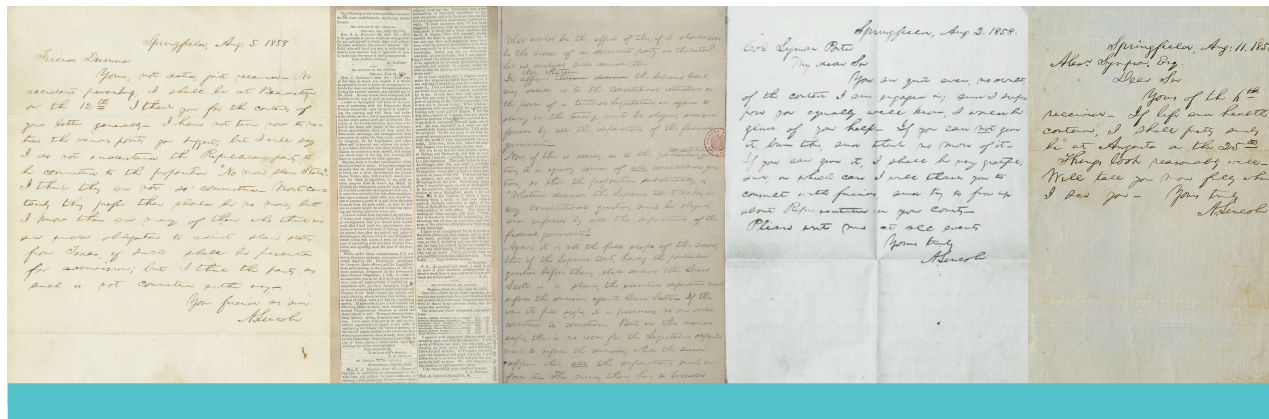


Meanwhile, our Papers of Abraham Lincoln project pursued its mission of editing, annotating and publishing every document written by or to Lincoln. As of the summer of 2024, PAL had published 1,134 Lincoln documents to its website, along with 10,151 supporting documents and 5,134 explanatory articles about people, organizations and events.



PAL has now published all available Lincoln documents up to mid-1858, just before his famous debates with Stephen Douglas. During fiscal 2024, some 27,000 patrons accessed PAL's library of Lincoln documents. They came from 45 countries around the world, in addition to the United States.

The ALPLM was able to transition PAL editors from temporary contract employment by creating three permanent state positions. Project work will now be done by union employees funded through the state of Illinois.



PAL continued to be highly competitive in applying for grant funds. The National Historical Publications and Records Committee awarded the project \$150,000 for FY 2024 and \$125,000 for FY2025 (the maximum amount available), and the National Endowment for the Humanities provided \$200,000 for FY2024-25.

The ALPLM Research Division also organized the 25th annual Conference on Illinois History, which brings together professional and amateur historians to share their latest findings on the history of the Prairie State.



Participants heard about the founding of New Philadelphia, a town established by formerly enslaved people; new research on exactly where Lincoln stood when he delivered the Gettysburg Address; Illinois government and politics during the 1970s and '80s; Lincoln's preparations for the presidency, and more.





# Sharing Knowledge

The ALPLM's fundamental purpose is to share knowledge. We do it every day with exhibits for guests, posts for our followers on social media, and assistance for visiting researchers. But the ALPLM also offers special events to serve specific audiences or share ideas and commentary from a variety of outside voices – all part of our mission to share Lincoln's legacy with people from all walks of life.

Our Education Division leads the way in sharing knowledge by reaching educators who then share what they've learned with students around the nation. Education staff presented to the National Council for the Social Studies and the Illinois Conference for the Social Studies and created teaching guides on topics such as racism at the 1936 Olympics, women's roles in the Civil War, and the nation in mourning after Lincoln's death. In addition, education coordinator Abigail Bussey chaired the Springfield Informal Educators Group, which coordinates efforts among local educational organizations.

The division offered a steady stream of online professional development programs so teachers



around the country could acquire new information and techniques to help them in the classroom. Topics included Civil War music, the Trail of Tears in Illinois, and Black women's activism in the civil rights movement.

Education staff also organized two exceptional events, one for educators and one for promising students. They worked with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to bring dozens of teachers to Springfield for a week of studying Abraham Lincoln and the challenges he faced. They also organized a week-long Future Presidents of America event where local students learn about the rewards and challenges of public service.

