



The Soul of Illinois

For Immediate Release

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**ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM COMMEMORATES
AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEGENDS AND HISTORY**

***Museum taps into growing African-American interest in cultural
tourism***

SPRINGFIELD, III. – School groups and individuals can enjoy the perfect opportunity to add a meaningful educational component to their next trip by visiting the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Illinois. The museum pays tribute to the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, and also revisits the harsh reality of slavery in America while celebrating African-American freedom fighters.

“Within its 40,000 square feet of exhibits, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum provides the perfect balance of scholarship and showmanship,” Illinois Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich said. “The impressive facility, technology and exhibits take visitors on a “you are there” journey they will never forget. It’s a must-see Illinois attraction.”

Museum visitors travel through a series of “journeys,” where several facets of the president’s life and political career are highlighted. One journey, The Slave Auction, is a compelling depiction of a family being divided as its members are auctioned off to slave owners.

While traveling down the Illusion Corridor, visitors experience first-hand a sea of crude whispers, bringing the harsh realities of a divided nation

back to life as anti-abolitionists brashly denounce Lincoln's stance on slavery. The museum immerses guests in the experience, reminding them that the issue of slavery was one of America's most divisive periods.

Another journey brings visitors to a replica of the White House, outside of which sit life-like figures of Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth waiting for the opportunity to speak with the president. Once inside, visitors will see Mrs. Lincoln being fitted for a dress by Elizabeth Keckley, a former slave who became her dressmaker and closest confidant during the war years.

There is even a re-creation of the White House kitchen, where visitors can listen as African-American workers whisper about the possibility of emancipation.

Other journeys chronicle Lincoln's life as a young boy, to the beginning of his political career and through his assassination and funeral.

The museum is the ideal travel option for the growing number of Americans who enjoy cultural travel. According to the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), an estimated 75 percent of travelers--or 109.8 million Americans--participate in some sort of cultural activity as part of their vacation experience. TIA also notes that cultural events and activities are a primary facet of most African-American travel itineraries.

"We are proud to have such an extraordinary addition to Illinois' cultural tourism offerings," said Jan Kostner, deputy director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism. "The museum does a remarkable job of immersing visitors into the rich history of our country and one of its most respected leaders."

A visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will provide travelers an enjoyable and educational experience ideal for Black History Month

and beyond. Schools and other groups interested in specialized museum tours can contact the museum at **(800) 610-2094** or visit www.alplm.org.

For more information about Illinois destinations and attractions, visit www.soulfulillinois.com or call **1-800-2CONNECT**.