



# PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE



ANNUAL REPORT  
2016



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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

On January 1, 2016, President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home, a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, took over stewardship of Abraham Lincoln's seasonal retreat. It was the last of the original goals to be realized since President Clinton declared the site a National Monument.

Independence has afforded us the self-determination and ability to make investments in systems and growth necessary to meet the needs of our unique operation and to lay the groundwork to fulfill our vision and mission. When President Lincoln's Cottage first opened to the public in 2008, few could have predicted what we would become. And yet, in 2016, we had myriad accomplishments in our first year as an independent 501(c)(3): winning numerous national awards for excellence in history, events and innovation in education; adding key roles to our team; earning a range of national media coverage from Discovery Family to C-SPAN to New York Times Magazine; attending a summit with Nobel Laureates including the Dalai Lama in India; and receiving a Presidential Medal. It's a small reminder that our past informs our present, but our future remains unwritten.

We could not have accomplished any of this without your encouragement, guidance, and support. One of the great joys of studying Lincoln is that it seems there is always more to discover in ways that offer new perspective on how Abraham Lincoln's ideas continue to impact our lives today. We also happen to find our country once again a house divided. Our past and our present merge to create a clarion call for us to take up the unfinished work and go forward together.

Sincerely,



Erin Mast  
CEO & Executive Director

*On the cover: SOS participants, PLC Board and staff meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi, December 2016 (Tenzin Choejer)*



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Speaking on behalf of our entire Board, I want to thank all who have helped in the remarkable creation of President Lincoln's Cottage as we know it today. When I first visited, the Cottage was used as government office space with medal desks and partitions. Now it's an award-winning organization, welcoming people around the world for high-impact programs at an expertly preserved site. The Board and I could not be more proud of all that has been accomplished.

Although much has been accomplished, our work is far from finished. In 2017 we will complete a robust strategic plan detailing our goals for the coming years and the means to achieve those goals. This plan will guide our ongoing effort to preserve President Lincoln's Cottage as a "home for brave ideas" and to deploy President Lincoln's brave ideas to address the contemporary issues our nation faces.

We could not have done any of this without your support, and I look forward to working together toward what lies ahead. On behalf of the founding Board of Directors, I thank you for your commitment to President Lincoln's Cottage.

Sincerely,



Lester G. "Ruff" Fant, III  
Chairman, Board of Director



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## CONNECT WITH DIVERSE COMMUNITIES



UNITY, an interactive public art project during Family Day, September 2016 (Bruce Guthrie)

## EMPOWER THROUGH INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

Each year, President Lincoln's Cottage hosts over 5,000 students – ranging from kindergarten to graduate school, from all parts of the country – to walk in President Lincoln's footsteps as they learn. With our award-winning education programs, students gain insight into his most influential ideas and decisions, and walk away thinking about how to apply these lessons to their lives and planning to make the world a better place.

All of our school programs are offered free of charge to DC public schools and Title I schools in Maryland and Virginia, thanks to private contributions. In school year 2015-16 we saw a record number of students come to the site to engage with Lincoln's big ideas and to grow their own. We were proud to offer 34 scholarships paying for transportation to the site from local schools, making this space available and accessible to students who rarely get to leave the classroom.

The mission of President Lincoln's Cottage is to bring the world to the Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation and connect with Lincoln through his untold stories. We take this very seriously, and create ways for people locally and around the world to engage with Lincoln's beloved retreat, both in person and online. In 2016 we brought over 30,000 people onsite as they participated in tours, public events and school programs, and unique activities like the public art installations, "Rotate, Shift, Repeat" and "We Stand Together."

The Cottage presents an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to think about and debate questions of leadership, justice, freedom, and power. Our depth of experience, understanding of the communities we serve, and agility allow us to make quick decisions with impactful results. On November 9, 2016, we opened our doors after-hours to members of the community who were eager for the opportunity to reflect on how we might build national unity. This same-day decision brought over 100 people to the site on a rainy evening, giving individuals the opportunity to draw strength from this place and connect with one another.

“

**THIS IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT HELPED [STUDENTS] BRIDGE THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT. [PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE] HELPS ADD VALUE TO THE HUMAN FAMILY AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF VOTERS.**

”

- DC PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER



Museum Program Associate Joan on the veranda of the Cottage with a school group (Bruce Guthrie)



## SHARE GROUNDBREAKING SCHOLARSHIP

According to the Library of Congress, every 5.5 days a new book about Abraham Lincoln is published. We at President Lincoln's Cottage are committed to sharing the latest scholarship that not only explains the context of Lincoln in his time, but connects Lincoln's untold stories with those conversations we are still having today.

