



Abraham Lincoln
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM

ANNUAL 2021 REPORT

JB Pritzker, Governor
Christina Shutt, Executive Director

New Director, New Directions



It is my distinct honor to lead the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum into its next chapter as its fifth executive director. Our mission of preserving Illinois history traces back to 1889 with the founding of the Illinois State Historic Library. As a presidential library, we have helped share President Lincoln's legacy with over five million visitors in just 16 years. I am proud to join this tradition of stewarding our state history and ensuring Lincoln's relevancy for this and future generation.

We have made some important strides since I arrived, and we've laid the groundwork for more in the year ahead. Among them:

- I met with every single ALPLM employee to learn about their concerns, ideas, and visions for the future. They've also had opportunities to weigh in anonymously on ALPLM values and priorities.
- We've built new bridges to the community. We reached out to a variety of local leaders to get their ideas on how the ALPLM can be a bigger part of the community across Illinois and do more to share Lincoln's legacy with all people. We also set up a community advisory panel to give us input on presenting our next temporary exhibit, *Stories of Survival*, in partnership with the Illinois Holocaust Museum.
- We launched Team Lincoln, a brand-new membership program that ensures money given to the ALPLM stays at the ALPLM.
- We're exploring ways Lincoln's character and leadership can strengthen democracy today. That includes a new program called Future Presidents of America for promising high school students and plans to create a new children's exhibit focused on the principles of citizenship.

This progress has been possible partly because of the great team that was in place when I arrived. Melissa Coultas, in particular, deserves tremendous thanks for serving as acting executive director.

The ALPLM is also grateful to have enthusiastic support from Gov. JB Pritzker and key legislators. They understand the ALPLM's value to education and tourism, and they see the connection between Abraham Lincoln's struggles and today's concerns about equality and democracy. It seemed perfect for the presidential library to host the

ceremony where Governor Pritzker signed legislation making Juneteenth – the day celebrating the end of enslavement– a state holiday in Illinois.

This report offers a summary of the ALPLM’s accomplishments in fiscal 2021. It serves as a reminder of the hard work, talent, and inspiration that goes into making this institution so special. It also represents a challenge for the ALPLM staff to build on these accomplishments so that 2022 is even better. In the words of our namesake, “If we never try, we shall never succeed.”

Christina Shutt

Executive Director, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Looking Beyond a Challenging Year



2021 was a challenging year for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, just as it was for most of America. The coronavirus pandemic continued to complicate ALPLM operations and create serious health concerns for our staff , volunteers, and visitors. But in the end, 2021 (whether you’re talking about the calendar year or the state fiscal year) represented a new day for the institution.

The ALPLM managed to reopen after its initial COVID closure and remain open most of the year. Christina Shutt, a bold, creative leader, was named the new executive director. We launched an impressive new website and an exciting membership program. The museum opened a stunning exhibit called *The State of Sound: A World of Music from Illinois*. We found that this ambitious exhibit helped the ALPLM to build new ties in our hometown of Springfield and our home state of Illinois.

I know I speak for our whole board in congratulating the ALPLM team on its hard work amid difficult conditions. Its achievements would have been impressive no matter what, but they are especially remarkable during a pandemic. We also are tremendously relieved that we did not lose any staff to COVID.

I also want to welcome Christina. As the first person of color to lead the ALPLM, she will offer valuable new perspectives on the way the museum presents President Lincoln’s life and legacy. As a smart, dynamic professional with experience in both museums and libraries, she already is leading the ALPLM team to new levels of achievement.

Christina and I agree that now is the time for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to pursue national accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. We have a new leader and an experienced Board of Trustees to offer guidance. Some important groundwork already has been laid – for instance, ALPLM staff drafted detailed policies on collections and ethics, which were then reviewed and approved by the trustees.

Earning accreditation will not be easy, but the benefits are worth the effort. Accreditation forces an institution to examine its procedures and sharpen them wherever possible. It forces an excellent team to grow even better. I look forward to working with Christina and the entire ALPLM team on this important project.

Our board thanks Governor JB Pritzker and the people of Illinois for the honor of serving this great museum and library.

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Chairman, ALPLM Board of Trustees

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Welcoming Visitors

“Welcoming visitors” meant something much different in fiscal year 2021 than it did in previous years. The ALPLM was closed for part of the year due to the COVID pandemic. Programs and services that once would have been offered to live audiences had to be transformed into virtual events. When we were open, staff and guests followed strict safety protocols.

Still, the fiscal year (which ran from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) saw the arrival of our five-millionth visitor and the debut of a groundbreaking exhibit on Illinois music. The Stevenson Room – an innovative space that combines meeting room with museum display – opened to the public. Our heavy use of virtual events allowed us to reach people who might never visit the museum in person.

The State of Sound: A World of Music from Illinois

wowed visitors with its mixture of unique artifacts and compelling videos. The exhibit opened April 30 in the museum’s Illinois Gallery, which our team transformed into the backstage of a concert venue, complete with loading docks, rigging ropes, and the bangs and clanks of workers preparing for a show. This space was filled with displays of one-of-a-kind items from music legends and screens playing mini-documentaries exploring the state’s contributions to thirteen musical genres.

