



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019



J.B. Pritzker
Governor

Ray LaHood
Chairman

Past, Present and Future

Fiscal year 2019 was a year of tremendous accomplishments for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. We created new exhibits, acquired new treasures, offered new programs, added new staff, and, of course, welcomed new guests.

As you'll see in this report, highlights include:

- Multiple top-quality temporary exhibits
- Major contributions to the state's bicentennial events and services
- New tools and policies to improve library services
- Acquisition of a Bible that belonged to President Lincoln
- Expansion of our marketing efforts, thanks in part to landing a major grant



Our successes were due in large part to the hard work of staff and volunteers who are passionate about the ALPLM's mission. Illinois should be proud to know that our institution continues to succeed with a world-class team of dedicated professionals determined to share the legacy of Lincoln and the history of our state.

As fiscal 2020 proceeds, important changes are taking place.

As acting executive director, I'm excited to help establish the path to the future by working with Governor JB Pritzker's eleven newly appointed members of the ALPLM Board of Trustees. Along with respected experts in their fields, our team includes the fresh perspectives and strong leadership of Toby Trimmer, Lance Tawzer, Heather Nice, and Joe Crain as, respectively, chief operating officer, exhibits director, education director, and director of public programming and community engagement.

Change – even change for the better – can be challenging. But I'm confident that the ALPLM team's talent and passion can outweigh any challenges. The world needs Abraham Lincoln's example more than ever, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is determined to continue in sharing that legacy.

Melissa Coultas
Acting Executive Director

Welcoming Visitors

During fiscal year 2019, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum welcomed nearly 240,000 guests to our campus. Over 83 percent of them were first-time visitors. Sixty-six thousand of our visitors were school children excited to learn about the legacy of Mr. Lincoln.

We offered guests the experiences that have made the ALPLM popular for years – the mysterious *Ghosts of the Library* show, the chance to take a picture with the Lincoln family, exhibits that immerse people in historic moments from Lincoln’s life. Guests also found a steady stream of special events, new exhibits, and updated displays that made each visit a fresh experience.

With 2018 being the state’s bicentennial year, we presented a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition on the four presidents with Illinois roots. *From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama* explored each man’s life with a mix of photographs, documents and artifacts. It included the last axe Lincoln used, the table where Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S Grant, a Grammy won by Barack Obama, and Ronald Reagan’s notecards from his “Tear Down This Wall” speech. The exhibit also featured the state’s original constitution from 1818.

Visitors could play a presidential trivia game, take their pictures with the four presidents or try delivering the Gettysburg Address with the help of a teleprompter.

When the bicentennial year ended, we brought in an exhibition of photographs of John F. Kennedy. *American Visionary: John F. Kennedy’s Life and Times* included famous photos that captured Kennedy’s public impact, as well as rarely seen pictures that provided poignant glimpses behind the scenes – a young JFK playing on the beach, a photo-booth snapshot of Jack and Jackie, a grieving widow in black.



All our major exhibits are accompanied by special educational programming. With *American Visionary*, we tried a new type of event that separated fact from fiction regarding the supposedly “eerie” coincidences between the lives and deaths of Kennedy and Lincoln. The event was a tremendous success. We have used the format again with another exhibit and will undoubtedly use it in the future.

The next exhibit, *In This Great Struggle: The Greatest Generation Remembers World War II*, explored the role of Illinoisans in the war. A series of interviews by the presidential library's Oral History Program make up the heart of the exhibit. They were accompanied by selections from the library's vast collection of war posters, along with weapons, flags and other artifacts borrowed from other institutions.



In This Great Struggle represents one of the ALPLM's most successful collaborations among multiple departments. The Oral History Program worked with the Technical Department to turn interview excerpts into short videos highlighting different experiences during the war. Lighting and sound technicians worked with exhibit designers to create a unique entrance that puts visitors in the place of troops landing at Normandy on D-Day. The photos and manuscripts departments combed their collections for poignant material from the war. Visitor response to the final product has been overwhelmingly positive. The Education Department developed lessons that focused on the use of oral histories and war-time artwork in the classroom and highlighted the personal experiences of those who lived through the war.

