

AMERICAN FIVE



September 19 — October 12, 2025

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At Ford's, history and theatre are woven together on our stage as well as through our educational and public offerings.

Member support powers this unique blend of programming and ensures it remains accessible.



Join Ford's Membership Today!

For more information, call (202) 434-9545 or visit www.fords.org/membership.

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Large print playbills available. Please ask an usher.

Ford's Theatre



Ford's Theatre explores the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and celebrates the American experience through theatre and education. A working theatre, historical monument, culturally-significant museum and learning center, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in Washington, D.C. to explore and celebrate Lincoln's ideals and leadership principles.

Ford's Theatre History

In 1861, theatre manager John T. Ford leased out the abandoned First Baptist Church on Tenth Street to create Ford's Theatre. Over the next few years, the venue became a popular stage for theatrical and musical productions. On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln visited Ford's for a performance of *Our American Cousin*. At this performance, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer and white supremacist. Lincoln died the next morning in the Petersen House, a boarding house located across the street. Ford's Theatre remained dark for more than 100 years, officially reopening in 1968 as a national historic site and working theatre. It is operated through a public-private partnership between the National Park Service and Ford's Theatre Society.

Ford's Theatre Today

Through its inspiring theatrical productions, live historic interpretation and engaging education programs, Ford's Theatre offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in America's past while revealing meaningful connections to today.

As a working theatre, Ford's produces renowned plays, vibrant musicals and newly commissioned works that captivate and entertain while examining political and social issues related to Lincoln's legacy. With works from the Tony-nominated Come From Away and the nationally acclaimed Big River to the world premieres of Meet John Doe, The Heavens Are Hung In Black, Liberty Smith, Necessary Sacrifices, The Widow Lincoln, The Guard, Grace and Something Moving: A Meditation on Maynard, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. With the opening of the Aftermath Exhibits at the Center for Education and Leadership, Ford's Theatre has become a major center for learning, where people of all ages can examine Lincoln's multi-faceted legacy through exhibits, workshops and educational programs.

For more information about Ford's Theatre and Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

Welcome

Welcome to Ford's 2025-26 Season! We are proud to open the season with the world premiere of *The American Five* by Chess Jakobs, a Civil Rights era play that investigates the circumstances that brought about one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in the history of our country. The 1963 March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial brought fundamental changes to our country. A year later, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Jakobs's play embraces President Abraham Lincoln's principle of equality, a principle rooted in Lincoln's interpretation of the Declaration of Independence that "all people are created equal, entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The American Five joins a body of historical dramas produced at Ford's, including Necessary Sacrifices, The Heavens Are Hung in Black, The Widow Lincoln, Jefferson's Garden, Silent Sky and My Lord What a Night.

Next, I hope you join us for our production of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol—a holiday tradition that continues to delight families in our region. Come and meet the ghosts of Christmas Present, Past and Future and be part of Ebenezer Scrooge's uplifting journey of hope and redemption. In January, our new play-reading festival, A First Look, returns to highlight exciting new historical dramas including plays from the Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions. The American Five was developed through this Commissions program.

In the spring of 2026, Ford's brings to the stage 1776, the classic American musical by Peter Stone, with music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards, that celebrates the founding of our country. There's no better place to experience 1776 than Ford's Theatre—a historic site hallowed by history, a theatre landmark beloved by millions of Americans and a stage that strives for every audience member to see themselves represented. Join the ensemble of 26 local actors as they voice our founding fathers, challenge our notion of what we stand for as a nation and remind us that the work of democracy has always belonged to all of us.

Both A Christmas Carol and 1776 are highly anticipated theatrical events. For immediate access to tickets, don't forget to visit us at www.fords.org today.

As our nation enters America250, we are proud that Ford's mission to explore the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and celebrate the American experience through theatre and education allow us to produce and showcase vibrant stories that spark both dialogue and reflection.

On behalf of our entire Ford's Theatre community and our Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for joining us today. Enjoy The American Five and I hope to see you again during this landmark and celebratory season.

Paul R. Tetreault Director Ford's Theatre

The American Five | 3



"A WAR FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA"

This set design encapsulates the visual idea of the People vs. the Institution (David vs. Goliath). The visual tension of activism in the face of insurmountable odds. The design addresses this monumental moment in history, while still maintaining the intimacy of the story and showcasing our heroes.

-Andrew R. Cohen, Scenic Designer

Love the show?

Share your thoughts on social media.

Photos can be taken before the show. No photos are allowed during the show or cast bows.

Please credit scenic designer Andrew R. Cohen by tagging on Instagram @cohendesigns, tagging @FordsTheatre and using #FordsTheAmericanFive

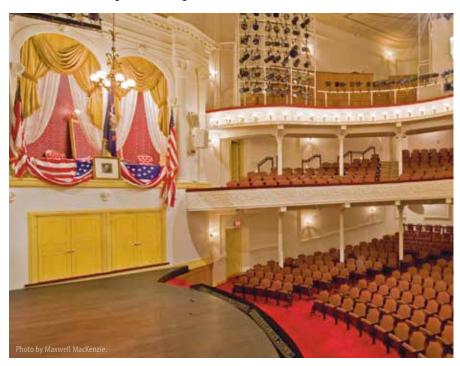
Ford's Theatre Rules of Engagement

We are glad that you are joining us at Ford's Theatre today. This is a welcoming and interactive community. Whether you are here to visit our historic site or to see a show, we invite you to be your authentic self.

At Ford's Theatre:

- We are allowed to be human, in all the ways that make us unique.
- We are allowed to be human together. We encourage you to find moments of respectful connection and engagement with other members of the community.
- We are on common ground. We are all here to enjoy a shared experience and though our reactions and responses may vary, we will remain respectful.
- We are creating a live theatrical experience together; audible reactions and responses are welcome. The actors need you to engage with what you see but not to distract them from their performances.
- We also welcome the use of personal communication devices if they help you to better experience the show, but we encourage you to respect the actors' work and the other audience members around you. Please note that the taking of photographs, video or sound recordings of the performance is not permitted.