Museum staff rounded up a Miles Davis trumpet, a suit Common wore when he performed at the Oscars, the personal mementos that helped John Prine control his stage fright, a harmonica played by Howlin Wolf, and on and on. They also built a working studio that was used for radio broadcasts, mini-concerts, and recording podcast episodes.

The text explaining the artifacts, the artists, and the music was written by award-winning journalist Dave Hoekstra. Patron surveys indicate *State of Sound* drew people into the museum specifically to see this exhibit, which broadens the ALPLM’s audience. The exhibit was supported by Shure Inc., Heartland Financial, Comcast NBC Universal, and The Staley Family Foundation.



The exhibit offered new ways the presidential library and museum could connect with the public. We arranged for radio stations from around the state to broadcast from the studio and provided ALPLM guests for them to interview. The results were practically infomercials for the *State of Sound* and the ALPLM in general. We also produced a podcast featuring interviews with legendary musicians and shared playlists of beloved Illinois music. The studio was also the location of several performances streamed live on social media.



In all, the ALPLM produced 33 online virtual programs with a total of just over 50,000 views in FY21, for an average viewing audience of 1,500 per program. The programs ranged from collaborations with other institutions (Gettysburg National Park, for instance) to our historians interviewing authors on topics such as Lincoln’s humor or his funeral train back to Springfield. Additionally, our oral history program offered programs telling the stories of World War II battles at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Midway.

The ALPLM also stayed in touch with our audience with a weekly online newsletter sent to nearly 50,000 people. It shared news of upcoming events and activities, as well as articles on Lincoln and Illinois history written by our museum and library professionals. We were also able to include information about our community partners, such as the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, the Grand Army of the Republic Museum, Looking for Lincoln, and the Sangamon County “Big Read” literacy initiative.

The ALPLM closed to the public for an extended period in FY20, during the first surge of the coronavirus pandemic. We reopened when conditions and new safety precautions allowed, but then had to close again, from Nov. 20, 2020, through Jan. 24, 2021. We remained open the rest of the year.

Ghosts of the Library

- This signature feature remains a popular and mystifying experience. The show was performed 3,105 times in FY21, for 55,344 guests.

Lincoln's Eyes

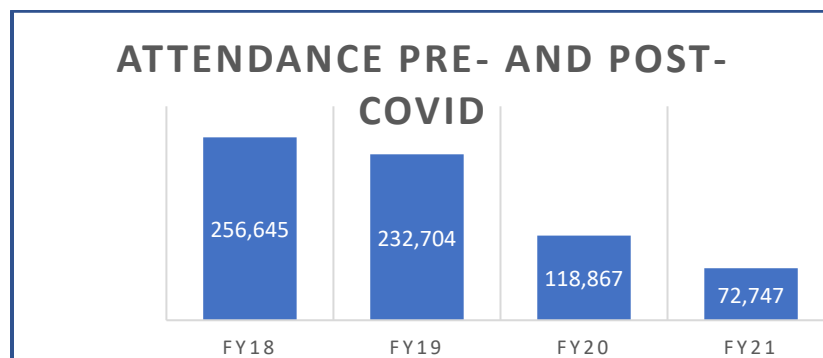
- This powerful biographical feature played 2,852 shows for 51,938 guests.



An early highlight of the fiscal year came July 9, when our five-millionth guest arrived. Social worker **Regina Padgett** of Orlando, Fla., was thrilled when she learned she was the milestone visitor and would receive a museum membership and a gift basket. She was traveling with nieces and nephews and said that as a Black woman she “thought it was fitting to come and have them be educated about who Abraham Lincoln was and what he did for our people.”

In the spring of 2021, the ALPLM took action to let people know we were open for business and to encourage them to get vaccinated against COVID. Tickets were half-price for the first full month we were open. Schoolchildren got free admission in March, April, and May. And guests got free admission in April and May if they could show they were vaccinated. Thousands of people took advantage of these offers.

Still, there’s no denying that months of shut-down and then fears of the COVID epidemic drastically affected attendance. Attendance in February 2021, for instance, was 2,864, compared to 8,875 a year earlier. That’s a drop of 68 percent.

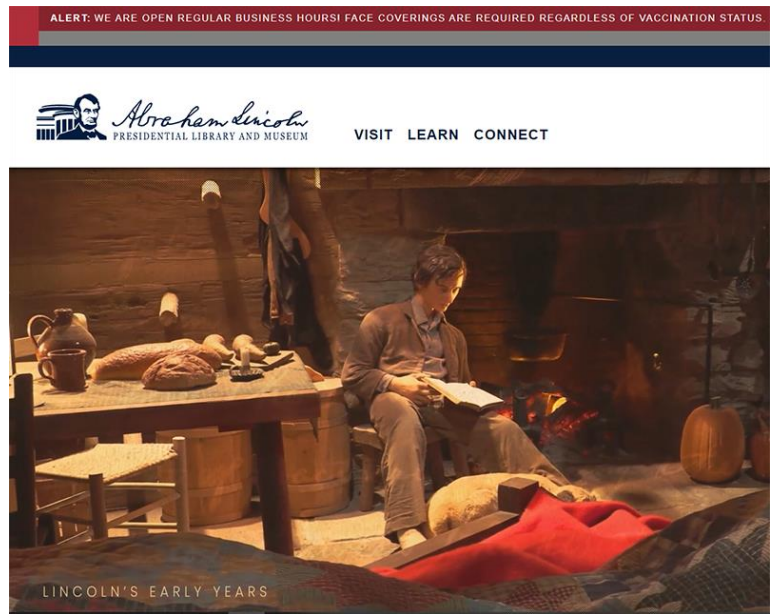


After years of planning, research, and preparation, the ALPLM opened its unique Stevenson Room. Funded by a grant from the Illinois Secretary of State, the room is a stately space on the first floor of the library building that serves as a tribute to the Stevenson family, which has produced a vice president, senator, congressman, presidential nominee, and governor. It features photos and artifacts from our extensive Stevenson Collection, along with digital kiosks that let visitors explore the Stevenson family tree, listen to speeches, and create campaign buttons. The room also can be

transformed quickly into to a flexible meeting space for use by outside organizations and groups.

