

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The year 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. The Chicago History Museum is proud to play a major role in presenting a year-long celebration of his life highlighting his historic contributions to America. The Museum's celebration began on his birthday, February 12, 2009, and will conclude on April 12, 2010 with exhibitions and programming throughout the year.

The programs and exhibitions throughout the celebratory year will engage visitors to explore the qualities that make Lincoln familiar and meaningful for Americans today. Programming includes holiday celebrations, lectures, and tours, many of which will be enhanced through partnerships with organizations such as the Chicago Public Library, The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and the National Museum of Mexican Art. "Our leadership in city-wide efforts will help to make Chicago one of the most important national sites for celebrating the Lincoln Bicentennial," stated Gary T. Johnson, Chicago History Museum president.

On February 12, 2009 the Museum kicked-off the bicentennial celebration with the opening of the exhibition, *Lincoln Treasures*. This exhibition highlighted key artifacts and documents from the Museum's collection that rekindled visitors' emotions and excited memories about the man and his legacy. An exhibition opened on July 4, 2009 in the KPMG and Katherine and Paul Snyder Community Gallery that explores the Lincoln Park neighborhood. *Lincoln Park Block by Block* includes the story of how the neighborhood was named in honor of President Abraham Lincoln after his assassination in 1865.

The Museum will open *Abraham Lincoln Transformed* and *Benito Juárez and the Making of Modern Mexico* on October 10, 2009. These exhibitions will show the lives and impact of two major contemporary presidential leaders during a time of civil unrest for both countries.

Chicago-based Exelon is the presenting sponsor of the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. Additional support has been provided by the Crown Family and Gordon and Carole Segal.