



# Ford's Theatre Society Board of Governors 2022-2023





Welcome to the 2022–2023 season.

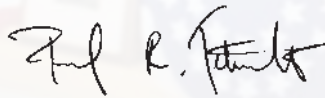
In a landscape rich with history, education and the arts, I am proud to say that Ford’s Theatre is unique. Whether encouraging reflection and conversation through world-class museum galleries, cultivating the next generation of leaders through renowned educational programs or celebrating President Abraham Lincoln’s love of theatre through critically acclaimed theatrical productions, Ford’s Theatre is distinguished by its ability to bring Lincoln’s legacy to life.

At the heart of President Lincoln’s efforts was a desire to bring people together and unite the nation. For more than 50 years, Ford’s Theatre Society has had the privilege of advancing this “unfinished work.”

The Board of Governors has played a critical role in this success. Each year, this incredible group of corporations and associations provides crucial support for our artistic and educational programming. I could not be more humbled by the commitment, leadership and advocacy that characterizes our members.

In Washington, D.C., we can come together at Ford’s Theatre. From our storied history to exclusive opportunities like the *Annual Gala* to educational programming for students and teachers from around the country, Ford’s Theatre truly has something for everyone. Whether you are a new member, considering membership or have been a loyal supporter for decades, I hope the information in these pages will help you get to know us even better and I look forward to welcoming you to Ford’s Theatre soon.

With thanks,



Paul R. Tetreault  
Director  
Ford’s Theatre

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Phebe N. Novakovic  
**Chairman, Board of Trustees**

Paul R. Tetreault  
**Director, Ford’s Theatre**





## About Ford's Theatre

Ford's Theatre explores  
the legacy of President  
Abraham Lincoln and  
celebrates the American  
experience through  
theatre and education.





The company of *Come From Away*: In Concert at the Lincoln Memorial. Photo by Scott Suchman.

# Programming Vision

The site of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, Ford’s Theatre lives at the heart of the Washington, D.C. experience—a vibrant stage for engaging and entertaining theatrical encounters and an immersive environment that celebrates the life and values of Abraham Lincoln and his evolving legacy.

Today, Ford’s Theatre is operated through a public-private partnership with the National Park Service. As both a national historic site and a producing theatre, Ford’s Theatre occupies a unique place among American cultural organizations. We draw upon

Lincoln’s legacy and the transformative power of the arts to awaken visitors and audiences to the necessity for individual and societal empathy. Many consider Ford’s Theatre to be a sacred space, and by keeping the theatre alive, we assert that Ford’s is not just the site of Lincoln’s assassination but also a place where everyone can experience the joy and inspiration that Lincoln himself found in the performing arts.

Ford’s Theatre is making its mark on American theatre and bringing history to life by commissioning new plays as well as Lincoln-based world premieres such as *The*

*Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Necessary Sacrifices* and *The Widow Lincoln*. Ford’s has also helped to elevate the profile of theatre in the nation’s capital by producing new and critically acclaimed works. In 2016, Ford’s produced the east coast premiere of *Come From Away*, prior to its engagement on Broadway, where it won the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical.

Ford’s Theatre is committed to making productions accessible for all and offers close captioning, audio described and sign-interpreted performances. In 2018, sensory-friendly performances and museum experiences were introduced to annual programming offerings.

Ford’s strives to foster an audience whose members reflect the communities we serve and the nation’s varied population. Through diverse casting and selecting plays and musicals that feature lesser-told stories of the American experience, we welcome audiences to see themselves represented on our historic stage.

Lincoln believed fervently in the United States, a country more united by its commonalities than divided by differences. We follow Lincoln’s example, moved by his capacity to see the humanity in all people during one of the most turbulent eras in American history.

With Lincoln’s leadership as our inspiration, Ford’s Theatre endeavors to be a beacon of hope, advancing his “unfinished work.” We bring together people from across the globe, from diverse backgrounds and with varying viewpoints. We strive to bridge divides, cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and embrace shared ideals. We do these things to inspire people to choose community over isolation and to find and celebrate our common humanity.