The ALPLM joined forces with the city of Springfield to bring an amazing Lincoln sculpture to the city. Entitled "Return Visit," the piece by sculptor Seward Johnson shows Lincoln returning to Gettysburg, where he talks with a modern man who has questions about the Gettysburg Address. The sculpture stands 31 feet tall at its highest point and weighs 37,000 pounds. It will stand outside the museum until September 2020, giving visitors two full summers to see the sculpture, take plenty of pictures, and imagine what they might ask if they met President Lincoln.

We also opened a new family-friendly exhibit in our Union Station space across the street from the museum. *All Aboard: America's Love of Railroads* commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad and Abraham Lincoln's role in making that historic accomplishment possible. The Springfield Railroad Society Inc. built a working model railroad depicting the terrain covered by the Transcontinental Railroad. There are railroad toys for the children, panels on railroad history for adults, and an incredibly detailed model of the train that brought Lincoln's body home to Springfield for his funeral.

By the Numbers

Whether it's a big public event, continuing education for volunteers, or visits by VIPs, something special is happening almost every day at the ALPLM. In fiscal year 2019, we handled 222 special events – each one requiring coordination among multiple departments to ensure everything went smoothly.

Fiscal year 2019 included many popular special events with authors, experts, and history-makers discussing their work. The events included:

- A panel discussion about the dramatic 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Four people who were there shared their memories and analyzed what happened at the convention and what impact it had on national politics.
- A Veterans Day event honoring Vietnam War veterans. Medal of Honor recipient Allen J. Lynch spoke at the event, which included the “missing man” table ceremony and presentation of commemorative pins to all Vietnam vets in the audience.
- An appearance by historian Douglas Brinkley, in conjunction with our JFK exhibit, to discuss his book “American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race.”
- Mark DePue, head of the Oral History Program and a military historian, explaining the intricate D-Day invasion shortly before the event's 75th anniversary and the opening of *In This Great Struggle*.

Visitors also had opportunities to enjoy a mixture of education and entertainment.

Capacity crowds attended six performances of the play “Five Presidents,” a fictional take on the real-life meeting of Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. We also had a packed house for *Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement*, an amazing evening of music by Chris Vallillo and Springfield's Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Choir. And actor John O'Connor wowed audiences again with his one-man show *Mister Lincoln*.



The 2018-19 season also brought many more performances of 19th-century music and more living history characters mingling with visitors, thanks to grants from Dr. Scholl's Foundation and the *History Comes Alive!* project administered by the Springfield

Convention & Visitors Bureau. We added two significant figures to the lineup of people portrayed by our historic interpreters: Kate Warne, the nation’s first prominent female detective, and Mary Elizabeth Bowser, a freed slave who became a successful spy for the Union Army during the Civil War. We also resumed performances of the one-act play *One Destiny*, which had been on hiatus for two years, thanks to a grant from the Susan Cook House Educational Trust.

By the Numbers

More than 4.1 million people have attended our “Ghosts of the Library” show, which had been performed 67,418 times when fiscal 2019 ended. Meanwhile, “Lincoln’s Eyes” has been performed 60,422 times for 3.9 million people.

And, of course, visitors got the chance to see amazing treasures as they strolled through the museum: the Gettysburg Address, a powder horn Lincoln used during the Black Hawk War, a letter from Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant, an axe used to break into Lincoln’s tomb, and more.

The ALPLM opened to unprecedented crowds, surpassing all expectations. Now, after more than 14 years, attendance has begun to match the original projections. Interest remains remarkably high, especially considering the presidential library’s location in a small metropolitan area. For instance, attendance is similar to attendance at the John F. Kennedy presidential library, even though the Boston population is 22 times larger than Springfield’s.

More than 4.9 million people have now visited the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. We will welcome our five millionth visitor in the first half of 2020.