Museum visitors often found their experiences enhanced by special performances or little extras. Staff actors portraying historic figures interacted with the public in the Cabinet Room and Ford’s Theatre areas of Journey II. The History Comes Alive program allowed us to present historic interpreters as Abraham Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Sarah Bush Lincoln, and Civil War Soldiers. The main plaza often rang with the sound of live performances of 19th century music. These enhancements provide our guests with a sense that they have arrived on a special day with exciting activities.

In the COVID-19 era, our website is more important than ever. It’s the chief way we tell people whether we’re open or what safety protocols are in place. It’s also a way for people to visit virtually when they can’t come in person. So it was excellent timing that we launched a new version of the site, redesigned from top to bottom, in October 2020. The site has more information, works better on mobile devices, and gives us more detailed information about how our visitors use it.



Sharing Knowledge

The foundation of the ALPLM is knowledge – information about the life and times of Abraham Lincoln and about the history of Illinois. Last year we shared that knowledge in more ways than ever before.

Our historians, of course, shared by fulfilling research requests, writing articles, giving news interviews, and speaking both in person and online. They could be found on radio stations, the ALPLM blog, public television, live internet broadcasts, even the Washington Post! (Lincoln Historian Christian McWhirter wrote an article for the Post about the Civil War origins of two Christmas carols.)

They also played key roles in developing displays and interactive features for the new Stevenson Room, and they worked closely with other divisions to arrange special presentations for students, educators, and rental clients.

We also shared online.

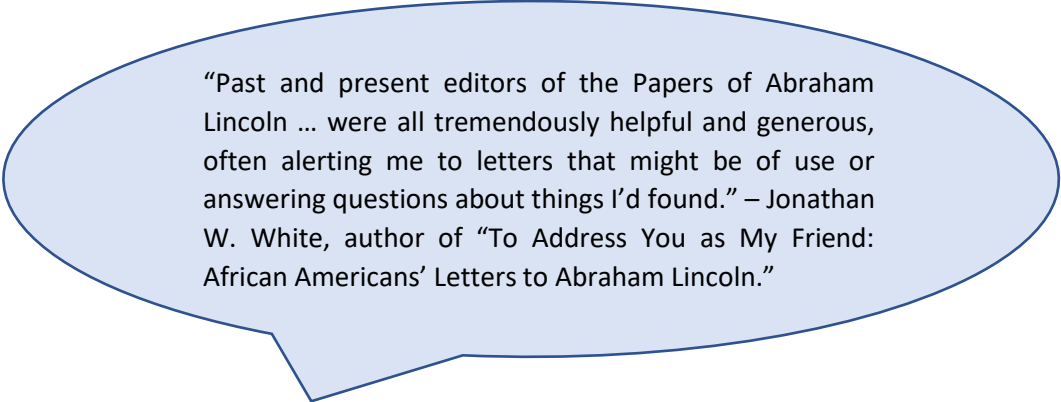
The Oral History website had 69,352 page views in FY 2021, which included 48,223 unique page views, an increase from previous years. Eight of the ten most-visited videos on the ALPLM YouTube channel were generated by Oral History. In all, its videos have nearly 2 million views.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln continued to offer an extraordinary service to Lincoln scholars by making available high-resolution copies of Lincoln documents, accompanied by vital annotations and background material. More than 20,600 patrons accessed the Papers of Abraham Lincoln Digital Library in FY21. The website averaged 397 users and page views weekly. Users were primarily from the United States, Canada, China, and the United Kingdom, but the website also attracted users from two dozen other countries, including Indonesia, Nigeria, and Bulgaria.

The Papers reached an important milestone on August 10, 2020, by publishing the last document related to Lincoln’s service in the U.S. House of Representatives. That’s 3,822



documents – 509 directly to or from Lincoln and 3,313 providing important context and background. The team then began focusing on documents relating to Lincoln’s political campaigns. As the fiscal year ended, they had published 333 documents – 10% of the total. That includes writing 396 summaries of associated events, organizations, persons, and places relevant to the documents.



“Past and present editors of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln ... were all tremendously helpful and generous, often alerting me to letters that might be of use or answering questions about things I’d found.” – Jonathan W. White, author of “To Address You as My Friend: African Americans’ Letters to Abraham Lincoln.”

Our library staff served the public in person, online, and over the phone. Visitors checked out 3,032 items through our reading room, up from 2,206 a year earlier. Microfilm was the most common item used by researchers, with 1,830 requests. Manuscripts followed at 774, then published materials at 352, and audio-visual materials at 71.