Felicia Curry as Marian Anderson and Christopher Bloch as Albert Einstein in *My Lord, What a Night*. Photo by Scott Suchman.



August McFeaters as Tiny Tim and Gregory Maheu as Bob Cratchit in the 2019 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Photo by Carol Rosegg.



David Selby as Abraham Lincoln and Craig Wallace as Frederick Douglass in the 2012 production of *Necessary Sacrifices*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.



Nova Y. Payton as Ruthie in the world-premiere musical *Grace*. Photo by André Chung.



# Equity, Diversity and Anti-Racism at Ford's Theatre

Cast of the 2021 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Photo by Carol Rosegg.

The history of Ford's Theatre National Historic Site is intertwined with the fight for racial equity and justice.

On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth, a known white supremacist and Confederate sympathizer, shot President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. A few days earlier, Booth had heard Lincoln express support for limited Black suffrage; after hearing Lincoln's speech, Booth responded, "Now, by God, I'll put him through. That is the last speech he will ever make."

We see direct connections between the history we tell at our Civil War-era historic site, and the legacy of that history more than 155 years later. We embrace the opportunities that connection provides to foster empathy, shared humanity and unity.

Inspired by Lincoln's gift for storytelling, Ford's renews our commitment to use our storytelling and artistic abilities to effect change and make a difference. Through theatre, curation and education, we seek to inspire the country's citizens—our audiences—with stories of courage, hope, determination and justice.

We recently launched *The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions*, an unprecedented artistic initiative that will yield a minimum of five commissions from playwrights who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). The commissions will explore historical figures and illuminate stories that might not be as well known in the struggle for racial equality and Civil Rights. The commissions will give voice to underrepresented stories and forgotten heroes. This artistic initiative aims to expand our understanding of race and history while allowing for dialogue and engagement at both regional and national levels.



Erica Lauren Ortiz, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, speaks at the Board of Governors Breakfast. Photo by Jeremy Norwood.



Arica Jackson (Haley), Nova Y. Payton (Ruthie), Raquel Jennings (Jacqui), Solomon Parker III (Lawrence) and Rayshun LaMarr (Joshua) in *Grace*. Photo by André Chung.

In 2019, Ford's began a multi-year project to build institutional capacity to address inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility. Internally, our staff has participated in knowledge-building around anti-racism and related topics and nurturing personal development, as well as training for responding to challenging interactions with visitors and encouraging dialogue amongst diverse patrons. Ford's has partnered with consultants from The Empathetic Museum, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and Ascension Worldwide.

To guide and amplify this work, Ford's hired our first Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, who recently launched the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Council to help unify efforts under a new umbrella, the 20by25 Strategic Initiative. This initiative will identify areas where Ford's will make a concentrated effort and impact by 2025 in 20 different areas of our theatre, museum and educational programs. The council will work with board members, stakeholders and other strategic partners to launch the 20by25 Initiative and galvanize the Ford's community.



Felicia Curry as Marian Anderson in *My Lord, What a Night*. Photo by Scott Suchman.





The cast of the 2018 production of *Jefferson's Garden* at Ford's Theatre. Photo by Gary Erskine.

# Ford's by the Numbers

To bring to life programming across our areas of impact: **education, theatre and history**, Ford's Theatre:



Has staged **OVER 200 PRODUCTIONS** since re-opening as a working theatre in 1968.



Welcomed **445 SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS** to Ford's Theatre through the Vet Tix program during the 2021-2022 Season.



Brings more than **750,000 ANNUAL VISITORS** from around the world to the historic site for tours and performances during a typical year.



Has served **30,000 STUDENTS** through **EXPANDED DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS** since 2020.



Annually **TEACHES ORATORY SKILLS TO OVER 500 STUDENTS** through Ford's local and national oratory programs.