Month	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
July	37,849	33,578	32,237	29,131
August	26,945	23,454	26,735	20,190
September	20,584	20,093	18,764	16,534
October	27,274	25,768	24,571	25,811
November	14,926	14,959	13,430	12,507
December	9,463	7,046	7,630	8,181
January	6,239	6,318	5,209	5,527
February	13,145	14,350	12,227	12,088
March	26,132	27,715	22,129	20,389
April	34,188	33,090	30,679	26,912
May	38,353	38,784	36,210	38,248
June	28,256	27,110	26,066	24,454
Total	283,354	272,265	255,887	239,972

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, recording new memories, examining old documents with a new eye.

Perhaps the most exciting discovery was a Bible that belonged to Lincoln in his final year of life. The Bible connects us to Lincoln's charitable nature, as it was given to him by a Philadelphia hospital in thanks for his help raising money to care for sick and wounded soldiers. It also connects us to the battle over his legacy, since Mary Lincoln gave it to a minister and family friend after the president's death, when she was looking for allies to counter allegations that Lincoln had been an atheist. And, of course, it offers a chance to



reflect on Lincoln's complicated and evolving religious beliefs. The Bible was donated to the ALPLM by the descendants of Noyes W. Miner, the minister who received it from Mrs. Lincoln.

That was by no means the only Lincoln item added to the collections by Acquisitions Director Ian Hunt. We acquired six new manuscripts and signatures of President Lincoln. We also obtained a small leather writing portfolio that was owned by Mrs. Lincoln after her husband's assassination. Major items related to other parts of Illinois history include an original charcoal portrait of John Thomas, the first African American legislator in the Illinois General Assembly; a collection of materials connected to Winnifred Sprague Mason Huck, the first woman to represent Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives; and, most touchingly, a child's doll that a young girl carried during World War II while she and her family were imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp in the Philippine Islands.

In total, the Library accepted 61 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.

Obtaining new items is just one step. Another is repairing and preserving them so they will be available to future generations. The Conservation Department, with two full-

time employees and a handful of interns and volunteers, completed 2,089 “treatments” during FY19. That means preparing condition reports, removing tape or acidic linings from items, making custom housings, and more. It also includes mounting 232 items for 15 exhibits and loans.

The material that went through the conservation process included a scrapbook documenting the experiences of World War II pilot Kenneth Hagan, manuscripts from the Grand Army of the Republic, fragile maps produced by the Illinois Central Railroad, and an 1839 broadside printed in French, recruiting workers to build the Illinois and Michigan Canal.



Meanwhile, the Oral History Department (led by Dr. Mark DePue) added 72 interviews to its collection, bringing the total to 956. The new interviews include 44 related to education, nine on Illinois government and politics, and two with veterans. Much of the department’s time and energy went toward the *In This Great Struggle* exhibit and turning oral histories into 21 videos that tell the story of the war through the words of the people who lived through it.

The Lincoln Historian, Dr. Christian McWhirter, launched a major initiative to better understand the items in our huge Lincoln Collection. The goal is to research the origins of material that has been acquired over many decades and to get a better picture of their historical significance. That has involved developing a new filing system with State Historian Samuel Wheeler and compiling a database of information in the ALPLM’s acquisition files. The work is far from complete, but it already has made it much easier to respond to questions about the collection and prepare for exhibitions.

Sharing Knowledge

The ALPLM took a lead role in the state’s bicentennial celebration, which culminated with the 200th anniversary of statehood on Dec. 3. In addition to the *From Illinois to the White House* exhibit, the presidential library:

- Organized an online voting project called the Illinois Top 200. The public was able to select the state’s top books and movies, musicians and scientists, and entertainers and leaders.
- Produced a series of “bicentennial minutes” on important moments in Illinois history. These radio spots – made with the help of Mid-West Family Broadcasting and the Illinois State Museum – were available to radio stations statewide.
- Delivered more than 150 public programs, tours, and workshops featuring ALPLM historians.
- Provided quotes and expertise for scores of news stories about the bicentennial and Illinois history.