Let's create something beautiful together.



Notes on The American Five

by José Carrasquillo, Director of Artistic Programming

The American Five by Chess Jakobs was developed through the Ford's Theatre Legacy Commission program. The play received a workshop and a public reading in January of 2024 as part of A First Look—a festival of new plays. Further development of the play continued throughout 2024 and 2025 including a residency at the University of Michigan. The resulting work is a play of historic fiction that investigates the given circumstances that brought about one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in the history of our country. It imagines the relationships between five Civil Rights leaders as they work together to meet a defining moment in our country's history, and it explores the arguments that shaped Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. The American Five takes place between February 1952 and August 28, 1963, the day of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Timeline of Pivotal Events that Took Place Before the March on Washington:

December 1, 1955 – Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Her refusal and subsequent arrest sparked a city-wide bus boycott.

February 18, 1957 – Time Magazine puts the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on its cover. The cover article called "The South: Attack on the Conscience" introduces King to a large portion of Americans across the United States and to people around the world.

May 4, 1961 – The first Freedom Ride departs Washington, D.C. toward New Orleans. The Freedom Riders rode interstate buses into southern states to challenge non-enforcement of the United Supreme Court decisions (*Morgan v. Virginia & Boyton v. Virginia*), which ruled that segregated public buses were unconstitutional.

April 12, 1963 – Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. violates a court injunction prohibiting public civil rights demonstrations in the city of Birmingham, Alabama. Local police officers arrest Dr. King and a handful of protesters. King writes a response to white ministers who questioned his decision to stage a protest in Birmingham. These pages become known as "Letter from the Birmingham Jail."

June 11, 1963 – President John F. Kennedy delivers a report on civil rights to the American people from the Oval Office. Expressing civil rights as a moral issue, Kennedy asserts that the pursuit of racial equality is a just cause. This marks a major shift in his administration's policy and plays a significant role in shaping his legacy as a proponent of civil rights.

June 23, 1963 – Martin Luther King Jr. speaks in Detroit. The text of this speech rehearses much of what he will say two months later.

August 28, 1963 – The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (commonly known as the March on Washington) becomes one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in the history of our country. Close to a quarter of a million people attend. Several popular singers, including Mahalia Jackson and Marian Anderson, perform, while many of the movement's leaders, including John Lewis, give speeches. The televised event is watched around the world. Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech becomes one of the most studied speeches in the English language.



The American Five, The "Big Six" and other Giants of the Civil Rights Movement:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was born Michael King Jr. on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was an American Baptist minister, civil rights activist and political philosopher who was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. He advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through the use of non-violent resistance and civil disobedience. In 1964, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the Civil Rights Movement and his non-violent efforts to achieve racial equality in the United States. King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 2003. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established as a holiday beginning in 1971. The federal holiday was first observed in 1986. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 2011.

Coretta Scott King (April 27, 1927 – January 30, 2006) was an American author, activist, civil rights leader and the wife of Martin Luther King Jr. from 1953 until his assassination in 1968. King was also a singer who often incorporated music into her civil rights work. Coretta Scott King played a prominent role in the years after her husband's assassination, when she took on the leadership of the struggle for racial equality and became active in the Women's Movement. King founded the King Center and succeeded in making Martin's birthday a national holiday. She later broadened her scope to include both advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights and opposition to apartheid.

Bayard Rustin (March 17, 1912 – August 24, 1987) was an American political activist and prominent leader in social movements for civil rights, nonviolence, gay rights and socialism. Rustin was the principal organizer of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. Bayard was a gay man and, due to criticism over his sexuality, usually advised key civil rights leaders from behind the scenes. On November 20, 2013, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Clarence B. Jones (born January 18, 1931) is an American lawyer and the former personal counsel, advisor, draft speech writer and close friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jones is credited with writing the "I Have a Dream" speech. Jones is a scholar in residence at the Martin Luther King Jr. Institute at Stanford University. He is the author of *What Would Martin Say?*, *Behind the Dream: The Making of the Speech that Transformed a Nation* and *Last of the Lions*. Jones currently serves as Chairman of the non-profit Spill the Honey Foundation. He is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Stanley David Levison (May 2, 1912 – September 12, 1979) was an American businessman and lawyer who became a lifelong activist in socialist causes. Levison was instrumental in all the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the organization established by Dr. King and other Southern Black preachers to further the cause of civil rights. Levison professionalized the fundraising of the organization and took on many of the publicity tasks, in addition to serving as Dr. King's literary agent, adviser and ghostwriter. Levison co-wrote (with Clarence Jones) one of the drafts for Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

The "Big Six," as the march organizers came to be known, were the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the National Urban League.

Other distinguished leaders of the Civil Rights Movement include John Lewis, A. Philip Randolph, Stokely Carmichael (later known as Kwame Ture), H. Rap Brown, Ella Baker, Andrew Young, Dr. CT Vivian, Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, Mahalia Jackson, Walter Reuther, James E. Clyburn, Dorothy Height, Ralph Abernathy and thousands of others.

Data for this essay used several sources including: Congressional Research Service https://crseports.congress. Gov R47655; U.S. Department of Justice; The National Archives and Records Administration, The Smithsonian-National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Al Summary generated by OpenAI.

Ford's Theatre Underwriters

Performances of *The American Five* are made possible by generous support from:

Sponsor _



Members of the **Abraham Lincoln National Council** are passionate donors who further the mission of Ford's Theatre Society: to explore the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and celebrate the American experience through

theatre and education. Through annual gifts of \$25,000 or more, members provide crucial philanthropic support that helps preserve this great American treasure.