### Youth Museum Attendance

# 62,261

#### School Groups

- 36,967

#### Family Visits

- Under 4 = 1,988
- 5-15 = 17,984
- Students = 5,322

**"... an unforgettable week for our daughter and all of the students. It was Sophia's favorite week of the summer." – Tulio Llosa & Mae Noll, FPA Parents**

"I really appreciate ALPLM giving this opportunity to educators" -

Cynthia Spenner,  
Book Club for  
Educators

"You always provide brain food - I feel respected as an intellectual in a disrespected profession." – Stephanie Trainor, PD/PJs - Teaching Japanese American Incarceration

**"THERE WAS A GOOD BALANCE OF PERSONAL AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE CAMP, AND I WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING." – AVETT SHANK, FPA**

"Anything you do is awesome!" - Tracey Dougan, Book Club for Educators



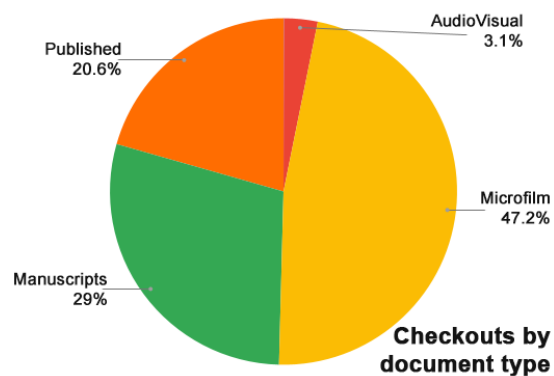
Historians in the ALPLM Research Division shared their expertise again and again, with “History Happy Hour” events at local bars, collaboration with outside groups such as Looking for Lincoln, the National Park Service, and numerous universities, and preparing labels to explain artifacts in all ALPLM exhibits. In all, the division took part in 91 public events.

Virtually all divisions of the ALPLM shared their expertise by speaking to visiting groups, attending conferences, delivering “History Happy Hour” talks, or presenting “Tales from the Vault” discussions about the ALPLM collection.

Of course, our library is the ALPLM’s ultimate tool for sharing knowledge.



The library reading room, for instance, fielded 3,278 requests to examine ALPLM materials, from books to microfilm to manuscripts. They were used for a combined 13,793 hours, or more than 1.5 years. The library handled 530 research visits, 174 of them by people visiting for the first time.



Library staff also gave tours to VIPs and new employees, handled 693 internal requests for material to be used in, for example, exhibits and special events, and spent countless hours digitizing rare Abraham Lincoln photos for a fiscal 2025 project that will give people around the world new access to Lincoln images.





**“Thank you SO much for all of this! It's so fun to scroll through all these images. My favorite phrase to hear from archives is 'We actually just digitized...'”**

**“I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE AT THE ALPLM FOR THEIR HELP DURING MY RESEARCH TRIP IN NOVEMBER. EVERYONE WAS VERY KIND AND HELPFUL!”**

“I really appreciate you taking the time to talk to me. I learned a lot.”

“The library is a regional and national treasure.”

“Thank you for finding me the answer to my question.”



# International (Mis)information

The ALPLM made the front page in Nepal by helping to correct Abraham Lincoln misinformation in the schools.

We were contacted by an education group that wanted to check the accuracy of a supposed Lincoln letter used in textbooks there. We explained the letter was not written by Lincoln and offered legitimate Lincoln material that could be used in its place.

It was a reminder of Lincoln's status as an international figure, the power of misinformation, and the ALPLM's ability to connect with people around the world.



# Serving the Community

Abraham Lincoln's record of kindness and community involvement inspires the ALPLM. It moves us to help others when possible and support our neighbors in Springfield and central Illinois.

This commitment begins with making museum visits as affordable as possible. Families on a tight budget can visit the ALPLM through the national Museums for All program, which offers reduced admission prices to people who qualify for food assistance. A family of four can visit for just \$3 per person. Free days are common, too. In FY24, museum admission was free on Feb. 10 and 12 (to celebrate Lincoln's birthday), June 19 for the Juneteenth holiday, and Nov. 19 for the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Children ages 5-12 were admitted for just \$1 each, rather than the usual price of \$6, on four days during the *Questioners* special exhibit, and we threw open the doors on multiple evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

As part of the ALPLM's "Abe for All" initiative, we offered special accommodations for people with hearing impairments or sensory-processing difficulties. The museum also uses QR codes, digital display panels and other tools to offer more options to people with hearing or vision difficulties. We even offer special glasses to improve the museum experience for people with color blindness.