Two series of presentations for the general public continued throughout the year. The Illinois History Forum welcomed experts who spoke to audiences about topics from Lincoln’s legal career to the Great Migration to college sports. Meanwhile, the Tales from the Vault series featured the library’s own experts giving visitors a look at some rarely seen treasures in our collection. They included jewelry owned by Mary Lincoln, rare sheet music, and oral histories describing the tumultuous administration of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.



The ALPLM once again sponsored the annual Conference on Illinois History. The conference celebrated its 20th year with a special focus on the state’s 200th year. Administrators and historians from multiple institutions took part in a roundtable discussion on how they were presenting the bicentennial to the public. Frank Cicero Jr., author of “Creating the Land of Lincoln,” talked about a key date in the process of making Illinois a state. Scholars presented research on Japanese immigrants, pilots with the Tuskegee Airmen, trauma suffered by Civil War soldiers, discrimination in “sundown towns,” and much more.

The education effort with the broadest reach is undoubtedly the Papers of Abraham Lincoln Digital Library. This project involves tracking down every known document written by or to Lincoln, obtaining digital copies, editing, and annotating them, and then posting everything to the internet. When it's finished, the digital library will give everyone instantaneous access to all Lincoln documents, complete with the context to understand their significance.

Already, the project has digitally published every document from Lincoln's boyhood to the end of his service in the Illinois House. Now the focus is on publishing material from his congressional career. As of June 30, 2019, 203 of the 465 congressional-era documents had been edited, annotated, and prepared for publication.

By the Numbers

In all, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln had published 5,203 documents when fiscal 2019 ended – 421 documents by or to Lincoln and 4,782 documents providing background and context.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln has received generous support from the scholarly community. In December 2018, it received a \$6,000 grant from the Abraham Lincoln Association to underwrite costs associated with the project's content management system. In June 2019, it received a grant of \$87,125 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission – the first time in project history that it has received the entire amount requested from the commission.

ALPLM librarians continued to field thousands of requests for information held in our vast archive of books, artifacts, documents, and audiovisual materials. Accessibility to these items was enhanced by the implementation of Aeon collections-tracking software. Aeon requests can be submitted online through our card catalog and finding aids. Aeon accounts let researchers view their request history, order items in advance of a visit, or purchase digital copies relevant to their needs.

We added 336 new rolls of microfilm to our collection of Illinois newspapers, the largest and most extensive such collection in the world. There were 2,835 requests for microfilm from researchers visiting the ALPLM, and an additional 176 requests from researchers elsewhere.

The Audio-Visual Division also made upgrades to improve service and protect images. It adopted an archives management system called ArchivesSpace and added multiple collections to it, including about half of the library's 8,000-plus posters (or broadsides,

to be more precise). A-V also completed the project of identifying and rehousing nearly 15,000 delicate and potentially flammable cellulose nitrate negatives into cold storage.

The Manuscripts Division also worked hard to make its materials more accessible on ArchivesSpace, devoting hundreds of staff hours to creating “finding aids” that tell researchers more about ALPLM holdings. It

also expanded our holdings by acquiring 75 collections, including 42.7 cubic feet of boxed material, 81 folders, 30 bound volumes, and more.



Our Education Department again hosted a prestigious Gilder Lehrman seminar, sponsored in part by AT&T, where teachers from around the country studied Lincoln’s legacy and how to present it to students. Another kind of educational outreach was working with Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville to make a trip to the presidential library part of an online graduate course for K-12 teachers on teaching about Lincoln.

Whenever possible, the department helps schools visit the ALPLM. It worked with the Winnick Family Foundation to provide transportation grants to bring nine schools to visit the museum and with donor Frank Vala to bring fifth-graders from Springfield’s public schools. The ALPLM also hosts research days, where school groups come in and receive staff assistance with conducting research for papers or special project.