One-quarter of the 426 people visiting the Reading Room did so for the first time – an encouraging sign that new researchers, whether professional or amateur, continue to discover the ALPLM’s resources.

Education is another key part of the ALPLM’s efforts to share knowledge. During FY21, the ALPLM Education Division offered more than 80 digital programs for teachers, students, and families. They attracted 13,277 participants.

Illinois teachers earned 1,835 hours of credits for continuing professional development through 33 programs offered by the ALPLM. What they learned will directly benefit nearly 18,000 students and indirectly help nearly 64,000 others within the teachers’ districts.

The division also transformed Illinois History Day into a completely online competition. The event usually involves hundreds of students gathering in Springfield with dioramas, documentaries, live presentations, and more, so creating an online version was no simple feat. The ALPLM paid the registration fee for 65 Illinois students who qualified for the National History Day competition. The students did well there: one won, seven others

were named finalists, four were awarded “outstanding entry,” and six were selected for a special showcase at Washington, D.C., museums.

The Education Division also succeeded in getting a Teaching with Primary Sources grant from the Library of Congress’s Midwest Region to develop a weeklong “Cultivating Future Historians” workshop for teachers, and all three members of the Division delivered presentations at national conferences or were chosen to speak at future conferences.

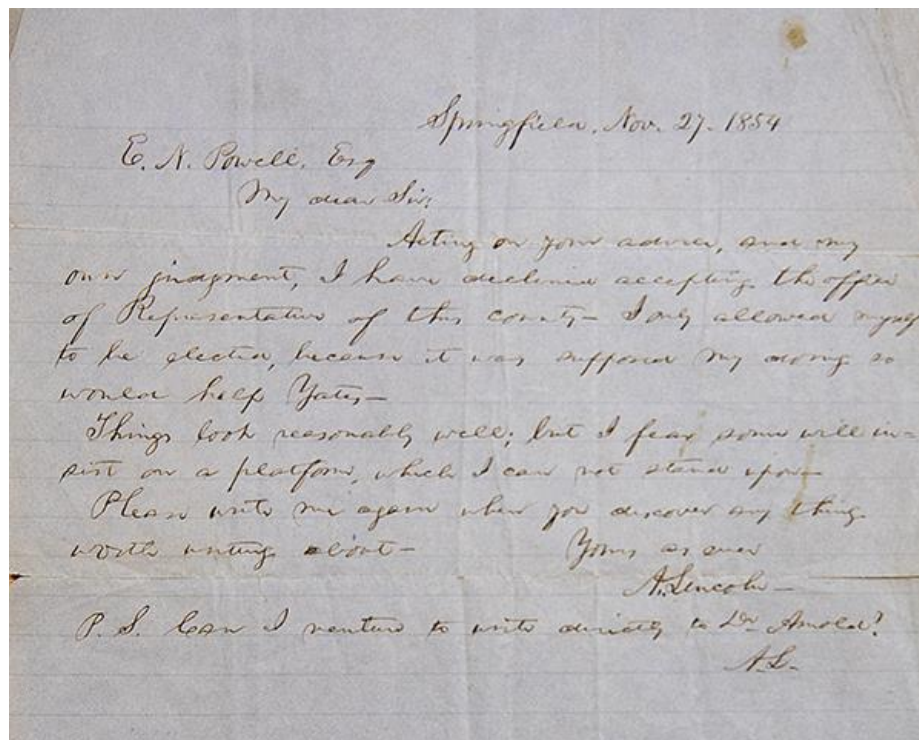
A new online tool was “The State of Sound Podcast,” which gave listeners unique insight into the lives and artistry of musicians highlighted in the *State of Sound* exhibit. Interview subjects included jazz legend **Herbie Hancock**, REO Speedwagon frontman Kevin Cronin, house music pioneers Derrick Carter and Steve “Silk” Hurley, and relatives of Curtis Mayfield, Willie Dixon, and Steve Goodman. Episodes were available on Spotify, Google, Apple, and several other platforms.



Studying the Past

The ALPLM would have no new discoveries to share if its experts were not working hard to understand the past. That can mean digging into the facts about materials in our collection, acquiring new historic items, capturing memories through oral history, and repairing delicate treasures.

The most important acquisition of the year has to be a letter from Lincoln to a friend and political ally in which he says he will not serve in the Illinois Legislature again. Any letter written by Lincoln has historic value, but this one is special. Lincoln is declining to serve in 1854 so he can seek a U.S. Senate seat in 1855. What's more, it indicates Lincoln isn't sure whether he will run again as a Whig or switch to the young Republican Party.



The letter was a gift from Guy Fraker, a Bloomington attorney and Lincoln collector and author of "Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: The Eighth Judicial Circuit."

Another Lincoln acquisition was a brief note showing the president's mercy. The March 1865 note orders that a soldier be allowed to take an oath of loyalty to the Union and be discharged. Was the soldier a Confederate prisoner? A Union deserter? The answer has been lost to history, but we know the note was written during the Civil War's waning days, when a peace-minded Lincoln may have felt especially generous toward the men

who had been caught up in the violence. The note was donated by the Horvitz family of Ohio.

The ALPLM occasionally accepts donations of particularly interesting Lincoln art. One example from FY21 was “400 Split Rails for One Yard of Cloth” by Donn Ziebell. The painting uses an “outsider art” style that captures the feel of life in a frontier village and Lincoln’s status as a raw young man still searching for his place in the world. It illustrates an anecdote in which cash-poor Lincoln agrees to split rails for a neighbor in exchange for cloth to make a new pair of pants.

