

Education at Ford's Theatre

Cultivating the next generation of leaders by developing student voices, infusing the arts into classrooms and strengthening the teaching of history and civic understanding across the country.

This year, Ford's Theatre began to pivot our educational programs back to in-person experiences and restore programs that had been put on hold due to the pandemic. We continued to offer virtual learning experiences, develop new virtual resources and find new and expanded ways to answer the needs of the public and the education community. It is through the unique, interdisciplinary blending of the arts and humanities that Ford's Theatre offers students and teachers new perspectives, adjusted educational environments and a learning experience like none other.

Programs for Students and Online Learners

More than **12,800** students were directly served by our education programming.

1,000 students participated in an on-site Historic Site Visit.

4,515 students participated in a distance learning Virtual Field Trip.

545 students performed speeches by Abraham Lincoln and other notable public figures through the Lincoln Online Oratory Project and Festival, following virtual residencies with Ford's Theatre Teaching Artists.

737 students participated in the Ford's Theatre Student Matinee program by attending one of two mainstage productions.

18 students participated in our *Stand Up, Be Heard: The Podcast* program, and developed podcasts of their own.

1,717 students watched the on-demand recording of our one-act play, *One Destiny*, which tells the story of Lincoln's assassination through the eyes of two men who were present that night, actor Harry Hawk and Ford's Theatre co-owner Harry Ford.

Education Program Feedback



Photo of elementary grade students performing at the Lincoln Memorial by Heather Cipu.

“ I cannot thank you enough for the great tour and the time and energy you put into my students today. As I said, it was a really big deal to be on a field trip ... Not one of the kids I had had ever been to Ford's before ... Thank you so much! It really was such a big deal and so appreciated! ”

-Teacher participating in a Historic Site Field Trip

“ I have been a teacher for 34 years and this weekend was the best Professional Development I have ever received! It was so much more than PD, it was this incredible group of caring, talented, lovely humans all coming together in solidarity for the good of students ... It was like magic ... Thank you for all you do to make this possible. ”

-Teacher participating in the National Oratory Fellows Program

Professional Development for Teachers

Ford's Theatre Society worked with teachers in **49** states, the District of Columbia and American Samoa.

37 teacher leaders in **16** states and the District of Columbia were part of the National Oratory Fellows program. Collectively, they provided oratory-integrated instruction for **3,767** students during the school year.

34 educators from across the country participated in our Summer Teacher Institute. This professional development experience provided them with the understanding and resources to teach about Abraham Lincoln's leadership, legacy and the Civil War. These educators shared their learning with more than **1,700** students last school year.

61 teachers participated in our Teacher Preview Workshops.

In all, **1,251** teachers participated in this year's professional development workshops, both in-person and virtually, on a wide variety of topics including Lincoln's legacy, Civil War Washington, the history of Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Approach to Teaching Oratory.

Oratory at the Lincoln Memorial

One of the highlights of participating in the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Oratory Festival is that students are able to perform their class speeches on the stage at historic Ford's Theatre. As we dealt with the surge of the Omicron variant in the D.C. area during the winter of 2021-2022, we made the decision to have all Lincoln Oratory Festival students remain virtual and join the Lincoln Online Oratory Project. All students were able to complete a recording of their final class performance which was then posted on the Ford's Theatre YouTube page. In addition, select local schools were given the opportunity to perform their speeches on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. This very special event was a part of a series of events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial. It was a wonderful opportunity for these classrooms to perform the speeches they'd learned for an audience in such a historic and important location.



Photo of elementary grade students performing at the Lincoln Memorial by Heather Cipu.

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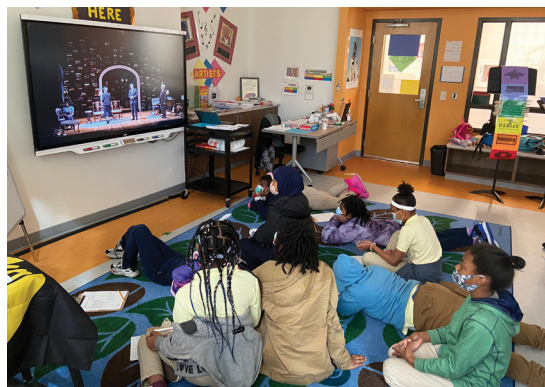
Thank you so much for the best professional development opportunity I have experienced in a long time. I'm really excited about sharing it in the classroom!

– Summer Teacher Institute participant

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Student Matinees Return

The Ford's Theatre Student Matinee program was put on hold during the pandemic to ensure the safety of all. We were able to bring this program back for our 2021-2022 school year for 737 students and 61 teachers. This program offered free and reduced-price tickets for two of our mainstage productions to local students to provide young people access to the performing arts. Ford's Theatre also provides educators free preview performances and pre-show workshops to help them develop learning tools focused on teaching storytelling and history using theatrical experiences.



Students from Kimball Elementary School viewing Ford's Theatre's *My Lord, What a Night*. Photo by Daphne Dunston.

As we were transitioning from all-virtual programming into in-person educational experiences, not all classrooms were ready to return in person. To ensure all students would have access to our fall 2021 production, *My Lord, What a Night*, we gave classrooms the option to stream the production from their classrooms.

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I wanted you to know how much my 5th graders enjoyed watching a large portion of *My Lord, What A Night*. They were extremely engaged!! They have so many questions. I can't wait to share the talk back with the author next week.

– Kimball Elementary School teacher, D.C.

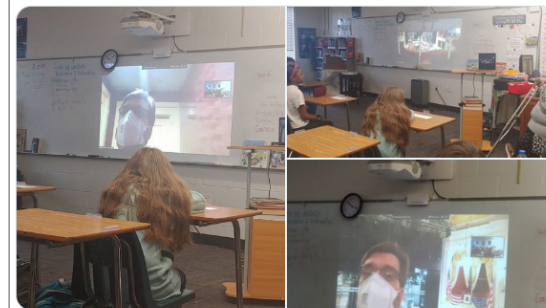
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Reaching Students Across the Country

A South Carolina class engaged in learning by participating in a Virtual Field Trip.



Ms. Matthews' 6th graders are on a virtual field trip to @fordstheatre today! #WolverineWow #NEMSMagic @AikenPublicSch @KDBlankenship



Summer Teacher Institutes



Photo of 2022 Summer Teacher Institute Participants by Heather Cipu.

We were excited to welcome back 34 teachers in person for our Summer Teacher Institute professional development programs. These annual programs make use of partnerships with historic sites in and around D.C. to provide educators with the experience, knowledge and resources to teach about Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, the world of Civil War Washington and the intersection of memory and mythology in our contemporary understanding of the Civil War period.