

Ford's Theatre Society Board of Governors 2019–2020



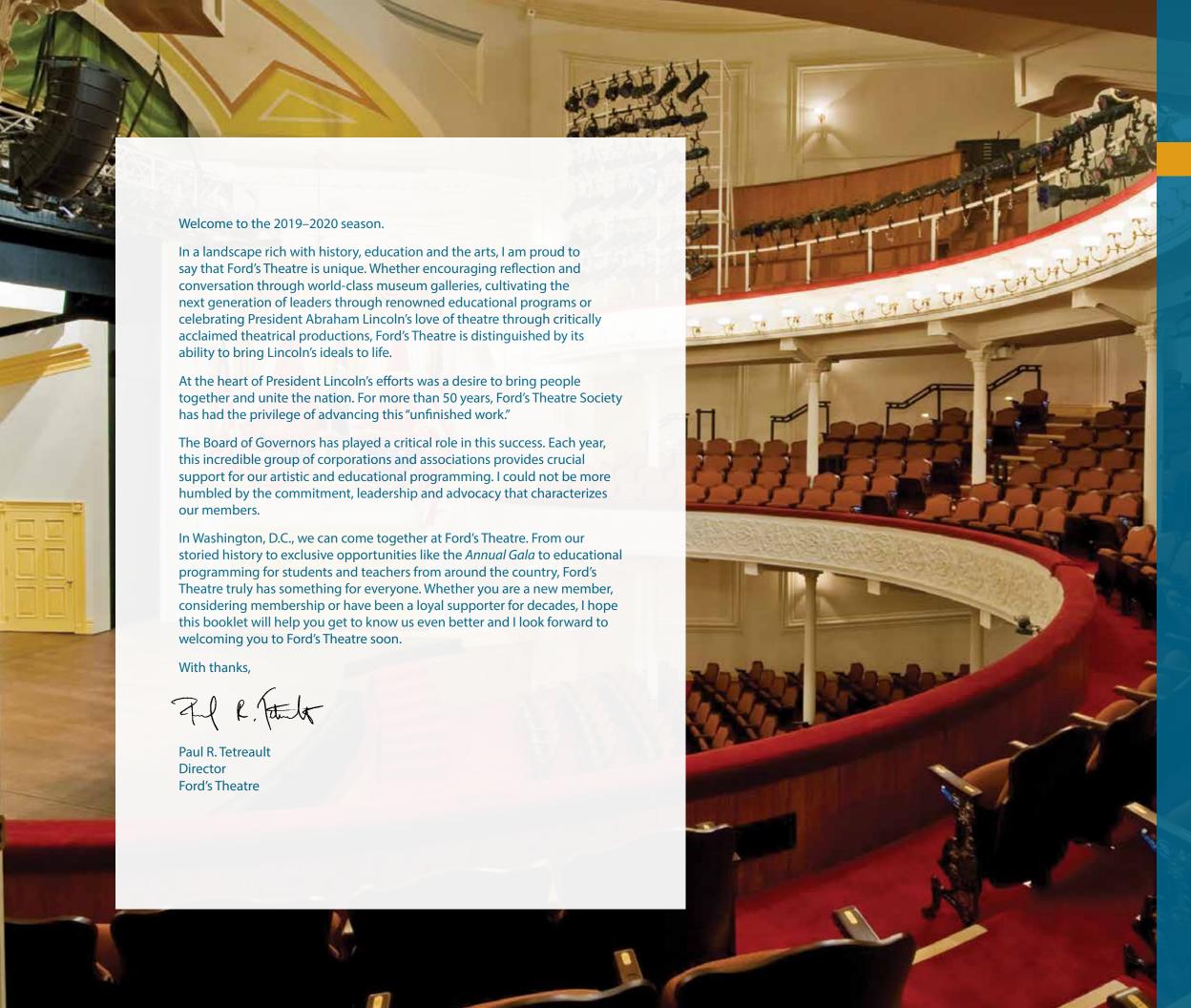
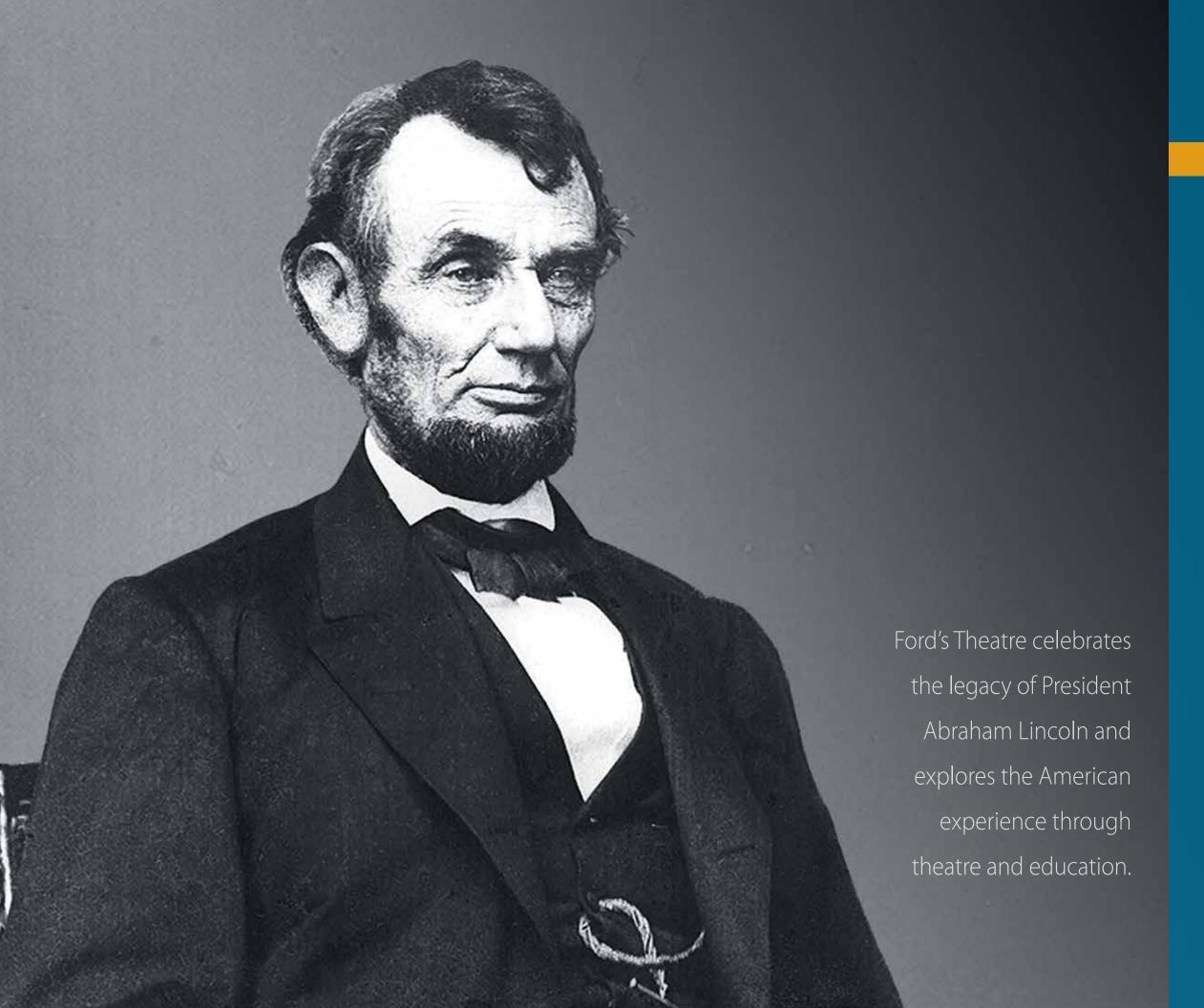