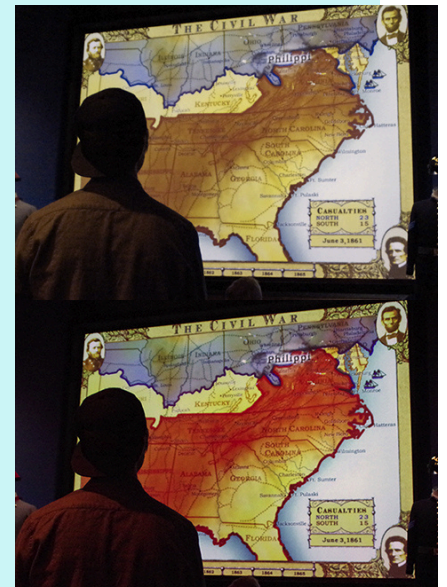
The ALPLM joins community events whenever possible, both to inform people about our mission and to support a vibrant society. Fiscal 2024 saw us at parades, festivals, concerts and more. It also saw us hosting more community events, particularly in beautiful Union Square Park.

One major initiative was to welcome lunchtime performances and food trucks for an Artists in the Park series. This was a collaborative effort with the Springfield Area Arts Council, which had held outdoor performances elsewhere with limited success. Relaunching the series at Union Square Park, and pairing it with visits from local food trucks, significantly increased audiences for the singers, dancers, rappers and instrumentalists.

The park was also the site of our celebration of man's best friend. Bark in the Park gave people a chance to show off their dogs, let them mingle with other critters and get a picture with President Lincoln.

Normally, the park would also play host to our annual Back to School Bash, but rain interrupted that plan. ALPLM staff had prepared, though, and deftly pivoted to setting up in the ALPLM library building. Families packed the place for games, crafts, and tons of helpful information to prepare for the upcoming school year.

You could also find ALPLM staff at downtown Springfield's Levitt AMP concert series, the city's Pride festival and its Juneteenth celebration. At each, we gave out information about Lincoln and the ALPLM and provided activities, such as letting children design and make their own buttons.



**Special glasses for the colorblind and a before-and-after comparison of their effect.**





The city's winter farmers market returned to Union Station for another successful run. Letting Downtown Springfield Inc. use the space helps a community event that, in turn, boosts farmers and small businesses. Since the market accepts SNAP benefit cards, it can also be a source of nutritious food for families facing a financial crunch. And, of course, it gives the ALPLM a chance to remind people how much fun a visit to the museum can be.

And when the city of Springfield needed a place to hold the 32nd Annual Earth Awareness Fair, the ALPLM offered up Union Square Park. More than two dozen groups took part, offering information on water conservation, composting, gardening, and even beekeeping.



The Education Division plays a major role in the ALPLM's community outreach. In addition to organizing the Back to School Bash and the Future Presidents program, it visits local schools, helps coordinate school field trips to the ALPLM and teams with the Illinois State Board of Education to run a statewide art contest. It also promotes reading through two programs. One is the monthly Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales, which offers storytime and crafts meant for pre-school children. The other is an annual read-a-thon on Lincoln's birthday, where guest readers present stories (and songs and magic) to children on one of our free-admission days.



The ALPLM was also honored to host the state's Gold Star Christmas Tree, a memorial to Illinois military personnel who died for their country. The tree features decorations with the names of the fallen Illinoisans, and their families often place the decorations. The tree has often been erected in Chicago, but the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs sought a more central location and the ALPLM was glad to assist.



# Behind the Scenes

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum reached a huge milestone in FY24: national accreditation.

This status granted by the American Alliance of Museums recognizes the ALPLM's "exemplary practices" as a museum of national importance. Only 3 percent of America's museums are accredited. Those that earn accreditation usually apply several times over many years before demonstrating they qualify, but the ALPLM was accredited on its first try after a review process of just two years.

"The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is one of Illinois's finest institutions, and I'm glad to see the American Alliance of Museums recognize its exceptional role in telling President Lincoln's story," said Governor JB Pritzker, who declared Feb. 10, 2024, "Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Day" across the state of Illinois.

Accreditation is a rigorous process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. 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. Reviewers met with ALPLM employees and volunteers, as well as community representatives. They examined museum exhibits, education programs, library services, technical support and more.