Abraham Lincoln National Council

The Abraham Lincoln National Council raises awareness locally, nationally and internationally about the historic, artistic and cultural importance of Ford's Theatre.

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Ford's Theatre Underwriters (cont.)

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-Michael K. Wirth, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



INTUIT At **Intuit**, we are driven by our mission of powering prosperity around the world and believe everyone deserves the opportunity to prosper. This includes investing in our communities and supporting programs, such as today's performance that help bring people together, spark creativity, and promote collaboration. We are proud to support Ford's Theatre as a season sponsor.

-Kerry McLean, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary



At **Lockheed Martin**, we lead in aerospace and defense technology—pushing innovation and

scientific discovery to deliver solutions that keep the U.S. and its allies safe. Whether through transformative technologies or meaningful community partnerships, like the one we have had with Ford's Theatre for many years, we are committed to making a difference in our communities and to supporting our important national institutions.

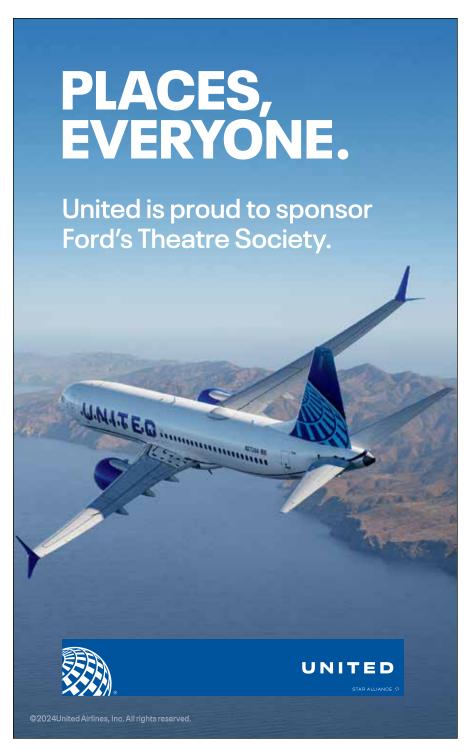
-James D. Taiclet, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

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-Scott Kirby, Chief Executive Officer



Ford's Theatre Society under the direction of Paul R. Tetreault presents



Written By **Chess Jakobs**

with

Aaron Bliden Ro Boddie Renea S. Brown

> Yao Dogbe Stephen Conrad Moore

Scenic Designer Costume Designer Lighting Designer Andrew R. Cohen Cody Von Ruden Max Doolittle

> Sound Designer Projection Designer Kathy Ruvuna Mona Kasra

Hair and Make-Up Designer Dialects and Voice Director Danna Rosedahl Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston

Production Stage Manager Assistant Stage Manager Brandon Prendergast Julia Singer

> Deputy Director and Director of Programming Kristin Fox-Siegmund

> > Directed By **Aaron Posner**

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550 Morse St NE, Washington, DC 20002 (202) 925-5020 | cordeliadc.com

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Stanley	Aaron Bliden
Martin	Ro Boddie
Coretta	Renea S. Brown
Clarence	Yao Dogbe
Bavard	Stephen Conrad Moore

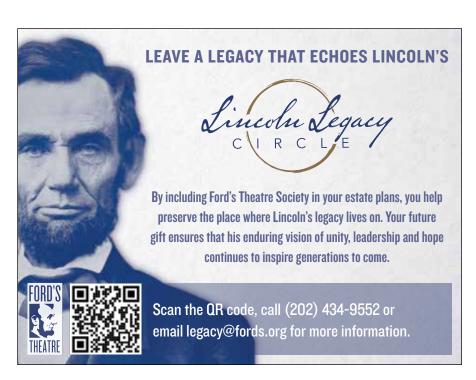
Setting: The American Five takes place from 1952 to 1963 and set in front of the backdrops of Alabama, Georgia, New York and Washington, D.C.

This performance of *The American Five* will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

WARNING: The photographing, videotaping and sound-recording of any performance is prohibited by law and union regulations. Please turn off all wireless phones, pagers and chiming watches prior to the beginning of the performance.

The actors and stage managers in this production are members of the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

Ford's Theatre is a member of the League of Resident Theatres, The Dramatists Guild and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.





Cast Photos



Aaron Bliden



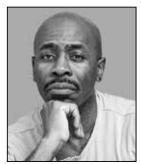
Ro Boddie



Renea S. Brown



Yao Dogbe



Stephen Conrad Moore

Cast Bios

Aaron Bliden

Ford's debut. Regional: Arena: The Bedwetter; Second City/Woolly: Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies, America All Better!!; Baltimore Center Stage: Endgame; Signature: Threepenny Opera; D.C.-Area: Second City/KenCen: Twist Your Dickens, Love Factually; Pointless: Minnie the Moocher; Folger: Romeo and Juliet; 1st Stage: Fly By Night, Waverly Gallery, Lobby Hero, Old Wicked Songs, Trevor; Theater J: Tiny Lights, Yentl; Imagination: Wonderland, Escape from Peligro Island; Kennedy Center: Cerulean Time Capsule, Mockingbird; Olney: Rabbit Hole. Training: UMD College Park.

Ro Boddie

Ford's debut. Off Broadway: The Public Theater: Socrates: Classical Theatre of Harlem: Seize The King. Regional: Studio: Paradise Blue, Pipeline, Three Sisters, No Sisters: Dirt: Shakespeare: Comedy of Errors; Arena: Tempestuous Elements; Round House: Topdog/Underdog; The Mountaintop; Radio Golf; The Tempest; Master Harold...and the Boys. D.C.-Area: Mosaic: The Agitators. Television: Epix: Godfather of Harlem; Starz: Run the World; CBS: The Good Wife. Training: University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Renea S. Brown

Ford's debut. Regional: Round House: The Mountaintop (Helen Hayes Award, Lead.); Sojourners (Helen Hayes Award, Supporting.), Nollywood Dreams; Arena: Tempestuous Elements, Change Agent; D.C.-Area: Folger: Metamorphoses (Helen Hayes Nom.), A Midsummer Night's Dream, Our Verse in Time to Come: Theatre



Cast Bios (cont.)

