



For Immediate Release: June 11, 2014

Contact: Hilary Malson

202-829-0436 x31228

hmalson@savingplaces.org

President Lincoln's Cottage Wins Gold Muse Award for Tour Technology

The American Alliance of Museums awards President Lincoln's Cottage top prize for Cottage tour app.

Washington, D.C. – President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, D.C. won the top prize from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) for best new digital application in 2014. AAM's Media and Technology Muse Awards recognizes the galleries, libraries, archives, and museums whose use of digital media exceptionally enhances visitor experiences. The app was developed exclusively for President Lincoln's Cottage by Blair Dubilier & Associates.

The app holds a wide – and continually expanding – collection of primary sources, including high-quality visuals of historic maps and crisp audio recordings of little-known stories. President Lincoln's Cottage tour guides use the app to enhance Cottage tours and illustrate Lincoln's life at the Cottage. "Our team can now tailor tours to the interests of visitors in real time," explained Erin Carlson Mast, Executive Director of President Lincoln's Cottage. "It also gives us the ability delve deeper into primary sources with our audience." The conversational approach of Cottage tours enables visitors to engage more deeply with the history and modern relevance of Lincoln's time here, and jurors on the AAM award committee characterized the technology as "very appealing for further discovery of content."

Development of the app technology was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Guided tours of President Lincoln's Cottage are offered daily on the hour. Tickets are required for tours of President Lincoln's Cottage, and advanced ticket purchase is recommended. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.lincolncottage.org/tickets or on the phone at 202-829-0436.

President Lincoln's Cottage, "the Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation," is located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. While living here for more than a quarter of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln bonded with soldiers and veterans, made crucial decisions about the Civil War, and, most notably, developed the Emancipation Proclamation his first summer in residence. His daily commute put him in regular contact with wounded soldiers and self-emancipated men, women, and children. Today, the site offers an intimate, never-before-seen view of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and private life, and new perspectives on the influential ideas Lincoln developed while living here.

Tours of President Lincoln's Cottage are given daily on the hour, and all tours begin in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center. The entrance is at the intersection of Upshur St NW and Rock Creek Church Rd NW (approximate GPS address: 140 Rock Creek Church Rd NW). The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. For more information on President Lincoln's Cottage, visit: www.lincolncottage.org or call 202-829-0436.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. President Lincoln's Cottage is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit: www.preservationnation.org.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow IMLS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).