Has served **OVER 700 PEOPLE** through sensory-friendly **PERFORMANCES AND MUSEUM EXPERIENCES** since 2018.



Has awarded **63 LINCOLN MEDALS** to individuals who exemplify the lasting legacy and character embodied by President Lincoln at the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala*.

Photo Credit: Inset photos T-B, L-R: Photo of Craig Wallace in the 2019 Ford's Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol* by Carol Rosegg. Erika Rose and Justin Weaks in the 2019 Ford's Theatre production of August Wilson's *Fences* by Scott Suchman. Photo visitor line by Gary Erskine. Student Using Google Expedition. Photo by Trisha Goins. Photo of Oratory Student by Gary Erskine. Photo of Karen Vincent and Jade Jones with a guest at the sensory-friendly performance of *Into the Woods* by Margot Schulman. Photo of Lincoln Medal detail by Gary Erskine..





## Board of Governors

Members of the Board of  
Governors play a vital role in  
making history come alive at  
Ford's Theatre, while taking  
advantage of a number of  
exclusive benefits.

Photo: Ford's Theatre Annual Gala dinner at the National  
Portrait Gallery, 2022. Photo by Norwood Photography.





Photo by Reflections Photography.

Since its inception in 1970, the Board of Governors has explored the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and supported the celebration of the American experience through theatre and education. Today, the Board of Governors is made up of corporations and associations who advance the mission of Ford's Theatre through a variety of activities, including production underwriting, education program underwriting and general operating support.

Members of the Board of Governors have access to a number of hospitality and networking opportunities including:

- Exclusive events, including VIP Openings and receptions and the Annual Board of Governors Breakfast
- Unique hospitality opportunities including private after-hours tours and use of our event space
- Tickets to the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala* weekend
- Access to house seats unavailable to the general public



Board of Governors members at Ford's Theatre events.  
Photos by Norwood Photography.





# Ford's Theatre Annual Gala

Ford's Theatre Annual Gala, 2022 by Margot Schulman.

Since 1978, the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala* has been the highlight of the Ford's Theatre season, drawing some of Washington's most prominent citizens, including Members of Congress, Administration officials, Supreme Court Justices and members of the diplomatic community, as well as national leaders in business and philanthropy.

As one of the most exclusive events in Washington, the *Annual Gala* offers guests a unique chance to visit various iconic Washington, D.C. institutions in one weekend.

The *Annual Gala* performance features the presentation of the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal to individuals who, through their body of work, accomplishments or personal attributes, exemplify the lasting legacy and character embodied by President Lincoln. Past recipients have included: Congressman James E. Clyburn, Clive J. Davis, Morgan Freeman, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Sheila C. Johnson, Peyton W. Manning, Jack Nicklaus, General Colin Powell and Alma J. Powell and Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

The *Annual Gala* provides critical funding to support the artistic performances, arts education programs and outreach initiatives available throughout the year to students and families across the country. Support from the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala* helps to ensure that generations, both current and future, will find inspiration and encouragement in the legacy of President Lincoln.



Allison Russell and Deborah Cox perform at the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala*, 2022. Photo by Margot Schulman.



Lincoln Medalist Clive J. Davis at the 2022 *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala*. Photo by Margot Schulman.



Guests at the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala*, 2022. Photo by Norwood Photography.



Guests at the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala*, 2022. Photo by Norwood Photography.



Guests at the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala*, 2022. Photo by Norwood Photography.



Sam Palladio performs at the *Ford's Theatre Annual Gala*, 2022. Photo by Norwood Photography





# Exclusive Opportunities

## RONALD O. PERELMAN BOARD ROOM

Entertain executives, clients and employees while experiencing the grandeur of President Lincoln’s era. The Ford’s Theatre Board Room historically and elegantly sets the stage for exclusive meetings, receptions and dinners with its 1865 parlor-style décor.