Alliance: Covenant (Helen Hayes Nom.); and more. Television/Film: AMZ: Water in a Broken Glass: MGM+: Godfather of Harlem; NBC: Law and Order. Training: MFA, Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy.

Yao Dogbe

Ford's debut. Broadway: The Doctor at Park Avenue Armory, Nollywood Dreams. Tour: Montana Shakespeare in the Parks: Othello, Love's Labour's Lost; Hampstead Stage: Prince Caspian: The Chronicles of Narnia, A Christmas Carol. Regional: Arena: TopDog/UnderDog (Helen Haves award), Nollywood Dreams, Homebound: Round House: Ohio State Murders; Shakespeare: King Lear; Capital Repertory: Fly; Northlight Theatre Festival: Intimate Apparel; Utah Shakespeare Festival: Cymbeline. Other: Remy Bumppo

Theatre: Routes. Television: Apple TV: Dark Matter: Autozone Commercial. Training: MFA, University of Houston; BFA, Norfolk State University. IG: yaonation.

Stephen Conrad Moore

Ford's debut. Broadway: Lincoln Center: Uncle Vanya. Regional: Studio: Downstate; McCarter: A Christmas Carol (2022 & 23), Blues for an Alabama Sky; Guthrie: Blues for an Alabama Sky, The Parchman Hour; Geva: How I Learned What I Learned; Yale Rep: Radio Golf, King Lear, Taming of the Shrew, Medea/Macbeth/Cinderella. Television: AMC: Better Call Saul: Freeform: The Bold Type; NBC: The Blacklist, Chicago PD. Film: Margaret, Wedding Daze, The Painting. Training: Yale School of Drama; MFA.

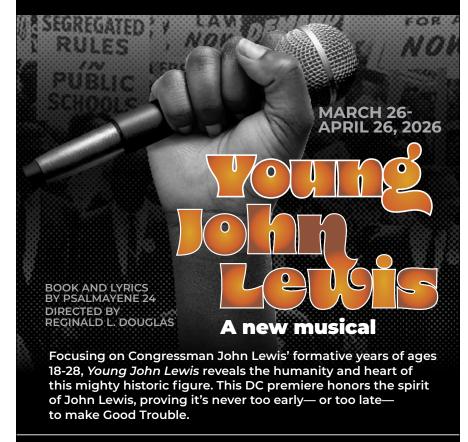


Let's Make Good Troubles

"A ROUSING TRIBUTE!"

-ROUGH DRAFT ATLANTA

-BROADWAY WORLD





Production Bios

Chess Jakobs

Playwright

is a Black, Jewish and Queer American playwright, poet, sociologist and ecologist. Chess's play, The American Five, received the Ford's Theatre Legacy Commission in 2024. Chess's debut poem was featured in Peace and Riot Magazine in 2025. Chess's credits include working on Broadway, Off-Broadway and at regional theatres including Ford's Theatre, Olney Theatre, Steppenwolf, Indiana Rep. and Alliance Theatre. Chess's environmental stewardship efforts have included working with organizations including Counterstream Media, Environmental Defense Fund, EarthJustice, DC Environmental Film Festival, Out in Climate and Work on Climate. Education: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and University of Maryland, College Park. @chessjakobs.

Aaron Posner

Director

is a theatre director, playwright, former Artistic Director and tenured full professor at American University. He has won more than 20 regional and national theatre awards for his work as a director and playwright. Aaron has directed nearly 200 productions at major regional theaters across the country, including most of the professional theatres in the DMV. Ford's: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf and Born Yesterday. Playwright: Stupid Fucking Bird, Life Sucks, No Sisters, JQA, District Merchants, Who Am I This Time? & Other Conundrums of Love, The Chosen, My Name Is Asher Lev and many more.

Andrew R. Cohen

Scenic Designer

Ford's debut. Regional (Select): Signature: In the Heights; Round House: A Hanukkah Carol, The Seafarer; Studio: Murder Ballad; Everyman: The Book Club Play, Flyin' West; Arden: Intimate Apparel, Red Riding Hood. D.C.-Area (Select): Folger: King John; Olney: Lend Me A Soprano,

The Crucible; Mosaic: Andy Warhol in Iran, The Till Trilogy; Theater J: The Chameleon; Studio Tenn: Jersey Boys, Cabaret; Kennedy Center TYA: Through the Sunken Lands; Imagination Stage: Dory Fantasmagory. @cohendesigns, www.andrewcohendesigns.com.

Cody Von Ruden

Costume Designer

Ford's debut. D.C. Area: Rorschach Theatre: The Figs. Washington Stage Guild: Escape From The Asylum. Catholic University: Bright Star. Maryland Opera Studio: Florencia En El Amazonas Other: Maine State Music Theatre: West Side Story. Cumberland County Playhouse: Grease, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, The Miss Firecracker Contest. Training: University of Maryland - College Park, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay. codyvonruden.com.

Max Doolittle

Lighting Designer

Ford's: Sister Act, Little Shop of Horrors, My Lord, What a Night. Regional: Signature, Round House, Geffen. D.C.-Area: Woolly Mammoth, Folger, Olney, Mosaic, Baltimore Center Stage, Theatre J, Kennedy Center, Imagination Stage, among others. NYC includes Ars Nova, Juilliard School, Theatre Row, New Ohio, New World Stages, Signature Theater Center. Other: Cincinnati Shakespeare, Kitchen Theatre, Santa Fe Playhouse, Great Lakes Center, Pennsylvania Shakespeare, Fulton Theatre. TV: Anderson Cooper 360. BFA: Ithaca College. MFA: University of Maryland.