By the Numbers

More than 1,200 fifth-graders from Springfield District 186 were able to visit the museum thanks to a grant from Frank Vala, Founder of Valco Awards and More, Inc. The ALPLM offered free admission to the students, and Vala paid for their transportation and lunches.

The ALPLM teamed with the Chicago History Museum to offer the Illinois History Day program, which involved 20,000 children from all parts of the state. It culminated with state finals to determine which students had the best research papers, websites, documentaries, performances, and exhibits that would advance to compete at National History Day.

The Education Department also organized “Civil War Tech” programs that use history to explain science concepts, set up activity tables for our young visitors, threw the annual “Back to School Bash,” and sponsored a statewide art contest.

ALPLM staff are always happy to share their expertise with others. Our Conservation Department, for instance, taught people from other institutions how to make protective materials for delicate items, spoke at a national conference for collectors, and offered multiple tours of the department to conservation professionals.

Serving the Community

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum strives to follow Lincoln's example of being a good neighbor and helping those in need. With that in mind, we offer several special events and programs to serve the community.

Our biggest event of the year is Fun Frosty Friday, held on the day after Thanksgiving. It's free and offers a mix of entertaining and educational activities for children to kick off the holiday season. The 1,500 visitors got to watch a ballet exhibition, see a robotics demonstration, make arts and crafts, wind their way through a life-sized Candy Land Adventure, and of course meet Santa Claus.



The ALPLM sponsored its fourth annual drive to collect backpacks for the students of Springfield's District 186. Everyone who donated a backpack got a voucher good for free admission to the museum. Thanks to the generosity of our guests, staff, and volunteers – and assistance from WICS TV and the Real Estate Group – the drive collected a record-breaking 2,236 backpacks.

Every year, we offer opportunities for people to tour the museum free of charge. It has become a tradition that the museum offers free admission on Feb. 12, Mr. Lincoln's birthday. With its line-up of historical interpreters, music, and family activities, this is always one of our busiest days of the year. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is the day that not-for-profits organizations can visit the museum free as part of our effort to support groups and public service. About 25 groups schedule a free visit on this day. Our military always receives a discount to tour the museum, but on Veterans Day all former or current military personnel are admitted absolutely free.

The ALPLM also sets up an "angel tree" each year around Thanksgiving. The tree is decorated with tags listing items needed by some local charity. Visitors and staff can then take one of the tags, buy the items and bring them to the ALPLM, where the charity will collect them. Sojourn Shelter and Services was the designated charity for the 2018 angel tree.

Behind the Scenes

The **Marketing Department** landed a \$200,000 matching grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, allowing the ALPLM to take its “Experience ABEmazing” campaign statewide. Marketing impressions were up by nearly 12 million during the summer travel season, thanks to a targeted advertising campaign that mixed cable, radio, newspapers, billboards, and brochures.

Digital marketing also continued to grow, with initiatives like advertising on Google, Facebook and Instagram, paying for search-engine marketing and search-engine optimization, and “geofencing” around other tourist destinations. This has made us one of the top results when people search for information about President Lincoln and museums. Even more amazing, 31 percent of people click on us in search results, compared to an average click-through rate of 2 percent.

Locally, we increased our downtown presence with banners on light posts around two major hotels and partnered on projects big and small with organizations such as C-SPAN, HSHS St. John’s Hospital, Memorial Medical Center, Looking for Lincoln, and the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau. We also promoted numerous special events, from new exhibits to presentations by ALPLM historians to educational activities for children.

The **Facilities Rental Office** enjoyed an amazing year. It rented, planned and produced 124 bookings in fiscal 2019, up from 84 the previous year. Revenues soared by \$67,920, or 49 percent. The office also introduced exciting new event packages and menus and got national recognition when the ALPLM was voted “Best Small Market Venue” in the 2018 Best Of awards by *Unique Venues* magazine.