This space, uniquely located within the theatre on its second balcony, can accommodate up to 24 people for a seated dinner and 50 people for a standing cocktail reception.

Ronald O. Perelman Board Room photos by Jeremy Norwood.



## FORD’S THEATRE PRESIDENTIAL BOX

Arrange an exclusive after-hours tour of Ford’s Theatre and Museum for your executives, clients and employees. Learn more about 1860s Washington and President Lincoln’s time in office, while reliving the tragic event of April 14, 1865.

Presidential Box photos (left) by Carol M. Highsmith, (below) © Maxwell MacKenzie, (right) courtesy Library of Congress, LC-B811-3404A..





# Membership Benefits

	SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES				ANNUAL SUPPORT		
	Executive Chairman's Circle <i>"Season Sponsor" Four productions or lead education+</i>	Chairman's Circle <i>"Underwriter" Two Productions+</i>	Vice Chairman's Circle <i>"Sponsor" One Production+</i>	President's Circle <i>"Sponsor" One Education Program</i>	Vice President's Circle	Director's Circle	Associate Member
	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
Board of Governors Membership and recognition	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sponsorship recognition	●	●	●	●			
Recognition from the stage	●	●	●				
Complimentary Ticket Bank*	50 Tickets	40 Tickets	30 Tickets	20 Tickets	20 Tickets		
10% ticket discount*	●	●	●	●	●		
Priority ticket access	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Employee engagement opportunities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Complimentary Historic Site daytime passes and audioguides	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tickets to each VIP Opening Night and Reception	10	8	6	6	4	2	2
Exclusive after-hours tours	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	5/year	4/year	3/year	2/year
Utilize Ford's Theatre event space (4 hour time limit)	2/year	2/year	2/year	1/year	1/year	1/year	
Private large group tour (up to 75 guests)	●	●	●	●	●		
Annual Gala VIP dinner for C-suite Executives (Saturday night)	2 Guests	2 Guests	2 Guests				
Tickets to Annual Gala events (Saturday and Sunday)	8 Guests	6 Guests	4 Guests	4 Guests	4 Guests	2 Guests	
Annual Gala on-stage recognition (Sunday night)	●	●	●				

^All benefits, including the *Annual Gala*, are not-transferrable to future years  
\*Excluding the *Annual Gala* and *A Christmas Carol*  
+Logo, when possible

Laura C. Harris (center) with Emily Kester and Jonathan David Martin, in the 2020 Ford's Theatre production of *Silent Sky*.  
Photo by Scott Suchman.





## Education Programs

As the premier destination for exploring the life and legacy of President Lincoln, Ford's Theatre is committed to providing access to students and teachers from the Washington, D.C. area and across the nation.

Oratory students perform on the steps on the Lincoln Memorial. Photo by Andrew Buchsbaum.





Oratory students perform on the Ford's Theatre stage. Photo by Gary Eskine.

# Ford's Theatre Oratory Programs

Lincoln's skill as an orator is one of his greatest legacies. Ford's Theatre offers programs that teach the art of public speaking to students and teachers both locally and nationally.

## LINCOLN ORATORY RESIDENCY AND FESTIVAL

This free program brings Ford's Theatre Teaching Artists into D.C.-area classrooms to familiarize students with oratory and develop their public speaking skills through learning and performing speeches by President Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and Mary McLeod Bethune. Throughout a five-visit in-school residency, students create group performances inspired by Lincoln's words, which are performed on the Ford's Theatre stage to fellow students, friends and family members. To remove any participation barriers, Ford's Theatre provides free round-trip bus transportation to and from the theatre for participating students.



Oratory students perform on the the Ford's Theatre stage. Photo by Carolina Dulcey.



Oratory student performs on the steps on the Lincoln Memorial. Photo by Andrew Buchsbaum.