Kathy Ruvuna

Sound Designer

Off-Broadway: LCT3: Five Models in Ruins, 1981; Greenwich House: Mindplay; Playwrights Realm: Mary Gets Hers; The New Group: Bernarda's Daughters; Fake Friends: Circle Jerk Live; Rattlestick: Ni Mi Madre, In the Southern Breeze. Regional: Alley Theatre: The Janeiad; Everyman: Primary Trust, Cry It Out, Radio Golf,

The Lion in Winter, Studio: Exception To The Rule, John Proctor is the Villain (Helen Hayes nom.). Training: Yale School of Drama.

Mona Kasra

Projection Designer

is an Iranian American new media artist, interdisciplinary scholar and Associate Professor of Digital Media Design at the University of Virginia. She specializes in projections design and has received two Helen Hayes Award nominations in the Outstanding Projections/Media Design category. Her artwork has been exhibited extensively in galleries and film festivals across the U.S. and worldwide. Mona holds an MFA in Video Art and a PhD in Arts & Technology. Design credits include Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF), Theater J, Mosaic Theater DC, Golden Thread San Francisco, DW7 Collective Dallas, www.monakasra.com.

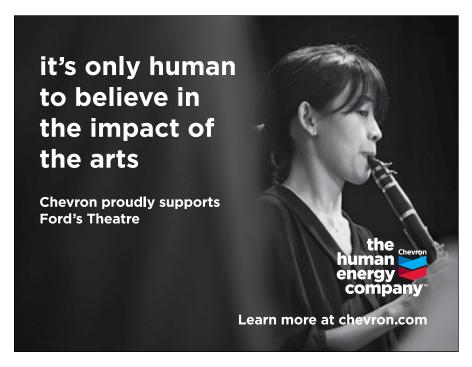
Danna Rosedahl

Hair and Make-Up Designer
Ford's: Little Shop of Horrors, Something
Moving, The Trip to Bountiful, My Lord, What
a Night, Fences. Regional: Signature: Bridges
of Madison County; Shakespeare: Red Velvet;
Portland Center Stage: A Streetcar Named
Desire, Great Expectations, Ain't Misbehavin,
Three Days of Rain, Cyrano, Dreamgirls,
Somewhere in Time, Snow Falling on Cedars;
Actors Theatre of Louisville: Angels in
America. Other: Virgina Rep.: Nine to Five.
National Tours: Phantom of the Opera,

Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston

Dialects and Voice Director
Assoc. Prof. of Voice & Speech at Texas Tech,
Assoc. Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework®,
active member of VASTA, PAVA and AEA.
Rachel coaches regionally in professional

Annie Get Your Gun, Flower Drum Song.



theatre and with private clients (corporate, government) on dialect acquisition and modification, and presentation skills, and is a two-time NEA grant award recipient for her on-going research in applied performance. www.rachelhjohnston.com.

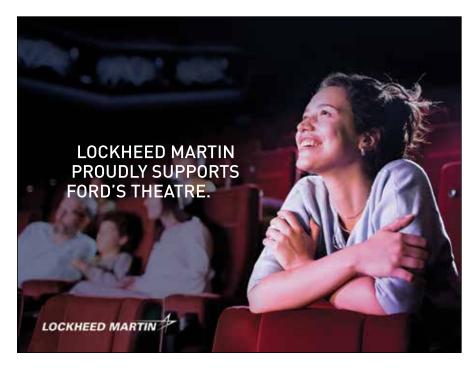
Brandon Prendergast

Production Stage Manager
Ford's: more than 30 productions including
Mister Lincoln, Silent Sky, Twelve Angry
Men, Come From Away, Fly, Parade. New
York: The Green Bird (Julie Taymor), Les
Enfants Terribles (Susan Marshall), Yemayá
(Twyla Tharp). Regional: Kennedy Center:
20 productions including Side Show,
Follies, Ragtime, Mame; Shakespeare: 23
productions; Signature: Spunk, Girlfriend,
La Cage aux Folles. International: Knuffle
Bunny: A Cautionary Musical in Bahrain.

Instructor: University of Mary Washington. Training: Mary Washington College.

Julia Singer

Assistant Stage Manager Ford's: Mister Lincoln; Something Moving; Trip to Bountiful; My Lord, What a Night; Silent Sky; Fences; Twelve Angry Men; Born Yesterday; Jefferson's Garden; Death of a Salesman; Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf; A Christmas Carol; Freedom's Song; Driving Miss Daisy. Regional: Signature: Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Hair, Ragtime, Into the Woods; She Loves Me. D.C.-Area: Kennedy Center: The Other Children of the Sun, The Mortification of Fovea Munson; Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume; Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus; Me...Jane; Elephant and Piggie's: We are in a Play! Folger: Love's Labour's Lost: The Winter's Tale.



Kristin Fox-Siegmund

Deputy Director and Director of Programming Since joining Ford's in 2006, Fox-Siegmund has overseen the creation of the Frances and Craig Lindner Center for Culture and Leadership, the Center for Education and Leadership and the renovation of the historic theatre and museum, as well as the world premiere productions of *The Guard, The Widow* Lincoln, Necessary Sacrifices, Liberty Smith, Meet John Doe and The Heavens Are Hung In Black. Prior to Ford's, she spent 11 years at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Texas. Her tenure as Production Manager included premieres of Horton Foote's The Carpetbagger's Children, Ken Ludwig's Be My Baby and Leading Ladies and Edward Albee's The Play About the Baby and The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?, as well as Michael Wilson's production of A Christmas Carol. She oversaw the design and relocation of the theatre's new production facilities

in 2002 and the renovation of its Neuhaus Stage after the destruction of Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Other work includes Santa Fe Opera and Houston Grand Opera.