A more recent Illinois leader, former State Senate President John Cullerton, donated his papers to the ALPLM. The collection – consisting of more than 20 cubic feet of material related to his Senate tenure – will be an important source for future researchers studying a tumultuous period in Illinois history.



The Papers of Abraham Lincoln continues to seek out new Lincoln documents and capture images of them so they can be shared with the world. During FY21, project staff scanned four such documents from private collectors. In all, the Papers project has collected images of 12,000 documents written or signed by Lincoln and is working diligently to publish them online. That requires studying the circumstances behind every document, then figuring out what explanations and supporting documents are needed to make everything clear to modern researchers. When FY21 ended, PAL could boast of publishing 850 of the Lincoln documents, along with some 8,500 supporting documents and 3,825 biographies.

In December 2020, the Shapell Foundation gave the project a gift of \$25,000. The project also received a supplemental grant of \$30,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, increasing our NEH direct funding to \$180,000 for FY 2020-22. The project also received the news that it is getting a grant of \$94,775 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to support its work in FY2022.

The pandemic complicated the work of the ALPLM’s Oral History Program, while also offering a new opportunity. Despite the difficulties of meeting people to conduct interviews, the program managed to produce 62 new interviews on Illinois politics, military history, and education.

But the pandemic itself was an important and fascinating subject that lent itself to the format of oral history. Thus, the program launched “Tumultuous 2020,” an interview series examining how Illinoisans from all walks of life were affected by Covid-19. It will talk to nurses who treated a flood of patients, educators who adapted to online teaching, scientists who worked on tools to fight the disease, and business owners who faced economic disaster.

In an institution that traces its roots back to 1889, records can sometimes be scattered or unclear. Historians in the Research Division pinned down the facts on artifacts such as Lincoln-Herndon law books, a painting of Illinois governor Richard Oglesby, and the table on which Lincoln’s remains rested when he was brought home to Springfield by train. They also completed a multi-year project to consolidate acquisition files on Lincoln items and record them in a central spreadsheet.

The division also overcame significant challenges to present an online version of the annual Conference on Illinois History. Without risking their health, scholars were able to share their findings on everything from the collision of archaeology and organized crime at Cahokia Mounds to the way Abraham Lincoln was portrayed in political cartoons of his era.



Part of the responsibility of studying historic records is preserving them for future research. The ALPLM Conservation Laboratory is key to fulfilling that responsibility.

The Conservation staff inspect artifacts and documents to assess their condition and watch for deterioration. They make delicate repairs and use the latest conservation techniques to prevent further problems. They make custom-designed enclosures to keep items safe while in storage. Taking the reports, conservation treatments, and enclosures together, the lab staff performed 1,356 tasks in fiscal 2021.

On top of that, ALPLM conservators prepared 246 artifacts for display and put the ALPLM's three most important documents – the Gettysburg Address, the 13th Amendment, and the Emancipation Proclamation – in attractive new frames within custom protective boxes.



Serving the Community

The arrival of new executive director Christina Shutt brought a new determination to serve the community, whether that's defined narrowly as the people of Springfield or broadly as all Illinoisans.

Our Public Programs and Community Engagement Division built bridges to multiple organizations over the year. It arranged two blood drives at the ALPLM in partnership with ImpactLife (formerly the Central Illinois Community Blood Center). The ALPLM also provided space in our Union Station facility for a "Black Education Book Swap," sponsored by the local chapter of Black Lives Matter. Additionally, we partnered with Springfield School District 186 to promote the "Set for Success" back-to-school drive to raise funds for much-needed supplies for at-need students.

The Education Division worked with the Roger and Chaz Ebert Foundation and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation to present the No Malice Film Contest. Illinois youth ages 11-21 created short films related to racial healing. The contest offered \$11,000 in prize money and was funded by a grant from Healing Illinois, a racial healing initiative of the Illinois Department of Human Services in partnership with The Chicago Community Trust.

The division also welcomed 18 young leaders from the Springfield area for the ALPLM's first Future Presidents of America Youth Leadership Camp. This week-long program, offered in partnership with the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, introduced students to major concepts of leadership, such as civic literacy, civil discourse, and good citizenship. It also taught real-world problem solving, giving students an introduction to the skills they would need in a career of public service.



ALPLM staff offered their expertise to the Central Illinois African American History Museum when appropriate. The ALPLM, the African American History Museum, and the Illinois State Museum are also working together on "Project 1908," an effort to create a new exhibit about the racial violence that tore Springfield apart in 1908. The project should be completed in 2022.

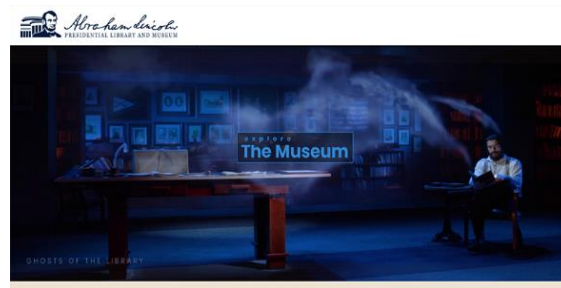
Behind the Scenes

The biggest project completed by the **Marketing Division** in FY21 was a total redesign of the ALPLM website. The goal was to improve users' experience and organize the site so it performs well in web searches. That entailed reviewing more than 300 pages on the previous site to evaluate accuracy, relevance, and ease of navigation for all information. Then the website was reorganized and updated with a new look based on brand updates the division implemented in FY20.

