



**American  
Alliance of  
Museums**

The Alliance has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 30,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions and corporate partners serving the museum field, we are the only organization representing the entire scope of the broad museum community.

#### **2016 Annual Meeting Theme**

Voltaire wrote, *“With great power comes great responsibility.”* Join us in the United States capital at the American Alliance of Museums 2016 Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo to explore how the themes of power, influence and responsibility shape the work of museums in the U.S. and around the world.



President Lincoln's Cottage first opened to the public in February 2008, after an eight-year capital restoration project under the auspices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is the only place the public can experience the history of Abraham Lincoln's public and private life where he lived and worked for over a quarter of his presidency. While in residence at the Cottage, Lincoln visited with wounded soldiers, spent time with self-emancipated men, women and children, and developed the Emancipation Proclamation. The human cost of the Civil War surrounded him, undoubtedly impacted his thinking, and strengthened his resolve to challenge the status quo. We use Lincoln's example to inspire visitors to take their own path to greatness, and preserve this place as an authentic, tangible connection to the past and a beacon of hope for all who take up Lincoln's unfinished work. As of January 1, 2016, the site is governed and operated by President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldier's Home, a 501(c)(3) public charity.



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## **Museum Power, Influence, and Responsibility**

### *A Public Art Installation*



Hosted by  
**President Lincoln's Cottage**  
*and the*

**Armed Forces Retirement Home**



Commemorating the American Alliance of  
Museums

2016 Annual Meeting & Museum Expo in  
Washington, DC

## *Rotate. Shift. Repeat.* ©2016

**Wesley Clark & Courtney Clark**

With chunks of wood and rubber bands, the artists created *Rotate. Shift. Repeat.* so that blocks can move independently without the whole thing falling apart.

“A museum’s responsibility is ever shifting to accommodate the needs of the day, the needs of modern society. Their power is their influence on societies by choosing what to display, what to focus on—choosing what is important and where it should be placed. The execution of a museum’s mandate is a multifaceted puzzle.”



## *We Stand Together*, 2016

**Michael B. Platt + Carol A. Beane**

Combining image and text inspired by the site’s evocation of lingering spirits of the Civil War, the artists illuminate the challenges faced by President Lincoln in crafting the Emancipation Proclamation during his time at the Cottage.

*We Stand Together* recognizes and acknowledges the presence and contributions of African Americans in the Civil War and conveys the responsibility of museums to engage and restore hope to people in spite of difficult conversations that shed light on past injustices, and to do so with dignity.



### [AAM 2016 Local Host Committee - Public Engagement Subcommittee](#)

Co-chairs: Lisa Richards Toney (Arts Management Consultant) & Karen L. Daly (Dumbarton House, NSCDA)

Joy Ford Austin (Humanities DC), Martha Jackson Jarvis (Public Artist), Erin Carlson Mast (President Lincoln’s Cottage), Samir Meghelli (Anacostia Museum), and Lavinia Wohlfarth (Wohlfarth Galleries)