



J.P.Morgan Chase sponsors Lincoln exhibit

With one speech in New York City, a humble lawyer from Illinois transformed his image from country bumpkin to electable presidential candidate. This information is part of a new exhibit, entitled [Lincoln and New York](#) that examines the complex links between the ambitious western politician with scant national experience and the U.S. capital of commerce and publishing.

Presented by the [New-York Historical Society](#), the exhibit makes the case that the city created the image of Lincoln we know today. JPMorgan Chase is the lead corporate sponsor of the show and its related educational program.

Beginning with a video of actor Sam Waterston delivering the 1860 speech that transformed Lincoln's career, the exhibit casts new light on the man and his era. Visitors learn how Lincoln and his policies shaped New York—and how the city (especially its powerful newspaper editors) shaped him.

During his presidency, debates—and sometimes riots—over his stance on slavery raged across the city. The mayor even proposed that the city declare its independence from both the Union and the Confederacy and continue trading with both sides.

Historic documents, artwork, Civil War artifacts and recruiting posters, political cartoons and even a pair of slave shackles illustrate the explosive era. The show also traces the evolution of Lincoln's image from rail-splitter to compassionate martyr who gave his life so that the nation would enjoy a "new birth of freedom."

The accompanying educational program includes free in-classroom sessions for schools and community groups identified through the JPMorgan Chase Foundation's Community Renaissance neighborhoods.

The New-York Historical Society is also offering a [series of professional development courses](#) that will introduce teachers to the exhibit and provide resources they can take back to the classroom.

With its in-depth look at New York's complex relationship with Lincoln, the exhibition is a fitting venue for the launch of a new JPMorgan Chase Foundation program called "Writing History...Righting History." The program focuses on teaching children the real and sometimes difficult truths that are part of U.S. history.

"America's history is filled with imperfect and unflattering moments," said Kim Davis, president of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. "But these unfortunate truths do not make these events any less relevant or important to the presentation of our history."

The exhibition is the last in a series of New-York Historical Society shows celebrating the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. It will run through March 25, 2010.