## Public Programming and Community Outreach

Part of the “Abe for All” philosophy is to offer events that appeal to a wide range of people and to take the ALPLM’s message to people who might not know much about us. The Public Programs and Community Outreach Division plays a vital role in that process.

The division, working with other ALPLM teams, helped organize events that attracted more than 12,400 visitors. And the division’s outreach to community groups and activities reached an additional 25,000 people.

Many of the events were linked to ALPLM exhibits. An appearance by a biographer of R. Buckminster Fuller and an evening with Broadway star Christopher Jackson were related to the award-winning *Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois* exhibit. And during the *Questioners* exhibit, Public Programs facilitated weekend events related to technology and education. Visiting families got to watch demonstrations by Illinois’ Architect of the Capitol, University of Illinois’ engineering students, Mad Scientists of St. Louis, and National Weather Service meteorologists.

We adopted a two-pronged strategy for

community outreach. The first involved taking ALPLM out into the community. For instance, we sponsored the Levitt AMP concert series, letting us reach 1,000 to 2,000 concertgoers each week. We also took part in Springfield’s St. Patrick’s Day parade, PrideFest event, and Juneteenth celebration.

The second prong was making the ALPLM a gathering spot for community groups seeking space for their events and activities. That included the fourth year of making Union Station available to Downtown Springfield, Inc. for the winter farmers markets, co-hosting the city’s “Earth Awareness Fair” in Union Square Park, and helping the Springfield Area Arts Council relaunch its Friday “Artists in the Park” program.

We also welcomed smaller events with a more academic focus. Among them were “Freeish: A Discussion of Black Citizenship in the Land of Lincoln” and “An Evening with Annette Gordon-Reed,” the Pulitzer prize-winning author. Both programs were presented in partnership with Springfield’s Juneteenth Celebration organization and the University of Illinois-Springfield Lincoln Studies Program.



## Venue Rentals

The opportunity to bring more rental events to the ALPLM led to adding a second employee to the rentals team. The expansion contributed to a strong year, topped by another national award: 2023 Planner's Choice for Weddings in voting by readers of Unique Venues.



## Rental Revenues

FY24  
\$231,900

FY23  
\$215,200

“The team was fantastic in coordinating plans to fit our needs, keeping us up to date with any issues, and making sure we had everything we needed for a successful event.”

“ALPLM staff is great to work with. Everything was set up as requested, they helped fill last-minute requests, and the venue was great for our guests.”

**“THE STAFF WERE GREAT AND WE ALWAYS FEEL WELCOMED!”**

“Having our conference kickoff at the Lincoln Museum turned our moderately successful event into an overwhelmingly successful one.”

**“OUR GUESTS LOVED THE BEAUTY OF THE VENUE AND THE CHANCE TO TOUR THE EXHIBITS.”**

## Communications

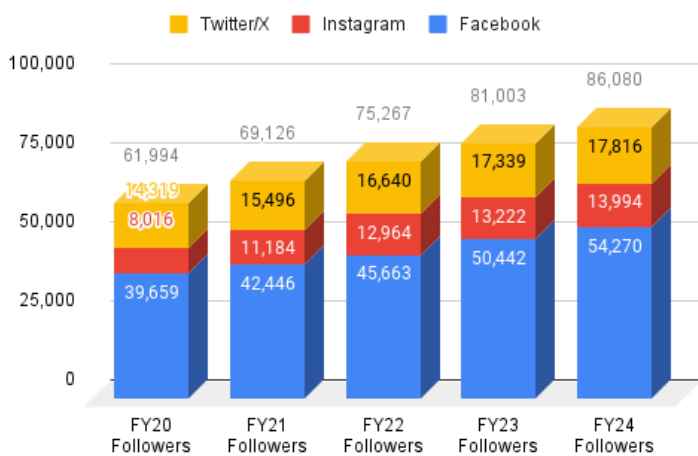
The Communications Division also expanded to a team of two, with a new employee focusing on social media and video. The addition immediately paid off with a steady stream of new videos meant to engage more people, especially a younger audience. Some were serious and informative. Some were whimsical and creative. All showed off the ALPLM and what it has to offer.

Communications successfully coordinated multiple major announcements during FY24, including the acquisition of an original Lincoln photo, the governor’s donation of a key Civil War document, the ALPLM earning national accreditation, and openings of new exhibits. All brought widespread positive attention – national attention, in some cases – to the ALPLM.