Paul R. Tetreault

Director

Since joining Ford's in 2004, Tetreault has enhanced the quality of the institution's artistic programming and expanded its mission to include a stronger focus on education. He led a \$50+ million capital campaign, the most extensive renovation to the theatre and museum since the building reopened to the public in 1968. and the creation of the Center for Education and Leadership, which seeks to further explore Lincoln's legacy. Tetreault served as managing director of the Alley Theatre for 10 years, producing more than 100 productions and working with artists such



as Edward Albee, Tony Kushner, Trevor Nunn, Nicky Silver, Frank Wildhorn and August Wilson, among others. He has held senior management positions with Crossroads Theatre Company, New Jersey; Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California; and Circle Repertory Company, New York City. He served as director of finance at Madison Square Garden and as a vice president with C.W. Shaver and Company, Inc., a New York management and fundraising consulting firm. He has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and has taught and guest lectured at Brooklyn College. Columbia University, New York University, the University of Houston and Rice University. He is a graduate of Emerson College and received his MFA from the City University of New York-Brooklyn College. He serves on the Board of the Downtown DC BID.

Staff for The American Five

Assistant Director	Sirra Faal
Fight and Intimacy Consultant	Sierra Young
Fight and Intimacy Assistant	Charlique C. Rolfe
Dance Consultant	Nikki Mirza
Prop Designer/Coordinator	. Marie Schneggenburger
Scenic Studio Assistant	Brandon Roak
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Assistant Projection Designer	Meixin Yu
Projection Programmer	Pierce Stoneburner
Draper	Steven Simon
Canami built bu FOD Cana Channa I ad	

Scenery built by F&D Scene Changes Ltd.



The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



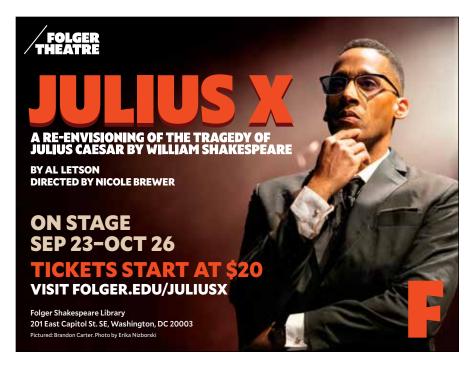
United Scenic Artists represents the designers and scenic painters for the American Theatre.



The technicians at Ford's Theatre are represented by Locals 22, 772 and 798, IATSE, AFL-CIO, the professional union of theatrical technicians.



The director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, an independent national labor union.







Ford's Theatre Associate Artists

The Ford's Theatre Associate Artists are composed of highly skilled theatre artists, across all disciplines, who possess a profound commitment to promoting the values and ideals of Abraham Lincoln. They serve as ambassadors of Ford's Theatre by using their artistic craft to support the Ford's mission of celebrating the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and exploring the American experience through theatre and education.

Clint Allen Jonathan Atkinson **David Budries** Michael Bunce Ashley D. Buster

Jeff Calhoun Felicia Curry Peter Flynn Richard Hellesen

Joe Mallon Justine "Icy" Moral Tracy Lynn Olivera Milagros Ponce de León Mark Ramont

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Powering prosperity through the arts.

Intuit believes in powering prosperity around the world. That's why we're proud to support Ford's Theatre, where powerful performances spark imagination, dialogue, and opportunity.



Education at Ford's Theatre

The power of place is palpable at Ford's Theatre.

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, Ford's Theatre Education programs invite students and educators to reflect on the enduring ideals of democracy, equality and civic engagement. Abraham Lincoln's living legacy—his leadership, oratory and vision—serves as a guiding light for understanding the past and shaping the future. Our programs help students make personal connections to history and encourage them to think critically about the choices individuals and communities make. The echoes of the American spirit—resilience, hope and the ongoing struggle for a more perfect union—resonate through every lesson. As we commemorate 250 years of the American experiment, Ford's Education empowers the next generation to carry that legacy forward.

Experience History Where It Happened

Historic site field trips offer students the opportunity to learn about Lincoln's assassination, its lasting impact on our nation and how Lincoln's legacy is relevant today. To ensure all students have access to this opportunity, Ford's Theatre offers free tickets to Washington D.C. public and charter schools, as well as Title I schools in Maryland and Virginia.



Photo of students visiting the Ford's Theatre museum by Story of Our Schools.

During a field trip to Ford's Theatre, students can

- · Tour the historic theatre and museum
- Illuminate personal stories of many individuals in and around Civil War Washington
- Reveal the fate of the assassination conspirators, and the manhunt for John Wilkes Booth
- · Explore Lincoln's complex legacy

Visit the Teaching and Learning page on the Ford's Theatre website, www.fords.org

Education at Ford's Theatre

Public Programs – The Learning Continues

Ford's Theatre has expanded our programs for educators and the public by offering a series of excursions, workshops and discussions. We invite you to take advantage of the rich history in our nation's capital while connecting with other members of our local and national communities.

Cabinet Conversations

Join us online for a conversation on creativity, history and leadership.

September 27, 2025: Echoes from the Steps

Field Trips for Grown Ups

Tap into your inner-student and delve into local history in these off-site excursions.

October 4, 2025: From Lincoln to MLK Walking Tour of the National Mall AMERICA 250

November 8, 2025: Civil War Forts Hike





Photos by Ford's Theatre Education Department.

For more information, visit the Public Programs page on the Ford's Theatre website, www.fords.org.

Ford's Theatre education programs are supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, BP America, D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, The Hearst Foundations, The Honorable Anita B. and The Honorable Timothy J. McBride, National Park Service, PwC, Southern Company, United Airlines and Visa Inc. with additional support from Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, Dr. Scholl Foundation and Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation.