Table of Contents

History, Mission, Vision and Values
History3
Programming Vision5
Did You Know?7
Unparalleled Access
Exclusive Opportunities11
Ford's Theatre Annual Gala13
Benefits Chart15
Derients Chare
Educational Opportunities
Local Programs19
Local Schools Served21
National Programs23
National Schools Served27

Phebe N. Novakovic
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Maria Pica Karp
Chairman, Board of Governors
Paul R. Tetreault
Director, Ford's Theatre

n Cover: Ford's Theatre book tower. Background: Inside Ford's Theatre. notos © Maxwell MacKenzie.



History,
Mission,
Vision and
Values

Abraham Lincoln photo courtesy of Ford's Theatre Historic Site



A NEW THEATRE

What became Ford's Theatre was originally the First Baptist Church of Washington, which opened in 1834.

The church site piqued the interest of John T. Ford, a successful theatre owner with several venues in cities along the East Coast. Ford had previously failed at running a theatre in Washington,



First Baptist Church of Washington. Image courtesy of The Library of Congress.

D.C., but as Washington's population boomed during the Civil War, he decided to try his luck again. Ford rented the former church in 1861, renovated the space and presented it as Ford's Athenaeum.

In 1862, Ford purchased the building, but after a destructive fire, he rebuilt his new theatre on the same site on an even grander scale, mimicking the design of his Holliday Street Theatre in Baltimore. Ford's New Theatre opened in 1863 and presented a mix of comedies, variety shows and Shakespearean plays with well-known actors—including members of the famous Booth family—that attracted an elite clientele.

During the Civil War, Ford's Theatre grew to become one of Washington's top entertainment venues, giving residents a much-needed break from the realities of war. President Abraham Lincoln—who loved theatre, opera and Shakespeare—visited Ford's Theatre on at least 10 formal occasions.

On November 9, 1863, President Lincoln saw John Wilkes Booth in a performance of *The Marble Heart*, where it was observed that Booth seemed to direct several of his lines menacingly toward the president.

THE FATEFUL NIGHT

Less than two years later, the Civil War was coming to an end, and much of the country rejoiced. On April 14, 1865, the Lincolns decided to join in the festivities by visiting the theatre to take in the popular comedy *Our American Cousin*, featuring famous actress Laura Keene in her one-thousandth performance.

News of President Lincoln's planned attendance quickly spread throughout the city. By the time the performance began, nearly 2,000 patrons were in attendance.

John Wilkes Booth also learned of the president's plans. A member of the famous Booth family of actors and a fiercely loyal Confederate sympathizer, Booth was at Ford's Theatre earlier in the day to collect his mail—a common practice of renowned actors at the time—when he heard the news. Having intimate knowledge of the theatre, Booth quickly pivoted on his previous plan of kidnapping President Lincoln.

Right: Our American Cousin playbill. Photo by Gary Erskine. Above: Ford's Theatre circa 1865. Photo courtesy of The Library of Congress.



Lincoln assassination rendering. Image courtesy of The Library of Congress.

He launched an aggressive plot to "decapitate" the federal government by assassinating the president, Secretary of State William H. Seward and Vice President Andrew Johnson with the help of three co-conspirators.