By the Numbers

Rental clients: 44% not-for-profits and associations; 26% corporations; 17% individuals; 10% State of Illinois agencies; 3% other government entities. Events: 30% dinners; 26% receptions, 21% meetings; 11% wedding receptions; 5% conferences/seminars; 4% “Lunch at the Library”; 3% luncheons

The new offerings included a behind-the-scenes look at *Ghosts of the Library*, a museum scavenger hunt, and updated presentations by our historians with displays of fascinating artifacts from the collection. There is also a new “Take a Break” package that offers groups the chance to visit the museum and enjoy an afternoon snack.

The ALPLM's **Volunteer Services Division** continued to thrive. The 560 volunteers donated 38,101 hours of service (beating the division's target) with a value of \$940,714. They played vital roles in such ALPLM events as Fun Frosty Friday, the Back to School Bash, and the Halloween Spooktacular. They also assisted the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition in presenting Lincoln information and activities at the Illinois State Fair.

The division offered approximately 30 educational programs and events for the volunteers. It also took initial steps toward researching a "VolunTEEN" program for teenagers ages 13-15. These junior volunteers will be trained to assist regular volunteers at an array of events. We hope they will continue their service and become full-fledged volunteers when they reach our minimum age of 16. We think they'll benefit from giving back to the community and learning about possible careers in history, library science, and related fields.



The **Facility Maintenance Department** juggled multiple projects at various stages of development. They included installation of new lighting controllers in the library, a \$900,000 upgrade to climate controls, and HVAC improvements that protect artifacts on display even if the power is out. Upcoming projects include replacing power units and cooling equipment, upgrading security cameras, providing support for a new sculpture outside the museum, and planning an expansion of the secure storage areas. The department also moved forward with plans for a new exhibit dedicated to the state's Stevenson political dynasty. It is likely to open in the middle of calendar year 2020.

The **Technical Department**, in addition to coming up with innovative lighting and sound designs for multiple exhibits, planned major upgrades to the institution's lighting systems. After the work is finished in FY20, technicians will be able to adjust lighting with pinpoint precision in all the old areas and some new ones. Fewer lights will be needed to achieve this, which helps the ALPLM reduce its carbon footprint.

In addition to monitoring individual bills, the **Legislative and Governmental Affairs Department** participated in the Illinois Association of Museum's annual lobby day, where members educate state legislators on the importance of museums in Illinois. The department also arranged a museum tour led by ALPLM historians to show legislative staff what information and services are available at the ALPLM for their constituents.

Governmental Affairs also coordinated visits and tours by a number of elected officials, including Congressman Rodney Davis, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt-Rochester, Congresswoman Liz Cheney, and Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs.

The highest-profile project for the **Communications Department** in fiscal 2019 was announcing the ALPLM had acquired a Bible that once belonged to Lincoln. This involved producing photos and fact sheets, working with the New York Times to break the story, arranging a news conference for the official announcement, and setting up dozens of interviews with other news outlets. On the Internet alone (that is, not looking at print and broadcast), the result was 355 stories with a potential audience of 157 million people.



The department also oversaw announcements of a major new exhibit produced by the ALPLM, a traveling exhibit, acquisitions of historic artifacts and documents, and dozens of special events. Two bicentennial projects spearheaded by Communications wrapped up: online voting for the top 200 people, places and things in Illinois history, and a series of daily “bicentennial minute” radio spots.

This was in addition to photographing ALPLM events and exhibits and producing content for Facebook (843 posts), Twitter (1,149), and Instagram (399) that included daily Lincoln quotes and key events in Lincoln history.

The **Human Resources Division** handled some important personnel changes:

- Longtime employee Jeff Nevins was promoted to technical director of the Shows Division, putting him in charge of the ALPLM’s sound, lighting, and special effects.
- Daniel Worthington, assistant editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, was named director amid a major overhaul of the groundbreaking project.
- Deb Salisbury, a veteran of the Guest Services Division, was named volunteer services coordinator. That made it possible to have a volunteer supervisor on duty seven days a week.
- Facility Services added four new building-and-grounds workers and two engineers.