The American Five Student Guide

The American Five by Chess Jakobs tells the story of the four unsung collaborators who stood with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to shape the words that would inspire a nation — the "I Have a Dream" speech. Working as an ensemble, they navigated obstacles and differing perspectives, proving that democracy is built through collaboration. Together, they crafted one of the most iconic and influential speeches in American history.

The Five Behind the Dream

Clarence B. Jones – Born in Philadelphia, Clarence B. Jones was a lawyer and speechwriter who became legal counsel to Martin Luther King Jr., often coordinating King's defense in major court cases. He played a key role in drafting speeches and strategies for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, including portions of the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Martin Luther King Jr. – Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Martin Luther King Jr. earned his doctorate in theology from Boston University and became a Baptist minister known for his powerful oratory and commitment to nonviolent protest. By 1963, he had led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and emerged as a central leader in the Civil Rights Movement.

Coretta Scott King – Born in Marion, Alabama, this high school valedictorian earned her BA in music from Antioch College and continued at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she met Martin Luther King Jr. She was an active partner in the civil rights movement, balancing her commitment to justice, her family and advocating for women's leadership.

Stanley Levison – A New York City-born lawyer and businessman, Stanley Levison became a trusted advisor to Martin Luther King Jr., bringing organizational skills, fundraising expertise and a gift for persuasive writing. He helped craft many of King's speeches and articles, often refusing payment for his work despite political scrutiny of their partnership.

Bayard Rustin – Raised in West Chester, Pennsylvania, Bayard Rustin was a skilled organizer, and advocate for nonviolence. By 1963, he was a veteran activist who had fought segregation and served as the chief organizer of the March on Washington.



Dr. King at March with signs in background. Photo courtesy The Library of Congress.

The American Five Student Guide

Five Facts About the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

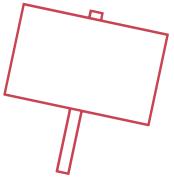
- 1. Big Day in History—August 28, 1963, over 250,000 people filled D.C. to demand civil rights and economic justice.
- 2. Jobs and Freedom—The march targeted the "twin evils" of racism and economic inequality.
- 3. Team Effort—Civil rights groups from across the country united to make their presence and voices known at the march.
- **4. More Than One Speech**—MLK's "I Have a Dream" was iconic, but leaders like 23-year-old John Lewis also spoke.
- 5. Connected Struggles—Some march leaders, like Rustin, also fought for LGBTQ+ rights.

Just like the American Five stepped up to the microphone with history in their hands, now it's your turn to imagine what you would say if the world was listening.

Your rally line:

lmagine that you	have 5 second	s at the mic to	inspire change	— what will you s	ау?
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You've found your words — now turn them into a poster that speaks just as loudly!



Collaboration Corner:

Even the strongest message needs more voices. Who's on your dream team for change? Pick three people you'd want to create something powerful with — just like the American Five shaped a speech that changed history — and share why each person's voice, skills or perspective would make your vision stronger.

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and its commitment to carrying forward the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln through education and the arts.

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The Ford's Theatre Advisory Council is composed of nationally recognized historians, writers and professionals who share a love of President Abraham Lincoln and the values he exemplified in his life and presidency. These accomplished individuals provide insight, expertise and invaluable suggestions to the leadership of Ford's Theatre as we continually seek to improve the excellence of our programming.

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The Board of Governors explores the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and supports the celebration of the American experience through theatre and education The Board of Governors comprises corporations and associations who advance the mission of Ford's Theatre through a variety of activities, including production underwriting, education program underwriting and general operating support.

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The Lincoln Medal

The Lincoln Medal is an award given by Ford's Theatre Society to a person (or people) who, through their body of work, accomplishments or personal attributes, exemplifies the lasting legacy and mettle of character embodied by the most beloved president in our nation's history, President Abraham Lincoln.

LINCOLN MEDAL RECIPIENTS

2024	The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Stephen A. Schwarzman Marlene A. Malek, Rita Moreno	2006	Dr. David Herbert Donald, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter, Nicholas D. Chabraja
2022	The Honorable James E. Clyburn, Clive J. Davis	2005	Robert A. Iger, Carl Lindner
2019	General Colin L. Powell (Ret.) and	2004	Laura Bush
	Alma J. Powell, Mark Russell	2003	Donald J. Carty
2018	Sheila C. Johnson, Jack Nicklaus	2002	The Honorable Walter J. Hickel,
2017	Peyton W. Manning, Ronald O. Perelman		The Honorable Ronald H. Walker
2015	Diane Nash	2001	James Whitmore
2014	The Honorable John D. Dingell, James Earl Jones	1999	Tricia Lott
		1998	The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
2013	Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Bill Russell	1997	Robert G. Stanton
2012	Morgan Freeman, Elie Wiesel,	1995	Edward P. Faberman
	Wayne R. Reynolds, Hon. Rex W. Tillerson	1994	Mrs. Fritz Hollings, Mrs. Alan Simpson
2011	Lee Kuan Yew, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar,	1993	Lady Bird Johnson, Joseph Cates
2010	Julie Andrews	1992	Barbara Bush
2010	Justice Albie Sachs, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu,	1991	The Honorable William F. McSweeny
	Dr. John R. Sellers	1990	The Honorable Sidney Yates
2009	Aretha Franklin, George Lucas,	1989	Frankie Hewitt, Tommy Berra
	Sir Sidney Poitier	1988	The Honorable Stewart Udall
2008	Dr. Maya Angelou, Ruby Dee,	1987	Nancy Reagan
	Dr. Benjamin Carson, Jr.	1986	Gerald Freed
	The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor	1985	Joy Dirksen Baker
2007	The Honorable John Lewis,	1984	Mrs. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
	Dr. James M. McPherson	1983	Clyde Wheeler
		1982	The Honorable C. William Verity, Jr.
		1981	The Honorable Milton Young