Booth carefully arranged events for the evening, entered the unguarded Presidential Box and shot Lincoln with a single-shot deringer pistol around 10:15 p.m. He fled the crime scene, escaped through the backstage theatre door and hid out in Maryland and Virginia for 12 days before Union soldiers found and killed him.

After Booth fired his fatal shot, soldiers in the theatre audience carried President Lincoln across the street to a boarding house owned by William A. Petersen, now known as the Petersen House. Lincoln died there at 7:22 a.m. the next morning surrounded by family, officials and friends.

Lincoln's assassination shocked a nation already ravaged by the Civil War, and Ford's New Theatre remained closed for more than 100 years.

REVIVAL OF FORD'S THEATRE

In 1964, Congress approved funds to create a historic site by restoring Ford's Theatre to its original 1865 appearance. Although the building's facade remained more or less intact, the interior needed extensive reconstruction due to deterioration since the night of the assassination.

Upon hearing that the newly renovated theatre would not host live productions, Frankie Hewitt (1931-2003) founded the non-profit Ford's Theatre Society in 1968, which reintroduced live performances to Ford's Theatre for the first time since the night of Lincoln's assassination.

Today, Ford's Theatre is operated through a publicprivate partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service and comprises four venues across its campus—the Theatre, Museum, the Petersen House and the Aftermath Exhibits in the Center for Education and Leadership.



Aftermath Exhibits. Photo by Gary Erskine.



Cast of the 2018 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Photo by Scott Suchman.

The site of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, Ford's Theatre lives at the heart of the Washington, D.C., experience—a vibrant stage for engaging and entertaining theatrical encounters and an immersive environment that celebrates the life and values of Abraham Lincoln and his evolving legacy.

As both a National Historic Site and a producing theatre, Ford's Theatre occupies a unique place among American cultural organizations. We draw upon Lincoln's legacy and the transformative power of theatre to awaken visitors and audiences to the necessity for individual and societal empathy. Many consider Ford's Theatre to be a sacred space, and by keeping the theatre alive, we assert that Ford's is not just the site of Lincoln's assassination but also a place where all audiences can experience the joy and inspiration that Lincoln himself found in the performing arts.

Lincoln believed fervently in the United States, a country more united by its commonalities than divided by differences. We follow Lincoln's example, moved by his capacity to see the humanity in all people during one of the most turbulent eras in American history.

With Lincoln's leadership as our inspiration, Ford's Theatre endeavors to be a beacon of hope, advancing his "unfinished work." We bring together people from across the globe, from different backgrounds and with varying viewpoints. We bridge divides, cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and embrace shared ideals. We do these things to stir people to choose community over isolation and to find and celebrate our common humanity.



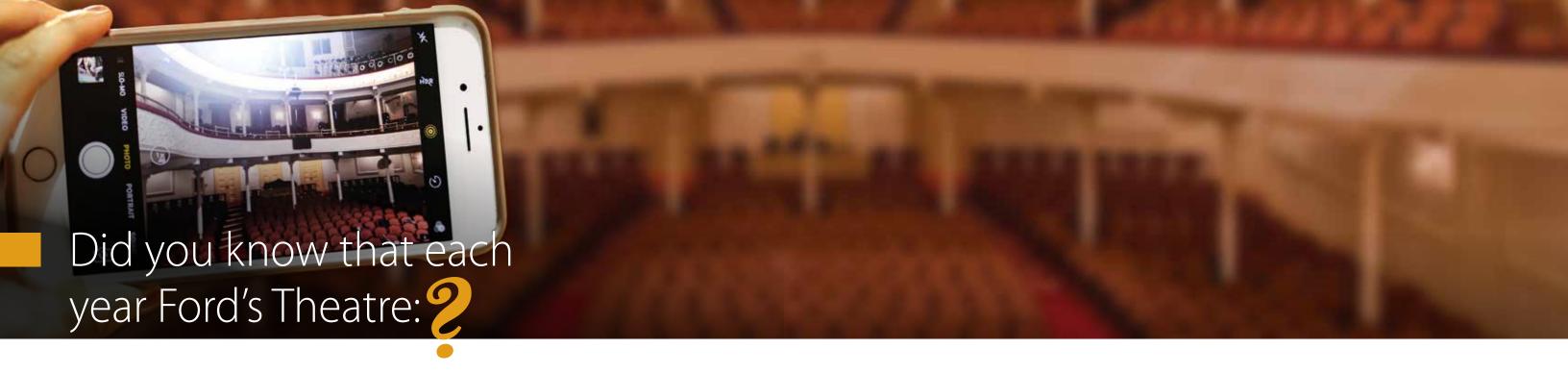
Erika Rose and Craig Wallace for the upcoming Ford's Theatre production of August Wilson's *Fences*. Photo by Scott Suchman.



Laura C. Harris for *Silent Sky* at Ford's Theatre. Photo by Scott Suchman.



Maria Egler, Joe Mallon, Karen Vicent and Bueka Uwemedimo for the upcoming Ford's Theatre production of *Guys and Dolls*. Photo by Scott Suchman.





Presents more than **200 MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES**, as well as 100 performances of *One Destiny*, the story of Lincoln's assassination.



Offers SENSORY-FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCES AND MUSEUM
EXPERIENCES serving approximately
400 people.



Brings more than 650,000 VISITORS from around the world to the historic site for tours and performances.