Not only has the redesign provided guests with an enhanced web experience, it has also provided better tools to gauge guest interaction and demographics, allowing for more effective marketing. Eight months after launch, our new website was seeing a 60 percent increase in users, going from an average of 11,150 users a month to 28,501. Organic traffic had increased 20 percent, likely due to the search-engine optimization work and the launch of a blog and a popular "Lincoln Quotes" section that now falls into the top 10 of our landing pages each month.

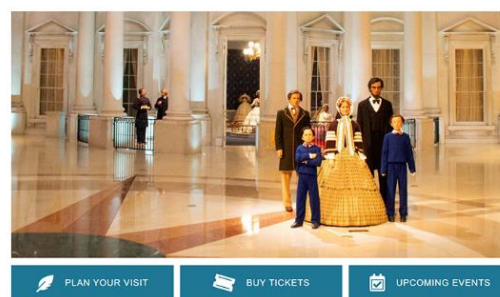
The division also launched an Ultimate Visitor Guide last fall, which helps guests plan all aspects of their visits to the ALPLM and Springfield, from what to expect in our exhibits to local lunch and shopping options. The guide has been downloaded more than 1,000 times in less than a year.

Although the COVID pandemic created advertising challenges, the ALPLM was able to switch strategies and focus on local and regional campaigns. This included partnering with Visit Springfield for a "Reunite in Springfield" campaign. Additionally, the ALPLM launch a campaign to promote the institution as travel increased and promote the *State of Sound* exhibit to distinctive audiences. The campaign "History is Closer Than You Think" included billboards (Champaign, Peoria, and St. Louis Metro East) and network and cable television commercial airing in Springfield, Champaign, and Decatur. The campaigns appear to have paid off. The Facebook portion provided over half a million impressions



VISIT US

Experience history like never before. Step inside key moments in Lincoln's life, from triumph to tragedy. Explore immersive displays and shows that drive home the human costs of slavery and war. Connect with Lincoln and his family through artifacts that can't be found anywhere else in the world. You'll feel like you're walking in Lincoln's shoes.



SPECIAL EXHIBITS



in four months, and the radio campaign was cited by 54 percent of visitors as the way they learned about the “State of Sound.”

FY2021 began with the museum reopening after a four-month shutdown. Then came another, two-month shutdown, followed by ever-changing safety guidance for the **Guest Experience Division** to navigate. Despite the circumstances, visitors continued to be wowed by the museum. We received 257 reviews across three major online review sites, and 92 percent of them were perfect five-star scores. Once again, the ALPLM received Trip Advisor’s Excellence Award, which helps in organically finding and attracting potential new guests.



The intermittent closures offered the division an excellent lesson in flexibility and provided time to reflect on policies, goals, and institutional support opportunities. Our staff researched industry best practices, which led to:

- Launching an update of our Venue Rentals policies, including a focus on how to better utilize outdoor areas for our rental clients
- Developing new ways to engage guests while limiting direct contact with staff. One example was a revamp of our popular History Detective children’s activity that will launch in FY22
- Beginning to develop a new membership program that is expected to be finalized in FY22

The ALPLM’s **Venue Rental** program was voted the “Best Small Market Venue” for 2020 in Unique Venues magazine’s *Best Of* awards.

The ALPLM was not available for rental events a good part of the year, and most clients chose not to hold in-person events even when we could offer them. That meant most staff time was devoted to maintaining client relationships so they would return once they felt it was safe and to coming up with creative new options for the future.

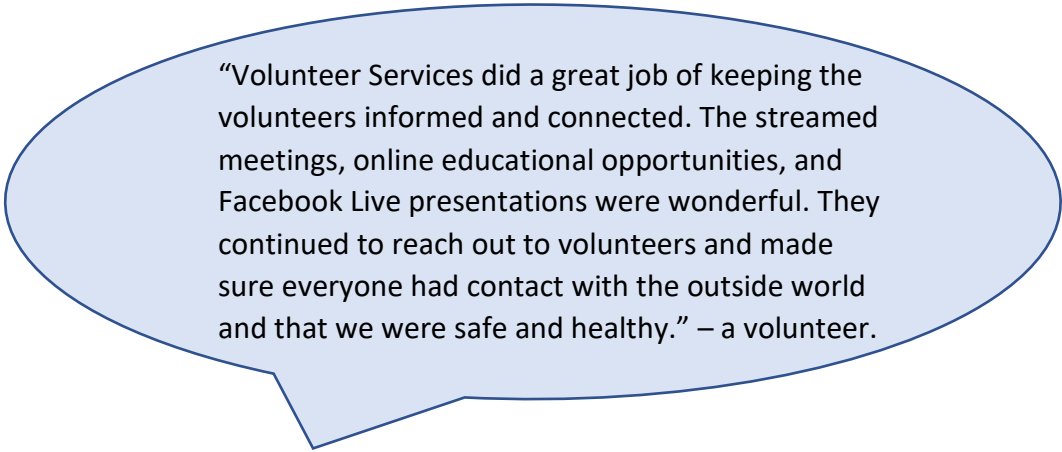
We launched online versions of our *Tales from the Vault* and *History Lesson* event enhancements, which offer entertaining and educational talks by our staff experts. *Good Morning Gallery* is an option that lets a group of 10 to 50 people visit the Illinois Gallery and talk to the exhibits director before the museum opens for the day. Add-ons include a catered breakfast and visiting other exhibits and theater presentations.

