

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Craig Williams II

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Tumultuous 2020 Oral History project

Interview # T20-A-L-2021-061

Craig Williams II, president of the Muni and SAP Functional Expert at the Department of Innovation and Technology, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Tumultuous 2020* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: October 26, 2021

Location: ALPL Sound Studio

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Amanda Riggenbach, ALPL

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed.

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:26 / 1.43 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 29, 2021.

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

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Abstract

Craig Williams II, *Tumultuous 2020*, T20-A-L-2021-061

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Craig Williams II was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1984. The oldest of four, he became involved with the performing arts at an early age. He sang in the choir at church, and this led to him performing in musicals at Springfield High School. He graduated high school in 2003 and attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale before transferring to Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Williams moved back to Springfield after graduating with an accounting degree in 2007. He pursued a career in accounting while becoming immersed in the Springfield community.

Following Williams' move back to Springfield, he performed in musicals with the Muni. He was invited to co-direct *Cinderella* for the children's theater. This sparked Williams' interest in directing. He began to direct for the musicals at Springfield High School and joined the Muni's board of directors. Throughout the interview, Williams discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Muni from the perspective of the board president-elect and then later as the board president. He discusses the importance of the Muni within the community, and the pivots they took to remain active in the greater Springfield area throughout the summer of 2021.

Subject Headings/Key Words: The Muni, Springfield, Illinois; The Municipal Opera; Springfield, Illinois; performing arts; COVID-19 pandemic; COVID-19 pandemic's effect on arts

Notes 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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