Fosters a community of MORE THAN
100 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS and
Lincoln enthusiasts through its
Generation Abe programming.



Promotes the local creative economy by engaging approximately **250 CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS**, nearly all of whom hail from the Washington, D.C., area.



Serves nearly **280,000 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS** annually through its education programs, including distance-learning initiatives.

Header image by Nicole Glass. Inset photos T-B: Stephen F. Schmidt and Michael Bunce. Photo by Gary Erskine.; Guided tour. Photo by Scott Suchman; Ines Nassara and Monique Midgette. Photo by Carol Rosegg.

Inset photos T-B: Justine "Icy" Moral meets an attendee of the sensory-friendly performance of *Into the Woods*. Photo by Margot Schulman. Generation Abe. Photo by Kendra Scott. National Oratory Fellows. Photo by Gary Erskine.





Header: Ronald O. Perelman Board Room. Photo by Gary Erskine.

Ford's Theatre Society
Board of Governors
members have
unparalleled access
to the historic site,
including locations that
are unavailable to the
general public.

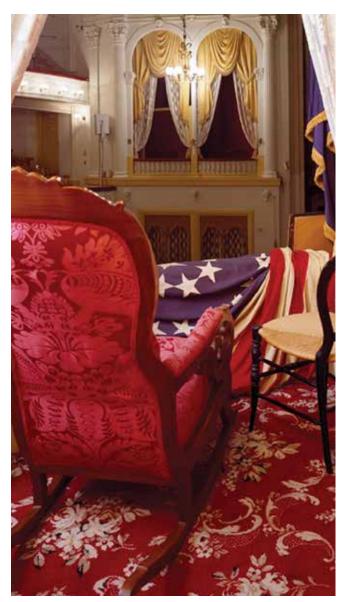
THE RONALD O. PERELMAN BOARD ROOM

Entertain executives, clients and employees while experiencing the grandeur of President Lincoln's era. The Ford's Theatre Board Room historically and elegantly sets the stage for exclusive receptions and dinners with its 1865 parlor-style décor.

This space, located within the theatre on its second balcony, can accommodate up to 24 people for a seated dinner and 60 people for a standing cocktail reception.

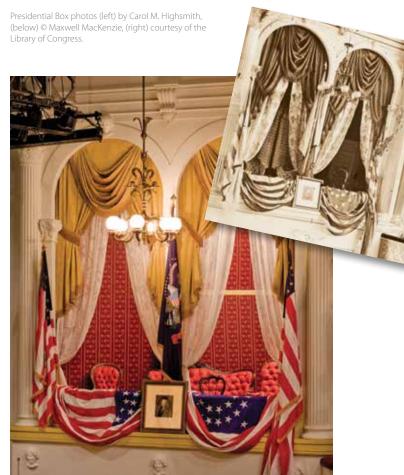


Ronald O. Perelman Board Room.



FORD'S THEATRE PRESIDENTIAL BOX

Arrange an exclusive after-hours tour of Ford's Theatre and the Museum for your executives, clients and employees. Learn more about 1860s Washington and President Lincoln's time in office, while exploring the tragic event of April 14, 1865.





Ford's Theatre Annual Gala, 2018. Photo by Photo by Margot Schulman.

The Annual Gala offers guests a chance to visit various iconic Washington, D.C., institutions in one weekend.

Actress Helen Hayes at the 1968 reopening of Ford's Theatre. Photo courtesy of Ford's Theatre Society.

ANNUAL GALA

In 1978, First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Mrs. Millie O'Neill joined together to chair the first Ford's Theatre gala. Since then, the Ford's Theatre Annual Gala has been the highlight of the Ford's Theatre season. This bi-partisan event draws some of Washington's most prominent citizens, including the President, First Lady, Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries, Supreme Court Justices and members of the diplomatic community, as well as national leaders in business and philanthropy.

As one of the most exclusive events in Washington, the *Annual Gala* offers guests a unique chance to visit various iconic Washington, D.C., institutions in one weekend.



Justin Moses and Sierra Hull at the *Annual Gala*, 2019. Photo by Margot Schulman.