Several other changes took place shortly after the end of the fiscal year. New personnel were named to the positions of chief of staff, chief operating officer, education director, exhibits director, and head of public programming and community engagement. In addition, Gov. J.B. Pritzker nominated 11 people to serve on the ALPLM's new board of trustees.

Budget

Fund	FY 18 Appropriation	FY19 Appropriation	% Change	FY18 Expenditure	FY19 Expenditure	% Change
GRF	\$8,445,200	\$7,044,100	-16.59%	\$8,445,199	\$7,041,814	-16.62%
ALPLM Operations	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	0.00%	\$1,834,381	\$985,925	-46.25%
Tourism Promotion	\$0	\$2,500,000		\$0	\$2,476,924	
Totals	\$10,945,200	\$12,044,100	10.04%	\$10,279,580	\$10,504,663	2.19%

ALPLM Board of Trustees

- Ray LaHood, Chairman
- J. Steven Beckett, Abraham Lincoln Historian
- Joan Brodsky, Historic Preservation Expert
- Jessica Harris, Member
- Kathryn Harris, Library and Museum expert
- Gary Johnson, Member
- Melinda Spitzer Johnston, Digitization and Conservation Expert
- Jason Lesniewicz, Cultural Tourism Expert
- Dan Monroe, Illinois Historian
- Martin Sandoval, Business Administration Expert
- Eunice Santos, Member

ALPLM Senior Staff (as of Jan. 6, 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
- Lisa Horsley, Library Services Director
- Patty Knepler, Director of Marketing and Guest Experience
- Heather Nice, Education Director
- Lawrence Patterson, Facility Services Director
- Kayla Sorensen, Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs
- Lance Tawzer, Exhibits Director
- Jeramy Tedrow, IT Director
- Samuel Wheeler, State Historian and Director of Research and Collections
- Christopher Wills, Communications Director

Analyzing Year Two

Analysis of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Operations 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.”

Two years of experience as a stand-alone agency clearly demonstrate the new structure has improved operations and benefited taxpayers. The change made the ALPLM more nimble. It no longer had to compete with other historic sites for state resources, staff, or attention from a board and director with multiple responsibilities.

Rather than sharing personnel, the ALPLM now has its own director of legislative and governmental affairs, facilities services director, and chief operating officer. It also has added an exhibits director, director of public programs and community engagement, and other positions. Having these positions as part of the ALPLM’s senior administration is vital to the institution and would not have been possible without the reorganization.

The one significant problem was a long delay in appointing a Board of Trustees dedicated to overseeing ALPLM operations. This has now been corrected by Governor Pritzker, and the ALPLM stands to benefit from the expertise of its new board members.

The ALPLM director of legislative and governmental affairs has pursued several updates to its 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 ALPLM maintains what is called the King Hostick Public Trust, which had previously been maintained by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. When the IHPA was dissolved, any mention of the agency was stricken from statute. The presidential library should have replaced it in the Public Use Trust Act, but that did not happen. The corrective legislation, SB531 (Mulroe/Butler), passed the Senate unanimously and then was held in the house. The ALPLM has

worked with the Governor's office and various legislators to reintroduce this legislation. Representative Willis has filed the same language as HB4043 for the upcoming Spring 2020 session. It is the hope of the ALPLM that there will also be a companion bill in the Senate.

Representative Willis has also filed HB4044 to address other changes, such as references to positions with titles that have changed since July 1st, 2017. It also addresses administrative decisions that do not need board approval, eliminates the dissemination of the Illinois Historical Collections, corrects inconsistencies in duties laid out for the state historian in the ALPLM statute and the State Historical Library Act, and repeals the State Historical Library Act to eliminate redundancies. The ALPLM is the Illinois State Historical Library, and HB4044 will 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's second year as stand-alone agency was a success and the agency will continue to work to provide high quality service and to promote the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln to patrons and the taxpayers of Illinois.



Report edited and designed by Christopher Willis, director of communications