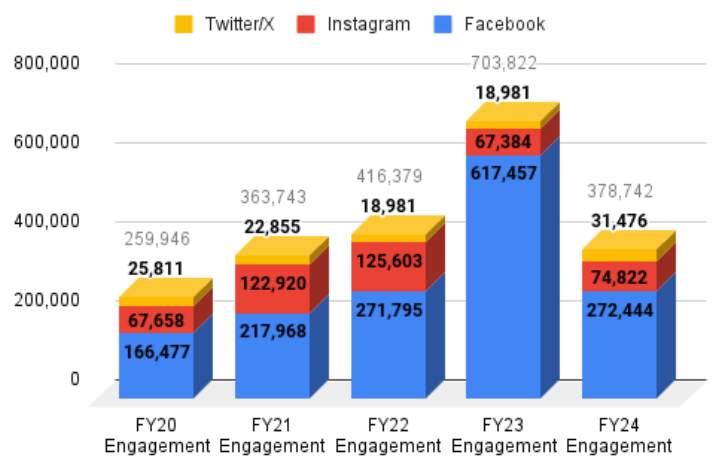
The division also worked closely with Springfield’s WICS TV and Fox Illinois to generate coverage of the *Questioners* exhibit. The initiative yielded several interviews and special segments about the family-friendly exhibit, as well as appearances at the ALPLM by station personnel.



### Social Media Followers



### Social Media Engagement





## Facility Services

Visitors often remark on how clean and well-maintained the ALPLM is. It's one of the reasons we rate so highly on sites like Tripadvisor and Yelp. The credit for that goes to our Facility Services team, but their contributions don't end there.

Among the team's successes in fiscal 2024 were:

- Installing new exterior chillers that will keep our buildings cool for the next 20 years
- Helping set up a new entry and exit system for the parking garage
- Designing landscaping for the base of the Beacon of Endurance sculpture
- Decorating the ALPLM for the city's Holiday Walks and installing a skating rink in Union Square Park
- Developing a new landscaping plan for the park
- Repainting numerous parts of the facility
- Continuing to convert standard fluorescent lighting to more sustainable LED fixtures
- Installing vertical grab bars in all facility restrooms to assist our guests with accessibility needs
- Replacing carpeting and stair lighting in the Holavision Theater
- Adding recycling boxes and biodegradable bags throughout the campus.



## Tech

Fiscal 2024 was a busy year for the Tech Division. The work included:

- Adding a dedicated multi-angle camera system to the Multipurpose Room to simplify recording and streaming capabilities.
- Launching Phase 1 of a major upgrade of theater controls. This includes working with the system's original programmer to reproduce control commands in a new, reliable system. This will add slightly more functionality, but the main focus is reliability of the theater as a whole.
- Continuing with LED conversion of lighting in Union Theater to both save power and improve control of lighting looks and fixtures during events.

Of course, this was in addition to handling the technical needs for countless events, designing sound and lighting for temporary exhibits, and maintaining the ALPLM's many complex systems.



## Development

The ALPLM landed a major grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop "Citizen City," an interactive exhibit for children that will explore the idea that citizenship is a verb and requires action. The \$250,000 will cover about half the project's cost.

Another important grant came from Chicago's prestigious Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust. The \$100,000 planning grant will be used to develop an interpretive plan that will shape museum exhibits and plans for decades to come. The goal is to make the library and museum more relevant to a broader array of visitors.

The Development Division also launched "Membership Moments" – a series of weekly emails giving sneak peeks at what's coming to the ALPLM or how we operate behind the scenes.