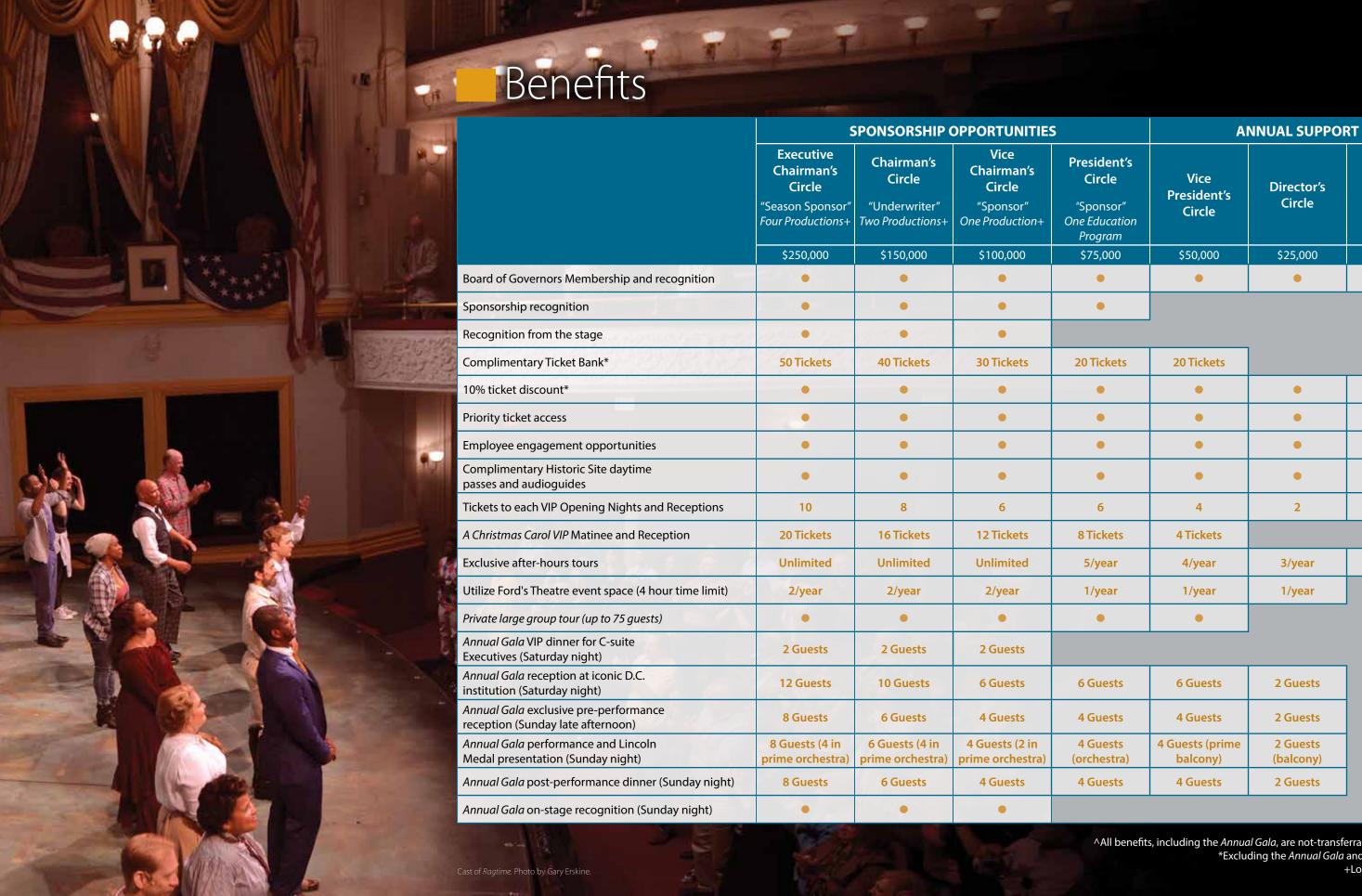
Lincoln Medalist Sheila C. Johnson at the *Annual Gala*, 2018. Photo by Margot Schulman.

The Annual Gala performance features the presentation of the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medals to individuals who, through their bodies of work, accomplishments or personal attributes, exemplify the lasting legacy and character embodied by President Lincoln. Past recipients have included Dr. Maya Angelou, Julie Andrews, Morgan Freeman, Doris Kearns Goodwin, The Honorable John Lewis, Peyton W. Manning and Elie Wiesel.



The 1970 *Annual Gala* attended by First Lady Patricia Nixon and former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower (at center). Photo courtesy Lisa Cassara.

Each year, the Annual Gala provides critical funding to support the artistic performances, arts education programs and outreach initiatives available throughout the year to students and families across the country. Support from the Ford's Theatre Annual Gala helps ensure that generations, both current and future, will find inspiration and encouragement in the legacy of President Lincoln.



^All benefits, including the *Annual Gala*, are not-transferrable to future years *Excluding the Annual Gala and A Christmas Carol +Logo, when possible

Associate

Member

\$10,000

2

2/year





As the premier destination for exploring the life and legacy of President Lincoln, Ford's Theatre is committed to providing access to students and teachers from the Washington, D.C., area.

HISTORIC SITE FIELD TRIPS

(All Grades) Ford's Theatre offers field trips for local students to learn about Lincoln's assassination, its lasting impact on our nation and how President Lincoln's legacy is relevant today. To ensure that all students have access to this opportunity, Ford's Theatre offers free tickets and round-trip bus transportation for Washington, D.C., public and charter schools, as well as free tickets for Title 1 schools from Maryland, Virginia and around the country.

Each year, approximately 5,000 students tour the Ford's Theatre Historic Site and Museum through this program.

LINCOLN ORATORY RESIDENCY AND FESTIVAL

(Grades 3-8) This free program brings Ford's Theatre teaching artists into D.C.-area classrooms to familiarize students with oratory and develop their publicspeaking skills through President Lincoln's renowned speeches. Throughout a five-visit, in-school residency, students create group performances inspired by Lincoln's words, which are then presented on the Ford's Theatre stage to fellow students, friends and family members over the course of two days in February. To remove any participation barriers, Ford's Theatre provides free round-trip bus transportation to and from the theatre for participating students.

Each year, nearly 450 students from approximately 20 D.C.-area schools participate in the program.



National Oratory Fellows participant from John Eaton Elementary. Photo by Gary Erskine.

STUDENT MATINEES

(All Grades) Ford's Theatre offers weekday performances of its mainstage productions to introduce D.C.-area students to the performing arts. Students also participate in post-performance discussions led by Ford's Theatre teaching artists. To ensure that all students have access to this opportunity, Ford's Theatre offers free tickets and round-trip bus transportation for Washington, D.C., public and charter schools, as well as free tickets for Title 1 schools from Maryland and Virginia.

Each year, approximately 1,500 students receive free tickets to matinees at Ford's Theatre.

