

Olivia Mahoney

Senior Curator

**Experience:**

Chicago History Museum: Curatorial Staff, 1980-present
Block Art Gallery, Northwestern University: Education Coordinator, 1980

Education:

M.A., Museum Studies, Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University of New York, 1980
B.S., Education, emphasis in American History, Student of Distinction 1974, Northwestern University

Olivia Mahoney is responsible for collecting and interpreting materials related to Chicago and American history. She has curated many exhibitions, including *Abraham Lincoln Transformed* and the on-line version, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War* (www.lincolnat200.org) in 2009; *Chicago: Crossroads of America*, the museum's core exhibition (2006); and *Go West! Chicago and American Expansion* (1999).

Working with Eric Foner of Columbia University, Ms. Mahoney developed two prize-winning exhibitions: *A House Divided: American in the Age of Lincoln* for CHM (1990) and *America's Reconstruction: People and Politics After the Civil War*, a traveling exhibition that opened at the Virginia Historical Society (1995). Their catalog for *A House Divided* received the Gustavus Myers Award for outstanding book on human rights in the United States. Most recently, the film Ms. Mahoney scripted for *Abraham Lincoln Transformed* received an honorable mention in the American Association of Museums Muse competition. Ms. Mahoney has served on several review and advisory panels, including the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum; she is currently a member of the Organization of American Historians (OAH) Committee on Collaboration with the National Park Service.