A powerful example of this work is our annual Lincoln Ideas Forum. Developed in 2015 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's last ride to the Cottage, we brought the popular event back for a second year to examine the impact of Lincoln's life's work on today's lived experience. Bringing leaders in the fields of human trafficking prevention, economics, peacebuilding, and reconciliation to the Cottage for a free public program, we used the Lincoln Ideas Forum to create an ongoing dialogue about how issues of the 19th century are and are not still relevant and how we might use this knowledge and these frameworks to collaborate to create a promising future.



“

**PRESENTING AT THE LINCOLN IDEAS FORUM WAS INSPIRING AND INVIGORATING. PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE IS DOING GREAT THINGS FOR MUSEUMS AND THE NATION.**

”

- TED MARIS-WOLF  
2016 LINCOLN IDEAS FORUM MODERATOR

## PRESERVE TANGIBLE CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST



Guests on a private tour touch the original banister

“

**I GOT CHILLS WHEN I LAID MY HAND UPON THE STAIR RAILING AS I ASCENDED FROM THE BOTTOM FLOOR ...TO CONNECT WITH THIS GIANT OF A MAN WHO HAD SUCH AN IMPACT ON OUR COUNTRY.**

”

- VISITOR ON A GUIDED TOUR

At President Lincoln's Cottage, we see preservation as essential to our vision that the world will meet the true Lincoln and continue his fight for freedom. By preserving to the highest standards the space Lincoln

inhabited daily while wrestling with our country's most difficult challenges, we not only make the site available to the public today, we ensure it is a beacon of hope for all who seek to take up Lincoln's unfinished work.

Our work to preserve and maintain President Lincoln's Cottage and the adjacent Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is exemplified by our accomplishments this past year. In particular, the choices we made around replacing the well-worn cocoa matting on the floors of the Cottage are in service of our commitment to preserve the physical space in a way consistent with the story of the man who lived here. By choosing a product guaranteed to be made without slave labor, we paid homage both to the look and feel of the Cottage during the Lincoln era as well as the important ideas that were nurtured during Lincoln's time here.



## ADVANCE BIG IDEAS

While in residence at the Cottage, Abraham Lincoln developed and signed some of the country's most seminal documents, including the Gettysburg Address, his 1864 Act to Encourage Immigration, and most notably, the Emancipation Proclamation. Being here allowed Lincoln the space to both reflect and create, as well as the opportunity to interact with citizens who he might not otherwise get to meet – self-emancipated men, women, and children; veterans in residence at the Soldiers' Home; and DC residents he encountered along his daily commute. We take up Lincoln's fight for freedom as our own, using the history of the space as a means to engage visitors and participants in conversations about change today, and encourage them to be active and engaged citizens.



*SOS participants and PLC staff pose with Ambassador Susan Coppedge and the Presidential Medal at the White House, October, 2016*

Our innovative Students Opposing Slavery program is a prime example of how we advance big ideas. In 2016, the program won multiple national awards, including the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the prestigious American Alliance of Museums EdCom award for innovation in museum education. Students and staff for the program also attended the Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit in New Delhi, India. Meeting with leaders from all over the world, such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama and 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, we shared our work to advance efforts to end slavery.

### PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED IN JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Contributions and grants	\$342,121	\$933,657	\$1,275,778
Admissions and museum store	\$214,511	-	\$214,511
Programs and events income	\$92,744	-	\$92,744
In-kind donations	\$73,071	-	\$73,071
Other revenue	\$1,592	-	\$1,592
Net assets released from donor restrictions	\$245,000	\$(245,000)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$969,039</b>	<b>\$688,657</b>	<b>\$1,657,696</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services	\$630,914	-	\$630,914
General & administrative	\$47,774	-	\$47,774
Fundraising	\$99,049	-	\$99,049
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$777,737</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$777,737</b>
Change in net assets	\$191,302	\$688,657	\$879,959
Net assets at beginning of period	-	-	-
Transfer of net assets from NTHP	\$1,109,739	\$32,300	\$1,142,039
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$1,301,041</b>	<b>\$720,957</b>	<b>\$2,021,998</b>

Prior to January 1, 2016, President Lincoln's Cottage operated as a unit of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and all assets were tracked within the parent organization. On January 1, 2016, our entire operation was transferred to an independent 501(c)(3) and all assets generated by the Cottage operation exclusively for its own benefit prior to that date were transferred to the new entity.



