

History at Ford's Theatre

Reimagining and reinvigorating the way our patrons and the D.C.-area metro community engage with history, both in-person and online.

Historic Site

396,402

historic site visitors welcomed to Ford's Theatre.



View from the stage of the President's Box at Ford's Theatre. Photo © Maxwell MacKenzie.

Historical Programming

In addition to our mainstage productions, Ford's offers seasonal daytime programming that integrates the history of Ford's Theatre with live theatrical performance.

2,567

students, teachers and lifelong learners participated in *Investigation: Detective McDevitt*.

In our *Investigation: Detective McDevitt* program, visitors follow an actor playing the real-life Detective James McDevitt on a walking tour of downtown Washington, D.C., as he investigates the Lincoln assassination conspiracy. A virtual version of this program is available year-round in classrooms across the country.



Jonathan Atkinson and Joe Mallon in *One Destiny* (2023). Photo by Carolina Dulcey and Gary Erskine.

One Destiny, a one-act play, tells the story of Lincoln's assassination through the eyes of two men who were present that night. This production was available to see live in the historic theatre and virtually on-demand for students, teachers and history enthusiasts from across the country.

57,403

students, teachers and lifelong learners viewed *One Destiny*.

Digital History Resources

Ford's Theatre maintains a robust online presence to extend learning resources to classrooms and online learners everywhere.

Education Pages

23,288 users visited the "Teaching and Learning" pages of our website. These pages contain lesson plans for teachers and students; and links to other resources. Teachers downloaded lessons from the site **3,422** times.

www.fords.org/teaching-and-learning

Assassination Pages

204,394 users visited the assassination pages on the website (with **1,390,651** page views). This online exhibit encourages learners of all ages to trace the story of Lincoln's assassination on their own – from the genesis of the conspiracy to the event's impact on Lincoln's legacy.

www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination

Remembering Lincoln

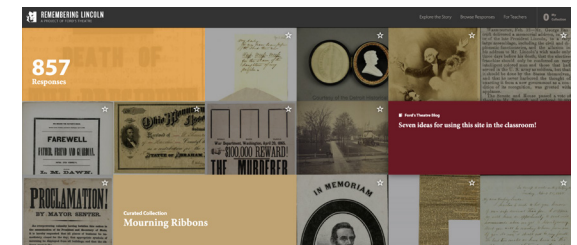
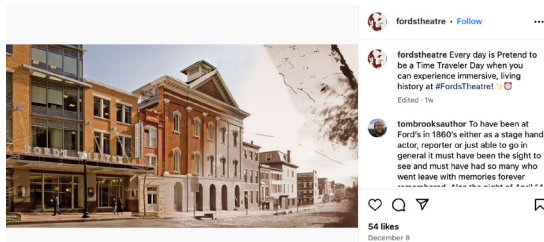
This primary source learning site welcomed **22,173** users (with **27,290** page views) to explore personal responses to Lincoln's untimely death from around the United States.

rememberinglincoln.fords.org

Social Media Reach

2.15 Million +

people reached digitally through Ford's Theatre Society's social media channels, including Facebook, TikTok and Instagram.



Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium



This year, Ford's Theatre hosted the 26th annual Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium on-site for the first time since 2019. This is a free symposium series focused on the life, career and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln. On March 25, 2023, authors Terry Alford, Fred L. Hord, David J. Kent, Diana Schaub and Jon Meacham presented during the symposium. Historian Dr. Edna Greene Medford, Professor of History Emerita at Howard University, facilitated a panel discussion with all speakers to conclude the event. These noted authors and historians discussed aspects of our 16th president's popular memory and legacy, his interactions with abolitionists and his evolving vision for emancipation.

The Abraham Lincoln Institute and Ford's Theatre Society were also proud to announce Jon Meacham as the recipient of the 26th annual Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award. This prestigious award was presented live to Meacham by Michael Burlingame. Meacham was recognized for his book, *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. said of the book: "In his captivating new book, Jon Meacham has given us the Lincoln for our time."



Dr. Edna Greene Medford, Fred L. Hord, Diana Schaub, David J. Kent, Terry Alford and Jon Meacham. Photo by Andrew Buchsbaum.

Ford's For Me Returns!

Ford's For Me, a free sensory-friendly museum program designed to create a welcoming environment for individuals with sensory sensitivities, made its post-pandemic return to Ford's on June 17th, 2023. Visitors were given access to a pre-visit social narrative and other preparatory materials describing what to expect; lower sound levels, especially for surprising or loud sounds in the exhibits; thematic activities; reduced wait times; limited crowds during the time of the experience and allowance for the use of tablets and smartphones for communication. Ford's Theatre staff were trained to be inviting and accommodating to patrons' needs. The event also included a sensory-friendly performance of our one-act play *One Destiny*.



Actor Chris Stinson and participants during Ford's For Me. Photo by Carolina Dulcey.

Cabinet Conversations

On October 20, 2022, Cabinet Conversations returned on the Ford's Theatre social media channels with a discussion on the Emmett Till Antilynching Act with Louis Lopez, Federal Civil Rights Attorney; Dr. Hilary N. Green; James B. Duke, Professor of Africana Studies at Davidson College; and Ifa Bayeza, Playwright. This was a co-sponsored event with Mosaic Theater Company as part of their Reflection Series connected to their world premiere of Ifa Bayeza's *The Till Trilogy*.

Virtual History Workshops

To expand our programming's accessibility to all lifelong learners, Ford's Theatre offers live history-based virtual workshops throughout the year. These workshops explored 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.

891

learners participated in our virtual history workshops.



A student explores the Presidential Box in a virtual tour of Ford's Theatre on an iPad. Photo by Trisha Gointas.

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Wow, wow, wow! Your presentation was outstanding. Your enthusiasm and confidence were infectious. And your knowledge on the topic and the history of Lincoln's time made the presentation just fly by. The slides and maps of D.C. during Lincoln's time were fun and eye-opening. I can't imagine anything you could have done to make this presentation any better. We were so lucky to have you do the presentation. You also made the presentation very relevant to our audience... Thank you for the most amazing presentation.

-Virtual History Workshop Participant

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