## NATIONAL ORATORY FELLOWSHIPS

This multi-year professional development program helps teachers learn the art and science behind compelling and effective public speaking in order to integrate it into their history and English classrooms. Last year, the National Oratory Fellowship built a network of 33 Teacher Fellows from 16 states and the District of Columbia, all of whom are invested in cultivating strong student voices through public speaking and performance.

Each summer, the program kicks off with a planning session which shapes the course of instruction for the school year. To monitor progress and maintain momentum, Fellows work with Ford's Theatre Teaching

Artists throughout the year via virtual coaching sessions. Fellows also utilize an online meeting space to collaborate and exchange best practices with their peers. The program culminates every May with the Fellows and their student delegates traveling to Washington, D.C. to perform their original speeches on the Ford's Theatre stage.

## LINCOLN ONLINE ORATORY PROJECT

Ford's Theatre Teaching Artists conduct a web-based version of the on-site program via virtual oratory residencies, with performances from classrooms around the country posted on the Ford's Theatre YouTube page.



Screen grab of Lincoln Online Oratory Project video by Ford's Theatre staff.





## On-site Programs

Student Matinee talk back. Photo courtesy of Ford's Theatre staff.

Each year, Ford's Theatre welcomes students to the historic campus to experience a live theatrical performance or learn about Lincoln's assassination and legacy.

### HISTORIC SITE FIELD TRIPS

Ford's Theatre offers field trips for local students to learn about Lincoln's assassination, its lasting impact on our nation and how President Lincoln's legacy is relevant today. To ensure that all students have access to this opportunity, Ford's Theatre offers free tickets and round-trip bus transportation for Washington, D.C. public and charter schools, as well as free tickets for Title 1 schools from Maryland, Virginia and around the country.

### STUDENT MATINEES

Ford's Theatre offers week-day performances of its mainstage productions to introduce D.C.-area students to the performing arts. Ford's offers opt-in, classroom-based pre- or post-visit workshops, led by a Ford's Teaching Artist or staff educator. As with Historic Site Field Trips, Ford's Theatre offers free tickets and bus transportation for Washington, D.C. public and charter schools as well as Title 1 schools from Maryland and Virginia.

### TEACHER PREVIEW WORKSHOPS

D.C.-area teachers are invited to attend free workshops to better understand a production's themes and help them develop meaningful and useful learning tools, focused on teaching storytelling and history using theatrical experiences to incorporate into the classroom. Following each workshop, teachers attend a free performance of the mainstage production.



Photo of school bus by Gary Eskine.



## Summer Institutes

Summer Teachers Institute lecture by David Patrick McKenzie.

Each summer, Ford's Theatre provides professional development workshops that empower teachers to incorporate historical resources into their classroom instruction in order to teach compelling American history lessons. Each session includes time for group reflection on best practices and opportunities for teachers to learn from one another. To enhance these experiences, Ford's Theatre partners with several historic sites in and around the nation's capital so that teachers can provide their students with a holistic interpretation.

### THE CATHERINE B. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION CIVIL WAR WASHINGTON

Since 2008, this week-long summer intensive has brought teachers to Washington, D.C. to explore the capital as President Lincoln would have known it during the Civil War. Two sessions are offered annually; one free of charge for D.C.-area teachers and another for teachers from around the country that is highly subsidized.

### SET IN STONE: CIVIL WAR MEMORY, MONUMENTS AND MYTHS

Since 2015, this week-long summer intensive has brought teachers to Washington, D.C. to learn about President Lincoln's assassination and the roots of Reconstruction through the capital's monuments and memorials. This program is free to D.C.-area teachers, and highly subsidized for teachers from around the country.



Civil War Washington participants by Ford's Theatre staff.



