

Russell Lewis

Executive Vice President and Chief Historian



Experience: Chicago History Museum (Executive Vice President and Chief Historian, 2005–present; Acting President, 2005; Andrew W. Mellon Director for Collections and Research, 1996–2004; Assistant Director for Research and Curatorial Affairs, 1995–96; Director of Curatorial Affairs, 1993–95; Director of Publications, 1986–93; Editor, 1985–86; Associate Editor, 1984–85; and Assistant Editor, 1982–84)

Education: MA in American Culture from University of Michigan (1975); BA in Anthropology from University of Florida (1973)

Russell Lewis is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Museum’s mission to creatively explore and showcase Chicago’s history and culture, and for preserving, managing, building, and making accessible to the public, the Museum’s collection of more than 22 million documents and artifacts.

Mr. Lewis has been involved in the development of numerous exhibitions, including *We The People: Creating A New Nation, 1765–1820* and *A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln*, and served as project director for the exhibition *Chicago Goes to War, 1941–45*, the urban history conference Modes of Inquiry for American City History, and the community history initiative Neighborhoods: Keepers of Culture. He has led a number of digitization projects, including The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory; Wet with Blood: The Investigation of Mary Todd Lincoln’s Cloak; Studs Terkel: Conversations with America; and the online version of The Encyclopedia of Chicago.

Mr. Lewis has also served on numerous committees for the American Association of Museums, the Organization of American Historians, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museums and Library Services. Mr. Lewis is President of the Board of Directors for the Eastland Disaster Historical Society, serves as secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society, and is a trustee for the Civil War Roundtable of Chicago. He is a member of the Advisory Board for the Chicago Studies program at Loyola University of Chicago, and co-director of the Chicago History Museum’s Urban History Seminar.