Venue Rentals also developed a corporate events gift guide in cooperation with the Museum Store, began contributing material for the ALPLM’s social media accounts, created a digital anniversary card for couples that held their wedding receptions here, and restarted a monthly mailing to new Chamber of Commerce members.

Although the pandemic presented unfamiliar challenges for **Volunteer Services**, our staff maintained contact with the volunteer members through regular phone calls, cards, email, and daily WebEx meetings with every volunteer shift, all of which was integral to keeping our volunteer team connected and engaged. More importantly, this communication provided an outlet for volunteers to share their fears during a period of uncertainty.

The division also preserved its educational goals through monthly offerings of virtual programming. And when it was possible to meet in person, our volunteers were thrilled to take part in a meet-and-greet where they could ask questions of Christina Shutt, the new ALPLM executive director.

With the pandemic affecting operations so dramatically, service by our volunteers fell sharply. In FY2021, 530 volunteers donated a collective total of 6,109 hours, down approximately 30,000 hours from the average. However, our strong outreach to volunteers should pave the way for service hours to rebound as health conditions allow for more people to return.



“Volunteer Services did a great job of keeping the volunteers informed and connected. The streamed meetings, online educational opportunities, and Facebook Live presentations were wonderful. They continued to reach out to volunteers and made sure everyone had contact with the outside world and that we were safe and healthy.” – a volunteer.

The **Legislative Affairs Division** had to adjust to a radically different type of legislative session. Lawmakers delayed their session due to the pandemic and held most hearings in a hybrid of in-person and online meetings. The shortened session meant the ALPLM’s legislative proposals were not considered.

Still, the agency continued to build relationships with legislators and administration officials. The ALPLM was proud to host **Governor JB Pritzker** and many members of the General Assembly for the signing of legislation that made Juneteenth an official state holiday. The presidential library and museum also hosted the governor and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to announce a new marketing campaign to promote Illinois tourism.



Our skilled tech crew in the **Theaters Division** was called upon more than ever to help produce online events and simultaneously worked on ambitious new projects.

The *State of Sound* exhibit space combines audio, lighting, and video to create just the right atmosphere for guests to enjoy the content. It also features 13 mini-documentaries produced by the tech crew (which required more than 500 hours of editing), along with the working studio and the podcasts produced in it. Technicians were key to the project from start to finish.

The Stevenson Room, from its sliding glass door to video screens to sophisticated lighting, also required extensive technical expertise.

Meanwhile, the crew helped ensure the ALPLM could reach supporters, volunteers, families, and educators through our online programming – a process that required significant patience, both with unfamiliar webcasting services and staffers who were learning as they went. Other FY21 achievements included upgrades to show lighting, theatrical rigging, video storage, audio and lighting processes, and more.



Like the technicians in Theaters, the **Information Technology Division** helped keep the ALPLM in touch with the rest of the world under difficult circumstances while handling all the normal tasks. IT was instrumental to saving information from the ALPLM's old website and getting a new site up and running. The division also finished upgrading

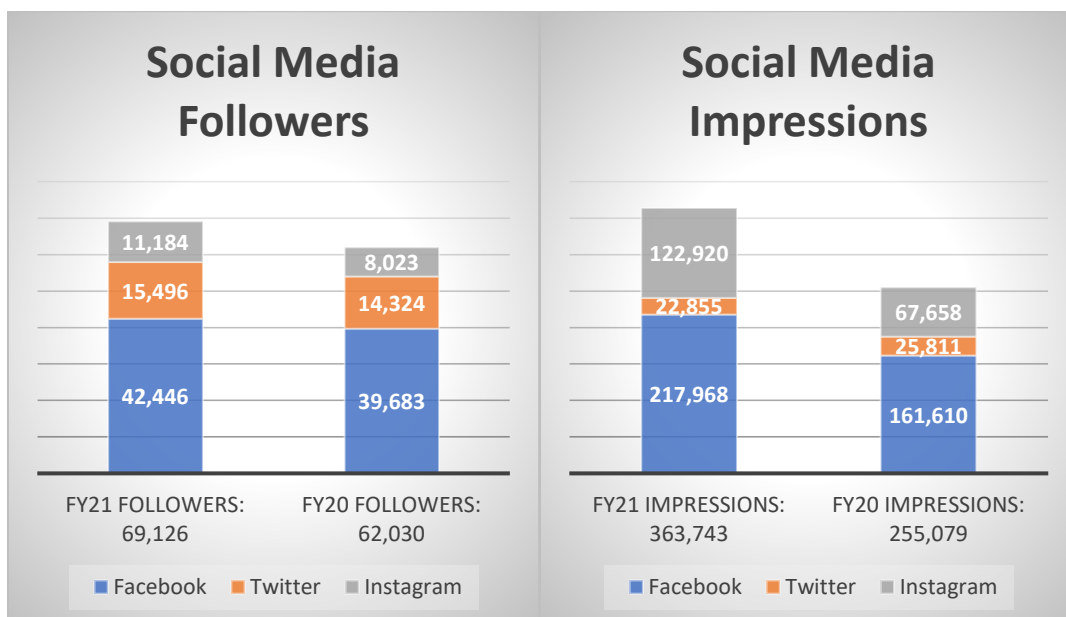
desktop computers, trained library staff on new equipment, and installed a new version of the software that tracks the ALPLM’s many events.