Audience Services

Historic Site Visits

A visit to Ford's Theatre traces the story of Abraham Lincoln's presidency, assassination and legacy. Whether for a brief visit or for the full experience, Ford's will deepen your appreciation and understanding of America's 16th president. Admission is free; advance tickets have a convenience fee. The Ford's Theatre campus traditionally includes:

- **Museum:** Learn about Lincoln's presidency from his inauguration to his arrival at Ford's Theatre the night of April 14, 1865. See artifacts related to his presidency and assassination.
- **Theatre:** See the recreated historic theatre and learn the key facts of the assassination from National Park Service Rangers.
- **Petersen House:** Explore Lincoln's final moments in the house where Lincoln died.
- Center for Education and Leadership: See the Aftermath Exhibits exploring what happened following Lincoln's assassination, the hunt for John Wilkes Booth and the lasting impact of Lincoln's legacy.

Our visitation schedule varies. Parts of the campus may not be available at the time of your visit.

Box Office Hours

- When there is an evening performance: 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- When there is no evening performance: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- When there is a History on Foot walking tour: 8:30 a.m. until the tour begins.

Groups

Groups (10 or more people) save on mainstage performance tickets, have priority access to the best seats in the house and have flexible payment options. Contact groups@fords.org or (202) 638-2367.

Accessibility



Accessible seating is offered in both the rear orchestra and the balcony sections.



GalaPro closed captioning will be available for all performances starting September 19. Search for GalaPro on the Google Play or Apple Store and download the app.



An audio-enhancement system is available for all performances. Devices are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please check with an usher.



Audio-described performances of The American Five are October 2, 2025 at 7 p.m. and October 11, 2025 at 2 p.m.



A sign-interpreted performance of *The American Five* is scheduled for October 9, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Learn more about accessible performances at bit.ly/fords-accessibility.

Staff

DirectorPaul R. Tetreault	COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Deputy Director and	Director, Communications
Director of ProgrammingKristin Fox-Siegmund	and Marketing Leah Yoon Frelinghuysen
PROGRAMMING	Associate Director of Marketing and CommunicationsCarly Cloud
Director of Artistic ProgrammingJosé Carrasquillo	Associate Director of Ticketing & Sales StrategyJ.R. Watson
Irani Foundation Director of EducationTricia Patrick	Digital Content Manager Andrew Buchsbaum
Senior Artistic AdvisorSheldon Epps	Design DirectorGary Erskine
Deputy Director of EducationJake Flack	Social Media and Marketing ManagerGabby Allen
Associate Director of Education	Ticket Services ManagerMorgan Vaughan
and Public ProgramsAlexandria Wood	Assistant Ticket Services ManagerRobbie Duncan
Company ManagerMartita Slayden-Robinson	Assistant Ticketing Manager, GroupsCat Moreschi
Program Operations and Music Manager Sarah R. Hewitt	Ticket Services AssociatesAJ Sultan, Alexus Crockett, Anthony De Souza, Audrey Klasterman
Artistic Programming ManagerErika Scott	Charlotte Newton, Cynthia Perdue,
Manager of Arts Education Axel R. Cruz	Felicia Mayfield, Jan Cameron, Jasmine Brooks
Interpretive Programs Manager Daiya Malone	Kyle Bailey, Rome Kapen, Steve Langley
Teaching ArtistsW. Ellington Felton, Heidi Fortune Picker,	PRODUCTION
ChelseaDee Harrison, Tamekia Jackson, Max Johnson, Kiersten Morgan, Mary Myers,	Production SupervisorCarey Lawless
Kirsten Noetzel, Victoria Reinsel, Eliseo Valerio	Head CarpenterAndrew Fox
Education Program ArtistsJonathan Atkinson, Michael Glenn,	Props HeadTess Wagner
Joe Mallon, Eric M. Messner, Chris Stinson	Head FlypersonCraig Arnold
ADMINISTRATION	Costume Manager/Design AssistantVeronica Stevens
Director of FinanceJoshua Drew	Interim Costume Manager/Design AssistantAndrew Cutler
Director of Accessibility and EngagementTeela P. Foxworth	Wardrobe SupervisorConstance Harris
Director of OperationsJason Shadle	Hair and Make-Up SupervisorDanna Rosedahl
Associate Director of FinanceSheila H. Davis	Head Electrician
Accounting, Payroll and	Sound EngineerBrian Keating
Office Services ManagerDarnell Swinton	Assistant Stagehands
Executive Assistant to the DirectorRachel Ryan	Autumn Smith
Human Resources ManagerLindsey Madsen	Resident Production Stage ManagerBrandon Prendergast
IT ManagerAkinola Ojo	Production AssistantSafiya Muthaliff
IT Support SpecialistKwame Poku	PATRON SERVICES
CRM and Analytics ManagerTim Helmer	Associate Director of Patron ServicesRajhaun Piranti
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Director of Development	and Volunteer EngagementJeron Amoroso
Deputy Director of DevelopmentRuthAnn Clark	Patron Services Manager,
Associate Director, Corporate RelationsKatie Burns-Yocum	Visitation and Museum OperationsMarie Althaus Patron Services AssociatesAlana Stolnitz, Allison Farrall,
Associate Director, Foundation	Carrie Welter, Elinor Reed, Emmaline Moye,
and Government RelationsHeather Cipu	Harry Greenberg, Isaiah Robinson,
Special Events ManagerRegan R. Lear	Nadia Lee, Reneé Jones
Corporate Relations ManagerLainie Richards	
Development AssociateMegan Ortman	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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	Acting Director, National Park ServiceJessica Bowron
	National Capital Area DirectorKym Hall
	Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial ParksDr. Kevin Griess
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