



Dare to Make History

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT TO SHOW AT THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

Inspiring Generations. OPENS SUMMER 2009

(Sacramento, CA) – In its mission to educate and inspire, The California Museum is proud to announce that it has been selected by the Library of Congress as the first of five institutions to host the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition in 2009, and the only institution in the western United States to have this honor.

“The timing of this celebratory exhibition couldn’t be more appropriate given the results of the 2008 presidential election,” said The California Museum Executive Director Claudia French. “Abraham Lincoln has been an American icon and an inspiration for generations of people looking to improve their lives and communities, and the Museum is excited to honor the man who inspired so many Californians to take action.”

“California is extremely privileged to get this intimate look at President Lincoln’s legacy, and I’m proud that our California Museum will host this historic exhibit,” said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. “I have personally always seen Abraham Lincoln’s life story as an inspiration – when I came to this country with only a duffel bag and \$20 in my pocket, I looked to President Lincoln’s story of coming from meager beginnings and going on to right the greatest moral injustice in this nation’s history as proof that in America anything is possible.”

Celebrating the sixteenth President’s 200th birthday, the 3,500 square foot exhibition will chart Lincoln’s growth from prairie student to international legend, addressing the controversies that marked the road to his presidency and how his words still resonate today. Particular attention will be paid to his key presidential order, the Emancipation Proclamation.

The exhibition will feature other significant documents in U.S. history, drawing upon the Library’s extensive holdings of more than 30,000 pages documenting Lincoln’s rise in national politics and the years of his presidency. In addition, extensive holdings documenting the Civil War, as well as contemporary political cartoons and iconic material, such as the contents of Lincoln’s pockets on the night he was assassinated, will be on view.

This Library of Congress exhibition and its national tour are made possible by the generous support of Union Pacific. After The California Museum, the exhibition will travel to the Newberry Library in

Chicago, the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, the Atlanta History Center, and the Durham Western Heritage Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. The California Museum will be the only stop within an 11-state radius in the western United States.

For more information, visit www.californiamuseum.org/exhibits/upcoming on the exhibit and programs at the Museum.

About The California Museum

The California Museum -- home of the California Hall of Fame and California Legacy Trails -- is a cultural destination dedicated to telling the rich history of California and its unique influence on the world of ideas, innovation, art and culture. We advance our mission to inspire through educating school children through dynamic exhibits and educational programs, as well as serving as a public forum and international meeting place. The California Museum is located at 1020 O Street, (Corner of 10th Street), downtown Sacramento. For more information 916.653.7524, info@californiamuseum.org, www.californiamuseum.org.