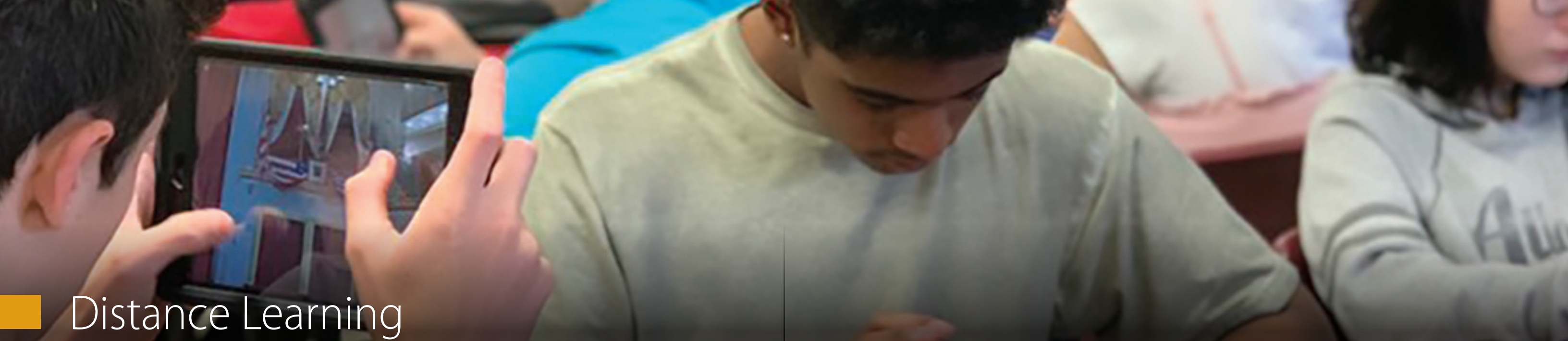


Photo courtesy of Laura Fowle.

# Distance Learning

The Ford’s Theatre education department offers a range of online experiences and resources to extend learning opportunities to history buffs and learners of all ages around the country who are unable to visit the historic site and museum in person. Since 2020, these programs have been expanded to better serve classrooms locally and across the country.

## VIRTUAL HISTORIC SITE TOURS AND FIELD TRIPS

As an option for students, teachers and online learners who do not live locally or are unable to visit the theatre in person, Ford’s Theatre offers live virtual historic site tours and field trips, bringing the Ford’s experience to viewers from across the country. Led by a Ford’s Theatre Educator, these live, no-cost virtual field trips, explore a range of topics such as a virtual tour of Ford’s Theatre, the night of Lincoln’s death inside the Petersen House, reactions to Lincoln’s assassination, exploring Civil War Washington and what happened to Ford’s Theatre after 1865.

These activities allow several classrooms to participate and interact with one another simultaneously, facilitating discussion between students and teachers from across the country.

## VIRTUAL INVESTIGATION: DETECTIVE MCDEVITT

Through live video conferencing, students act as virtual deputies to Detective James McDevitt, who was on duty at the Washington Metropolitan Police headquarters on the night President Lincoln was assassinated.



Virtual Investigation Detective McDevitt by by Kristen Ferrara & Craig Segall.

## REMEMBERING LINCOLN

This online collection of primary sources illustrates the reaction to Lincoln’s assassination. Using an interactive map and timeline, visitors from around the country can view their state’s public and private responses to the assassination, as well as contribute new items to the collection.



Screen grab of [www.rememberinglincoln.com](http://www.rememberinglincoln.com)