TEACHER PREVIEW WORKSHOPS

(All Grades) D.C.-area teachers are invited to attend free workshops to better understand a production's themes and receive tools and lesson plans to incorporate into the classroom. Following each workshop, teachers attend a free performance of the mainstage production.

Each year, Ford's Theatre serves 100 teachers through its preview workshops and performances, impacting approximately 4,700 students.



National Oratory Fellows planning their year at the August pretreat.



Pictured at right (T-B): Teachers Collaborating. Photo by Ford's Theatre Staff; Associate Director, Museum Education, Jake Flack leads a student field trip. Photo by Gary Ersking

Local Schools Served

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ward 1

Bruce Monroe Elementary School*
Chavez Prep Middle School*
Cleveland Elementary School*
Columbia Heights Education Campus*
D.C. Bilingual Public Charter School*
Marie Reed Elementary School*
Tubman Elementary School*

Ward 2

Basis D.C. Public Charter School
Duke Ellington School of the Arts
Hyde Addison Elementary School^
Ross Elementary School^
School Without Walls at Francis Stevens^
School Without Walls Senior High School
Thomson Elementary School *

Ward 3

Alice Deal Middle School ^
Beauvoir, The National Cathedral Elementary School
Horace Mann Elementary School^
Janney Elementary School^
John Eaton Elementary School^
Key Elementary School^
Murch Elementary School^
Oyster-Adams Bilingual School^

Ward 4

Wilson High School^

Center City Public Charter School-Brightwood* Center City Public Charter School -Petworth Dorothy Height Elementary School *

Dorothy Height Elementary School *
MacFarland Middle School *
Paul International High School*
Powell Elementary School*
Raymond Education Campus*
Truesdell Education Campus*
Washington Latin Public Charter School
Whittier Education Campus*

Ward 5

D.C. Prep Edgewood Elementary School* Dunbar High School*
The Kennedy School*
Langley Education Campus *
Lee Montessori Public Charter School
Luke C. Moore Alternative
High School*
McKinley Technology High School*

Ward 6

Washington Yu Ying

Public Charter School

Amidon Bowen Elementary School*
Brent Elementary School^
Eastern Senior High School*
Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School*
Payne Elementary School*
Walker Jones Education Campus *

Ward 7

Beers Elementary School*
Parkside Middle School *
Parkside High School *
C.W. Harris Elementary School*
H.D. Woodson High School*
Kimball Elementary School*
Neval Thomas Elementary School *
SEED Public Charter School *

Ward 8

Ballou High School*

Congress Heights Public Charter School
John Hayden Johnson Middle School *

National Collegiate Preparatory Public
Charter High School*

Savoy Elementary School*

Simon Elementary School*

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel County

Magothy River Middle School
Mills-Parole Elementary School*
Severn School
Wiley H. Bates Middle School

Baltimore City

Patterson Park Public Charter School * Calvert County

Mill Creek Middle School

Charles County

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School*

Montgomery County

Julius West Middle School Rockville High School St. Martin of Tours Elementary School The Sienna School

Prince George's County

Andrew Jackson Academy * Beacon Heights Elementary School * Benjamin Stoddart Middle School * Benjamin Tasker Middle School Buck Lodge Middle School Carole Highlands Elementary School Central High School* High Point High School* Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School Hyattsville Middle School* International High School at Largo Isaac J. Gourdine Middle School Parkdale High School Port Towns Elementary School* Rose Valley Elementary School Templeton Elementary School*

VIRGINIA

Albemarle County

Orion Academy

Alexandria City Browne Academy

Francis C. Hammond Middle School *
George Washington Middle School
Jefferson Houston Elementary School*
Lane Elementary School

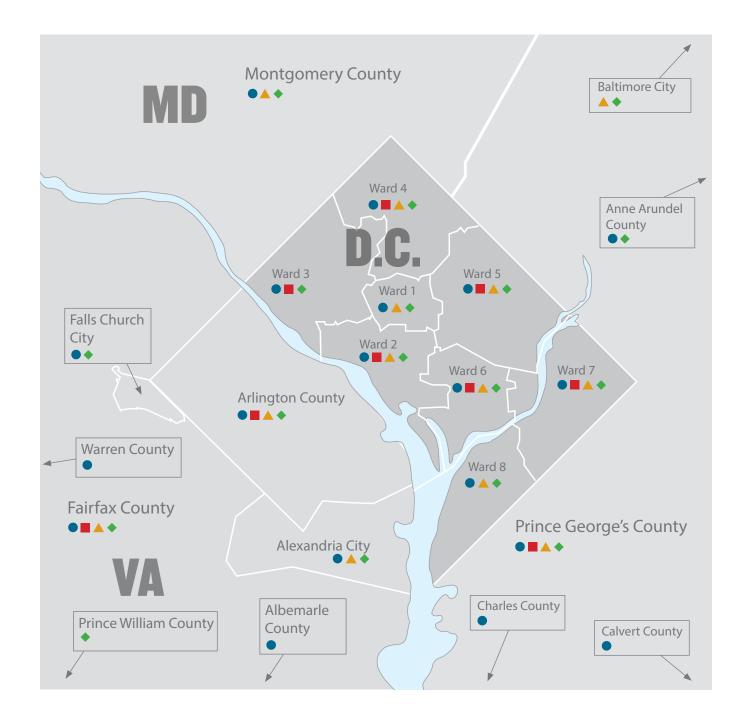
Mount Vernon Community School

Arlington County

Arlington Science Focus School Drew Model School * Gunston Middle School Oakridge Elementary School Wakefield High School