## Guest Services



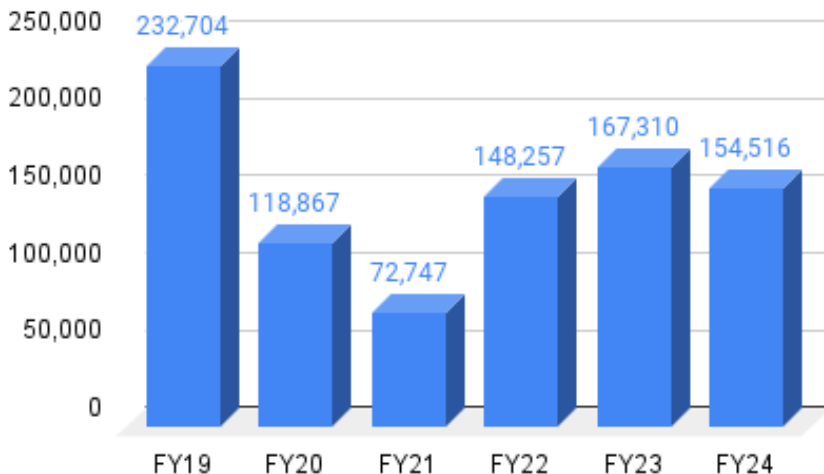
The ALPLM once again received the coveted “Travelers’ Choice” designation from Tripadvisor, meaning the library and museum ranks among the top 10 percent of all attractions anywhere in the world. The designation is based on the enthusiasm of reviews from ALPLM visitors, who offer reviews such as “Highly impressive museum ...,” “Staff were both friendly and informative,” and “One of the best museums we have visited.”.

The ALPLM customer experience is second to none, in part because we are always working to enhance our services. In FY24, to better serve our guests, we completed the transformation of our Guest Services Division, adding five additional staff to the team. The ALPLM also cross trained all our front-of-house staff to ensure everyone is prepared to welcome our visitors. As a result, we have been able to shorten the ticketing process and offer more opportunities to view our amazing shows, improving the overall guest experience.

While overall attendance was down slightly, it increased in some promising categories. More people visited via the Team Lincoln membership program. More teachers visited, too, as did people taking advantage of the Museums for All discount program.

	Members	Teachers	Museums for All
FY24	3,252	2,349	1,700
FY23	2,710	1,352	819
FY22	1,099	1,253	513

## Annual Attendance



## Tripadvisor Travelers’ Choice Awards



## Volunteer Services

Volunteers continued to make vital contributions of time, energy, and creativity to the ALPLM. A team of hundreds, they welcome school buses, answer visitors' questions, transcribe oral histories, assist with special events, and more.

A new feature for fiscal 2024 was the launch of the VolunTEEN program for teenagers who want to contribute to the library and museum. These young people go through the same training as their adult counterparts, but they also team with a mentor who will offer advice and guidance. The teens contribute to the community while developing self-confidence and learning new skills. The ALPLM gets to build relationships with enthusiastic people who may support our mission for decades to come.



## Fiscal

Job vacancies meant the Fiscal Division was a two-person operation for much of the year. Despite that, Fiscal was able to maintain procurements, achieve targeted due dates, and decrease the accounts payable processing time over the past year. The office processed 2,679 payments in fiscal 2024. Total revenue collected was \$2,253,976.72.

The FY2024 budget was as follows:

Fund	FY23 Budget	FY24 Budget	% Change	FY23 Spend	FY24 Spend	% Change
General Revenue	8,587,000	11,328,400	31.90%	8,278,728	9,992,801	20.70%
Tourism Promotion	3,600,000	9,683,400	169.00%	3,285,235	5,226,852	59.10%
ALPLM Operating	4,154,000	5,139,000	23.70%	2,320,598	1,229,201	-47.00%
King Hostick Trust	162,500	142,500	-12.30%	76,309	108,849	42.60%
ALPLM Public Trust	243,200	180,000	-26.00%	79,074	139,391	76.30%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,746,700</b>	<b>26,150,800</b>	<b>56.20%</b>	<b>14,039,944</b>	<b>16,697,094</b>	<b>18.90%</b>

## Interns

Internships are a win-win proposition. They provide valuable experience to a diverse array of students, which helps strengthen the future of the library and museum world. They can also bring new ideas and creativity to an institution. With this in mind, the ALPLM has expanded its internship opportunities.



By the summer of 2024, the internship total reached nine – likely a record for the ALPLM. The team included:

- 4 from the Government Public Service Internship program at the University of Illinois Springfield
- 4 from Illinois College
- 1 from the UI Chicago via the CMS Diversity and Inclusion Community Partner Internship Program

## 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

Summer Griffith – Director of Marketing and Guest Experience

Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross – Director of Facilities and Sustainability

Rusty Jones – Director of Development

Jade Kastel – Director of Library Services

Cynthia Klenke – Director of Education

Gloria Legette – Chief Legal Counsel

Tammy Miner – Chief Fiscal Officer

Nalo Mitchell – Legislative Director

Lance Tawzer – Director of Exhibits and Shows

Jeremy Tedrow – Chief Information Officer

Christopher Wills – Director of Communications

\*As of Dec. 31, 2024