Like other divisions, **Public Programs and Community Engagement** had to adapt to the reality of the COVID pandemic. The shift to online virtual programming extended well into 2021, with 33 virtual programs watched by more than 50,000 people on Facebook Live. That’s an average of 1,500 per program, compared to perhaps 150 or 200 people for typical in-person events.

The ALPLM continued to stay in touch with our audience with an online newsletter that was launched in the spring of 2020. The newsletter not only allowed us to share information about Lincoln and ALPLM events but also to promote events produced by our community partners, such as the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum and the Sangamon County “Big Read” literacy initiative.

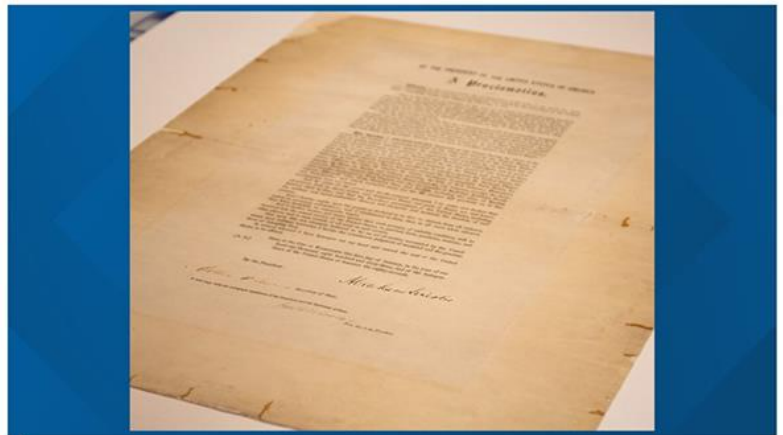
The Public Programs Division oversaw scheduling radio broadcasts and mini-concerts from the State of Sound studio. It also arranged other special events, such as blood drives, a book swap sponsored by the local chapter of Black Lives Matter, and a fundraising drive to provide school supplies for local students in need.

Keeping the public up to date on the ALPLM’s COVID policies continued to be an important part of the **Communications Division’s** duties in FY2021. People needed to know when we were open, whether they had to buy tickets in advance, and whether masks were required.



But we also had plenty of more upbeat topics to talk about: our five-millionth visitor, a new website, fascinating acquisitions, and special online programming, to name a few. The biggest communications projects were introducing the new executive director, announcing the acquisition of a significant new Lincoln letter, and promoting the *State of Sound* exhibit. All three required aggressive outreach to traditional media through news releases and press conferences, while also communicating directly with the public through social media. The efforts paid off, with significant statewide, and in some cases nationwide, coverage of the announcements.

The ALPLM’s display of the Emancipation Proclamation for the Juneteenth holiday brought huge returns. The initial announcement of the display got strong coverage, but a photo of the document – taken by ALPLM staff when it was being put into a new frame – was picked up by news services. The photo was then used alongside hundreds of stories around the world about Juneteenth becoming a national holiday, and each use gave credit to the ALPLM. Between our display, coverage of the bill-signing, and worldwide use of the picture, the Emancipation Proclamation got the ALPLM on roughly 900 websites with a potential audience of more than one billion people. That does not include people who would have seen it on broadcast outlets or in newspapers.



Credit: AP
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 shows a signed copy of Emancipation Proclamation. (Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum photo via AP)

Budget Summary: FY20 vs. FY21

Fund	FY20 Budget	FY21 Budget	% Change	FY20 Spend	FY21 Spend	% Change
General Revenue	\$ 7,624,300	\$ 7,624,300	0.0%	\$ 7,418,902	\$ 7,229,155	-2.6%
Tourism Promotion	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 3,600,000	0.0%	\$ 3,048,284	\$ 3,176,713	4.2%
ALPLM Operating	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,650,000	6.0%	\$ 792,877	\$ 684,973	-13.6%
King Hostick Trust	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	0.0%	\$ 93,099	\$ 29,994	-67.8%
Totals	\$ 13,824,300	\$ 13,974,300	1.1%	\$ 11,353,162	\$ 11,120,835	-2.0%

ALPLM Senior Staff (as of Dec. 31, 2021)

- Christina Shutt, executive director
- Melissa Coultas, chief of staff
- Toby Trimmer, chief operating officer
- David Kelm, general counsel
- Marlene Allen, human resources director
- Brett Cox, chief financial officer
- Joe Crain, public programming and community engagement director
- Lisa Horsley, library services director
- Patty Knepler, director of marketing and guest experience
- Heather Nice, education director
- Lawrence Patterson, facility services director
- Kayla Sorensen, legislative affairs director
- Lance Tawzer, shows and exhibits director
- Jeramy Tedrow, IT director
- Christopher Wills, communications director

Annual report edited by Communications Director Christopher Wills.
Cover by Amanda Flatt.