Fairfax County

Annandale High School



Coates Elementary School
Fairhill Elementary School
Hunt Valley Elementary School
Laurel Ridge Elementary School
Madison High School
Mosby Woods Elementary School
Mount Vernon High School

Falls Church City

Beech Tree Elementary*
Longfellow Middle School
Pine Spring Elementary *
TSRC Falls Church

Prince William County

Fitzgerald Elementary School *
Warren County

Warren County Middle School

- * Title I Schools
- ^ Title I, Part D Schools
- Schools primarily serving students with disabilities

KEY

- Historic Site Field Trips
- Lincoln Oratory Residency and Festival
- Student Matinees
- ◆ Teacher Preview Workshops



National Oratory Fellows and student delegates. Photo by Ford's Theatre Staff.

Each year, Ford's Theatre provides immersive professional development programs designed to enhance classroom instruction in order to improve learning outcomes and positively impact student achievement.

NATIONAL ORATORY FELLOWSHIPS

(Grades 5-8) This multi-year professional development program helps teachers learn the art and science behind compelling and effective public speaking in order to integrate it into their history and English classrooms. Since its inception in 2011, the National Oratory Fellowship has built a network of nearly 32 Teacher Fellows from 16 states and the District of Columbia, all of whom are invested in cultivating strong student voices through public speaking and performance.

Each summer, the program kicks off with a planning session in Washington, D.C., which shapes the course



National Oratory Fellow Joe Cernak. Photo by Gary Erskine.

of instruction for the school year. To monitor progress, Fellows work with Ford's Theatre teaching artists throughout the year via virtual coaching sessions. Fellows also utilize an online meeting space to collaborate and exchange best practices with their peers. The program culminates every May with the Fellows and their student delegates traveling to Washington, D.C., to perform their original speeches on the Ford's Theatre stage.

Each year, the **32 Fellows** impact approximately **3,000 students**.



Photo by Alex Wood

SUMMER INSTITUTES

(Grades 3-12) Each summer, Ford's Theatre provides professional development workshops that empower teachers to incorporate historical resources into their classroom instruction. Each session includes time for group reflection and opportunities for teachers to learn from one another. To enhance these experiences, Ford's Theatre partners with several historic sites in and around the nation's capital so that teachers can provide their students with a holistic interpretation of American History.

The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation Civil War Washington

This week-long summer intensive brings teachers to Washington, D.C., to explore the capital as President Lincoln would have known it during the Civil War. Two sessions are offered annually: one free of charge for D.C.-area teachers and another for teachers from around the country that is highly subsidized.

Set in Stone: Civil War Memory, Monuments and Myths

This week-long summer intensive brings teachers to Washington, D.C., to learn about President Lincoln's assassination and the roots of Reconstruction through the capital's monuments and memorials. This program is free to D.C.-area teachers and highly subsidized for teachers from around the country.

Each year, these workshops serve nearly
70 educators from 30 states and the
District of Columbia. Collectively, these educators
serve more than 3,500 students annually.



Virtual McDevitt program with East Brunswick Churchill Junior High School (East Brunswick, NJ). Photo by Kristen Ferrara.

The Ford's Theatre education department offers a range of distance-learning opportunities to students around the country who are unable to visit the historic site and museum in person.

LINCOLN ONLINE ORATORY PROJECT

(Grades 3-12) Ford's Theatre teaching artists conduct a web-based version of the on-site program via virtual oratory residencies, with their culminating performances posted on the Ford's Theatre YouTube page. Each year, approximately 12 teachers and 225 students in classrooms from around the country participate in this program.

VIRTUAL INVESTIGATION DETECTIVE MCDEVITT

(Grades 5+) Through live video conferencing, students act as virtual deputies to Detective James McDevitt, who was on duty at the Washington Metropolitan Police headquarters on the night President Lincoln was assassinated.

Nearly **1,100 students** revisit historic sites and reexamine clues from the night of the assassination.

LIVE STREAMING EVENTS

(Grades 5-12) Ford's Theatre works with online platforms, including Field Trip Zoom and Skype, to live-stream events that explore various topics about President Lincoln—from the Civil War to Civil Rights today. These activities allow several classrooms to participate and interact with one another simultaneously.



Virtual McDevitt program with East Brunswick Churchill Junior High School
(Fast Brunswick N I) Photo by Kristen Ferrara

Each year these events facilitate discussion between more than 1,100 students and teachers from across the country.

VIRTUAL HISTORIC SITE FIELD TRIPS

(All Grades) In 2015, Ford's Theatre co-produced a video with Discovery™ Education that takes students through a virtual tour of Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House.

Since then, approximately **92,000 students** take advantage of this resource each year.

REMEMBERING LINCOLN

(All Ages) Using an interactive map and timeline, this online collection of primary sources illustrates the reaction to Lincoln's assassination.

Each year approximately **19,000 visitors** from around the country view their state's public and private responses to the assassination, and contribute new items to the collection.

EXPLORING LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION

(All Ages) The assassination pages on the Ford's Theatre website encourage students to trace the story of Lincoln's assassination on their own—from the genesis of the conspiracy to the event's impact on Lincoln's legacy.

Each year, approximately **150,000 visitors** browse through digitized historic artifacts and firsthand accounts to examine key details of this important chapter of American history.



Student using Google Expedition. Photo by Trisha Goins.



