



## **Media Advisory: President Lincoln's Cottage recognizes Abraham Lincoln's commitment to immigration with new exhibit "American by Belief" and naturalization ceremony.**

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**WHAT:** President Lincoln's Cottage will open the new "American by Belief" exhibition, followed by a naturalization ceremony.

**WHEN:** Friday, October 16

- 9:30 am (exhibit opening)
- 2:00 pm (naturalization ceremony)

**WHERE:** President Lincoln's Cottage  
140 Rock Creek Church Rd, NW  
Washington, DC 20011

President Lincoln's Cottage will open "American by Belief," a new exhibit focusing on President Abraham Lincoln and American immigration policy, and host a citizenship ceremony. "American by Belief" will shed light on Lincoln's beliefs and policies encouraging immigration. Lincoln's most critical decision on this issue came on the first day of his final season living at the Cottage, July 4, 1864, when he signed into law An Act to Encourage Immigration, the first comprehensive immigration law in American history. This law put into action Lincoln and the Republican Party's 1864 election platform that immigration "should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy."

"American by Belief" will also connect Lincoln's vision to contemporary issues concerning immigration, including an interactive for visitors to tell their own family's immigration story and reflective space for visitors to consider the historical and continued influence immigration has had on the United States.

Following the exhibit's opening, President Lincoln's Cottage will serve as host for a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization ceremony. These new American citizens will take their oath at the Cottage where President Lincoln spent one quarter of his presidency and developed the Emancipation Proclamation.

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About President Lincoln's Cottage: For over a quarter of his Presidency, Abraham Lincoln lived on an uplifting hilltop in Northwest Washington, D.C., while making some of his most critical decisions. While in residence at the Cottage, Lincoln visited with wounded soldiers, spent time with self-emancipated men, women and children, and developed the Emancipation Proclamation. The human cost of the Civil War surrounded him, undoubtedly impacted his thinking, and strengthened his resolve to challenge the status quo. Through innovative guided tours, exhibits and programs, we use Lincoln's example to inspire visitors to take their own path to greatness, and preserve this place as an authentic, tangible connection to the past and a beacon of hope for all who take up Lincoln's unfinished work.

Hours of operation: The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. Guided Cottage tours are on the hour, 7 days a week. For more information on President Lincoln's Cottage, visit: [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org) or call 202-829-0436.

About the National Trust for Historic Preservation: 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](http://www.preservationnation.org).