

## 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 provided enriching museum-based learning and performing arts experiences for students and high-quality professional development resources for educators, both in-person and online. It is through the unique, interdisciplinary blending of the arts and humanities that Ford's Theatre offers students and teachers new perspectives and a learning experience like none other.

### Learning Programs for Students and Online Learners

**16,223**

students directly served by our educational programming.

**3,624**

students experienced a guided tour of the Historic Site led by a member of the Education team.

**5,921**

students experienced a Virtual Field Trip.

**669**

students performed onstage through our annual Oratory programming.

**212**

students performed speeches through the Lincoln Online Oratory Project.

**880**

students attended a Student Matinee with **39** teachers who participated in our Student Matinee Teacher Preview Workshop.

### Education Program Feedback

Ford's Theatre Society worked with students and teachers in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Ecuador this year.



Students explore the Ford's Theatre Museum with Ford's Education staff. Photo by Gary Erskine.

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Thank you so much! The kids had a wonderful time yesterday. It was their very first field trip ever (COVID hit when they were in kindergarten) and you set the bar extremely high! I'm always impressed with every visit and learn something new myself.

– 3rd Grade Teacher in a Historic Site Field Trip

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I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible experience I had at Set In Stone last week. It was truly one of the most remarkable professional developments I have ever attended as an educator...The conference provided a unique platform for educators to exchange insights, collaborate, and broaden our horizons, thus empowering us to make a profound impact on the lives of our students.

– Summer Teacher Institute Participant

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### Professional Development for Teachers and its Student Impact

**880**

teachers served by our educational programming.

#### Summer Teacher Institutes

**40** teachers from **29** states and D.C. participated.

**1,480** collective hours were spent by these teachers during our week-long institutes.

**3,200** students received the benefits of this professional development program by being taught by our Summer Teacher Institute participants.

#### National Oratory Fellows

**41** teachers from **20** states and D.C. participated.

**1,454** collective hours were spent by these teachers over the course of the year working with a Ford's Teaching Artist.

**4,100** students received the benefits of this professional development program by being taught by our National Oratory Fellows.

#### Teacher Workshops

**653** teachers participated in professional development workshops, both in-person and virtually.

## Lincoln Oratory Festival Returns



Photo by Gary Erskine.

After several years of taking place virtually due to the pandemic, this year, the Lincoln Oratory Festival returned with an in-person culminating event where classrooms performed their work on the historic Ford's Theatre stage. This program enables students to experience how the power of public speaking can communicate ideas and inspire others. Classrooms study speeches by a diverse group of historical orators, including Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and Mary McLeod Bethune. Working with a Ford's Teaching Artist over a series of classroom visits, students expand their vocabulary, develop public-speaking skills and build confidence as they bring great speeches to life. **This year, 669 local students and 25 teachers participated in this intensive, hands-on program.**

“ This is an opportunity that many students will never have to perform on a real theatre stage. I love exposing my students to new things. Additionally, working with a real actor/teaching artist helps them make real world connections.  
 – Teacher participating in the Lincoln Oratory Festival ”

## Museum Place-Based Professional Development

This year, Ford's expanded our professional development options for local educators through a series of workshops covering topics pulled from our Summer Teacher Institutes, but presented in manageable, single-day sessions. In collaboration with local scholars and organizations, these three-hour workshops included visits to lesser-known local monuments and sites important to the development of Washington, D.C.'s evolving landscape. We will continue to grow this program during our 2023-2024 season and collaborate with organizations such as Lincoln's Cottage, the National Portrait Gallery and the National Park Service.



Photo by Taylor Malone.

“ Thank you for a wonderful PD on Saturday. It was both informative and inspiring. I will definitely use the information provided within my classes as well as use your resources to build out some field trip opportunities  
 – Professional Development Participant ”

## Reaching Students and Teachers

A National Oratory Fellow expresses her gratitude for the program.



I am so incredibly grateful to be a @FordsEdu National Oratory Fellow. The opportunities my students got this past weekend were one in a million and one they will never forget. Giving my students this opportunity is my why!



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### Class at Ford's Theatre for a Historic Site Visit Field Trip.



First field trip of the school year (and since Covid). We had an amazing time visiting @FordsEdu with our wonderful guide Ms. Alex.



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