# THANK YOU

## Foundation, Corporate & Government

**\$250,000 +**

ROBERT H. SMITH FAMILY FOUNDATION

**\$50,000 +**

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND (US) LLP  
THE PULVERMANN TRUST

**\$25,000 +**

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

**\$10,000 +**

THE NEWBURGER- SCHWARTZ FAMILY FOUNDATION

\$5,000 +

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL FOUNDATION  
THE GIPSON FAMILY FOUNDATION  
THE KIJLINGER FOUNDATION  
RICHARD SCHWARTZ FAMILY FOUNDATION  
SUGARPLUM TENT COMPANY

\$1,000 +

BROWN-FORMAN CORPORATION  
THE MALKIN FUND

## Individuals

\$50,000 +

RUFF AND SUSAN FANT                      JAMES LYNCH

\$25,000 +

JEAN BADERSCHNEIDER AND PAT MACAREVEY  
MICHAEL AND SUSAN KAHN  
BETH NEWBURGER

\$10,000 +

DANIEL AND JUDITH CARMICHAEL      DAVID BRUCE SMITH  
TEFFT AND NANCY SMITH

\$5,000 +

MERRICK AND MELISSA CAREY	DAN AND DEBBY MCGINN
CANDICE SHY HOOPER	RICK AND KAREN MURPHY
THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR	ERIC AND DOREEN SPIEGEL

\$1,000 +

ANONYMOUS  
SAPIENZA BARONE AND BRODIE REMINGTON  
BO BRYANT AND BILL THORNE  
NANCY COPPLE  
CARY FRANKLIN  
MARC AND KIMBERLY GOLDWEIN  
PAMELA HATFIELD-WELLS  
JOSEPH HORNING, JR  
ERIN CARLSON MAST  
DEBORAH MESHULAM AND ANDREW BECKER  
PAUL AND BRENDA PASCAL  
RONALD AND LINDA STALEY  
FLORENCE STANLEY  
MATTHEW AND LISA WATKINS  
BARI WINCHELL  
LAURA WOLVERTON  
KATHLEEN AND LARRY ZIMPLEMAN

UP TO \$1,000

AIMEE CUSTIS PHOTOGRAPHY  
BIALEK'S MUSIC  
BOEING  
CORCORAN CATERERS  
CATERING BY SEASONS  
DC BRAU  
DESIGN CUISINE  
FEDERAL CITY CATERERS  
FUND RAISING STRATEGIES, INC  
GEICO PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION  
JUSTICE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

LIGHTHOUSE YOGA CENTER  
MAIN EVENTS CATERERS  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
OCCASIONS CATERERS  
PETWORTH CITIZEN  
RSVP CATERING  
SCHOOLFIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
TIMBER PIZZA  
UNITED WAY, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA



*A student acts as a Union Soldier (Bruce Guthrie)*

UP TO \$1,000

Anonymous  
Jim Abbott  
Zak Adams  
Lisa Aguilera del Puerto  
Marc Albert  
Jamie Albright  
Stephen Alderman  
Jeremy Alward  
Jacqueline Amthor  
Matthieu Andre and Emily Kaiser  
Evanthia Angelo  
Richard Angelo  
Michelle Antenesse  
Morris Antonelli  
Alan and Susan Apter  
Feliqe Aquino  
Kevin Arnovitz  
Renae Ask  
Emma Auburn  
Stephen Bacher  
Bret Bailline  
Christine Baldwin  
Betty Barnett  
Lynn Barnett  
Christopher Barr and Patricia Jayne  
Danielle Barrios  
Thomas Barry  
Becky Bartness  
Bob Bauer  
Jeff Beach and Janelle Clark  
Benjamin Beaury  
Barbara Bemis  
Jessica Bennett  
Denise Benskin  
Barbara Berlin  
Lawrence Berlin  
Susan Bernhardt  
Ronda Bernstein  
Don Bianco  
Colin Bill  
Judith Bill  
Peter and Catherine Bishop  
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Alicia Blassengale  
Toni Lee Blate  
Robert Blohm  
Evelyn Booth  
Eileen Bradner  
John Brennan  
Karla Bright  
Patricia Brosmer  
Bruce Brown  
Keith and Genie Brown  
James Brown  
Lyndea Brown  
William Brown  
Norman Buckman  
Margaret and Jay Burcham  
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Sandra Byrne  
Debra Cagan  
Harley Cahen  
Denis Cainero  
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Tom Canick  
Yvette Cano-Adams  
Lorena Carlson  
Burrus Carnahan  
Albert Caron, Jr.  
Dana Carroll  
Sue Carruthers  
Peter Carter  
Ruth Carter  
Michael Cavey  
James and Karen Chamberlain  
Christopher Chambers  
Alka Chandna  
Martha Child  
Katherine Chon



THANK YOU

UP TO \$1,000 continued

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	Laura Kunkel	Jason Palumbo	Collette Solomon	





## MISSION

BRING THE WORLD TO "THE CRADLE OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION,"  
AND CONNECT WITH LINCOLN THROUGH HIS UNTOLD STORIES.

## VISION

MEET THE TRUE LINCOLN AND CONTINUE HIS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.



**PRESIDENT  
LINCOLN'S COTTAGE**

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WASHINGTON, DC 20011

202-829-0436

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