## EXPLORING LINCOLN’S ASSASSINATION

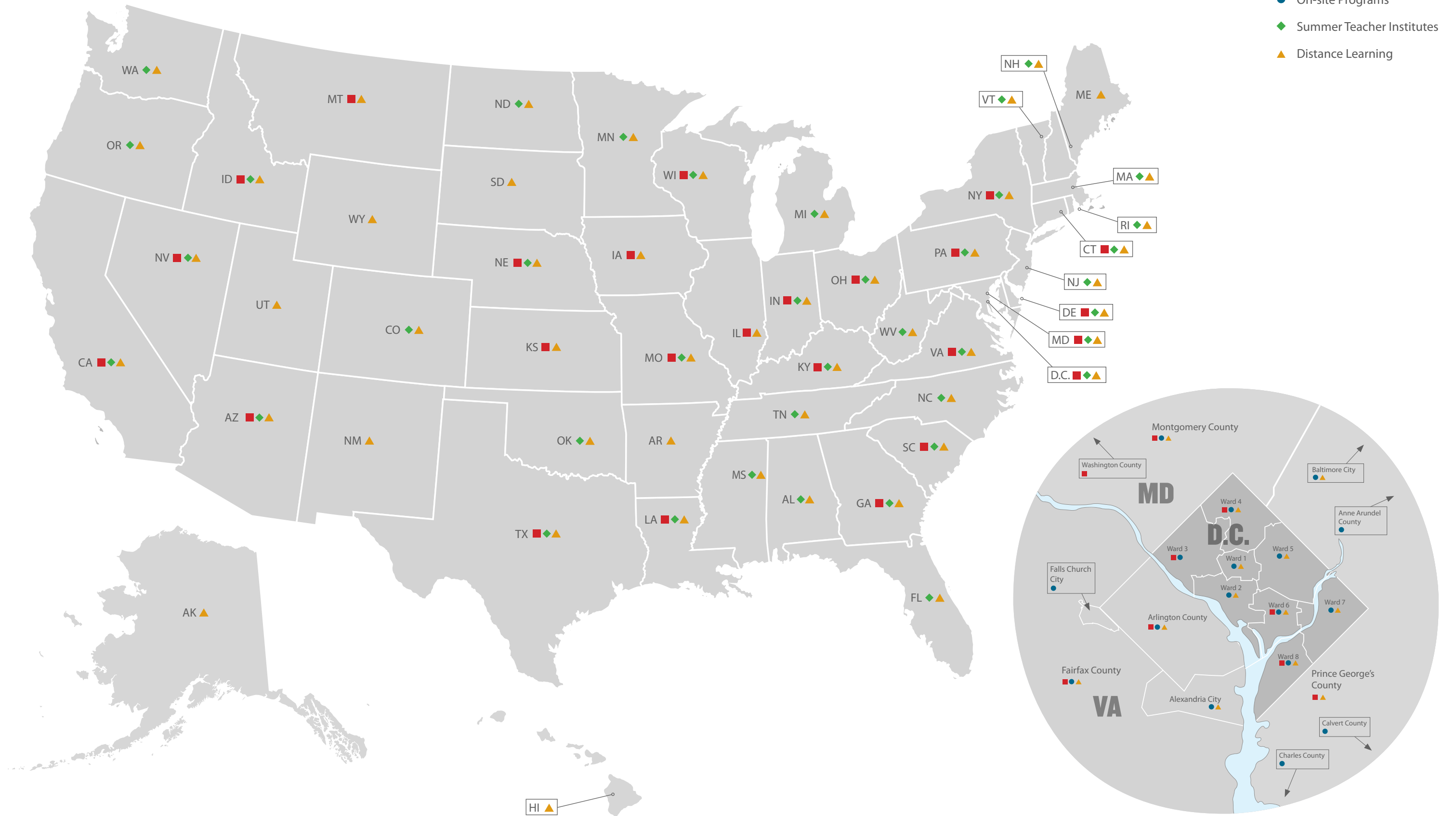
Learners of all ages can explore Lincoln’s assassination on their own—from the genesis of the conspiracy to the event’s impact on Lincoln’s legacy. Visitors can browse through digitized historic artifacts and firsthand accounts to examine key details of this important chapter of American history.




Screen grab of [fords.com](http://fords.com), *Investigating the Assassination*.



# Our Impact







Ford's Theatre Society  
514 Tenth Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Corporate@fords.org

(202) 639-1587

**WWW.FORDS.ORG**

[www.fords.org/blog](http://www.fords.org/blog)



[facebook.com/fordstheatre](https://facebook.com/fordstheatre)



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