



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America

HARTFORD CT (September 6, 2011) —The Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library is presenting “Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America,” a world-class educational exhibition sponsored by the Lincoln Financial Foundation. The exhibit features reproduction artifacts from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. Hartford Public Library is the only Connecticut venue for this traveling exhibit on display from September 27 through November 29, 2011.

The exhibit is composed of learning stations and covers Lincoln’s life from his childhood through his self-education, careers as a surveyor and a lawyer, his family life, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the 1860 Presidential election, the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution that abolished slavery in 1865, and his death.

The Hartford History Center will have on display additional Civil War artifacts and images culled from Hartford Public Library’s own special collections to further illuminate the period. The exhibition was mounted in conjunction with the state’s 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Running concurrently, digital images of The Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk at Riverfront will be displayed on the Downtown Library’s kinetic wall in the atrium. This digital installation provides a link between the outdoor sculpture and the current traveling exhibit. The sculpture walk celebrates the art of leadership, a president for the ages, and a legacy that inspires generations.

“Abraham Lincoln left home as a young man in search of opportunities for a better life. Through hard work, personal study and perseverance, he obtained the highest office in the country. His story transcends the specifics of time and place. We are grateful to the Lincoln Financial Foundation for allowing us to share this man’s inspirational journey,” said Hartford Public Library CEO Matthew K. Poland.

“In light of Hartford’s role in Abraham Lincoln’s road to the White House, as well as our parent corporation’s historical connection with the Lincoln family and our sponsorship of the Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk at Riverfront, this was a natural partnership for us,” said Byron Champlin, Hartford program officer for Lincoln Foundation. “The hallmarks of Abraham Lincoln’s life were integrity, service,

and confidence in the future regardless of challenges; these are qualities that serve us as well in the 21st century as they did in the 19th.”

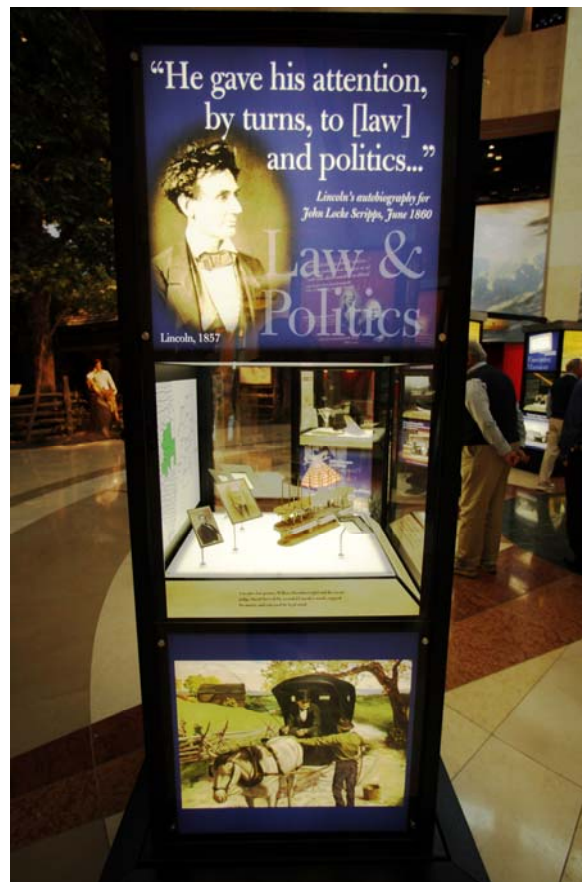
An opening reception will be held on Tuesday, September 27, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The evening will include a brief talk by Hartford author Wilson H. Faude on the Hartford Wide Awakes, the first political marching organization in the country and a major force in Lincoln’s 1860 campaign. Additionally, recognized Lincoln portrayer Howard Wright will bring the words and spirit of Abraham Lincoln to life for evening guests. The reception will be held in the Hartford History Center, on the third floor of the Downtown Library, with refreshments on the **ARTWALK**. The reception and the exhibition are free and open to the public.

Parking is available on the parking deck adjacent to the library on Arch Street. The Hartford History Center is on the third floor of the Downtown Library and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. The Center is happy to arrange group tours (a party of six or more people) and field trips. Reservations can be made by calling the Center at 860-695-6297.



Lincoln portrayer Howard Wright, who will be at the opening reception September 27, 2011



One of the learning stations in the exhibit

About Hartford History Center

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library, collects, preserves, and makes available materials and information relating to the history, literature, and culture of Hartford. The holdings include, but are not limited to books; scrapbooks; pamphlets; the City of Hartford archives; the Hartford City Parks collection; image collections; maps; fine and graphic arts, including paintings, posters, prints and drawings; and memorabilia – those materials that preserve and share the story of Hartford, Connecticut - its place, its people, and its past. Located on the third floor of the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street, the Hartford History Center is open 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, please call the Center at 860-695-6297 or visit online at www.hplct.org/hhc.

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. www.hplct.org