Abraham Lincoln ribbon. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith

National Schools Served

ARIZONA

Goodyear Mesa

CALIFORNIA

Elk Grove Los Angeles Lucerne Valley Moorpark Newport Beach

COLORADO

Colorado Springs Lafayette Montrose

CONNECTICUT

Monroe Newtown

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FLORIDA

Coral Springs Fort Meade Wesley Chapel

GEORGIA

Columbus

IDAHO

Ammon Kuna

ILLINOIS

Homer Glen

INDIANA

Michigan City

IOWA

New Hampton

KANSAS

Newton Wichita

KENTUCKY

Smithland

LOUISIANA

Belle Chasse Pearl River

MARYLAND

Bethesda Bowie Frederick Gaithersburg Jessup Owings Pomfret Rockville

Silver Spring

West River

MASSACHUSETTS

Lincoln

MICHIGAN

Byron Center DeWitt Temperance

MINNESOTA

Winona

MISSISSIPPI

Hattiesburg Newton

MISSOURI

Independence Kansas City

MONTANA

Havre

NEBRASKA

Omaha Wallace

NEVADA

Las Vegas

Claremont Pelham

NEW YORK Brooklyn McGraw

OHIO

Akron Cincinnati Harrison Toledo

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa

PENNSYLVANIA

Denver

TENNESSEE

Antioch Nashville

TEXAS

El Paso **Grand Prairie**

VERMONT Colchester

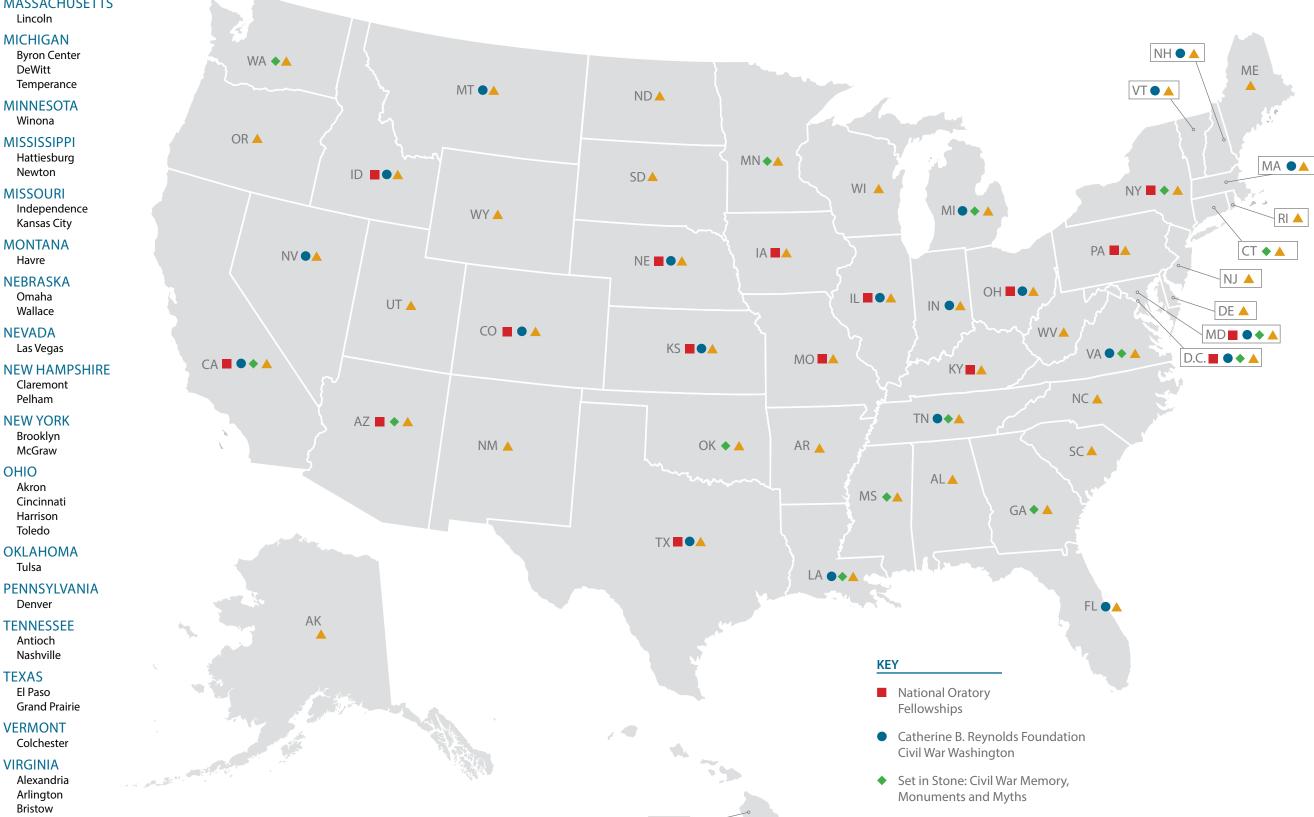
VIRGINIA Alexandria Arlington Bristow Fairfax

WASHINGTON

AN ADDITIONAL 18 STATES WERE SERVED

THROUGH DISTANCE-LEARNING.

Seattle



HI 🔺

▲ Distance Learning

Ford's Theatre Society 514 Tenth Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20004 Corporate@fords.org **WWW.FORDS.ORG** facebook.com/fordstheatre



youtube.com/fordstheatre



twitter.com/fordstheatre



www.fords.org/blog



instagram.com/fordstheatre