



# Lincoln Legacy

## Collection and Exhibition

Lincoln Life Mask, 1860



Bronze casting of Lincoln's hands, 1860



## **IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** **“Lincoln Legacy” Collection and Exhibition**

### Organization and Qualifications

Past people and events have shaped every aspect of our lives — our land, our communities, our government, and our culture. Driven by our mission, the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) is a trusted guide through our state’s fascinating history. ISHS is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources comprised of the Idaho State Historical Museum, State Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, and Historic Sites Program.

ISHS preserves and provides access to irreplaceable state-owned historic collections including 250,000 historic artifacts, 1.75 million photographs, 26,000 maps and architectural drawings, 60 historic buildings, 20,000 archaeological artifacts, and more. The Research Center at the Idaho State Archives is where everyone, including family historians, students, and educators, can access information about Idaho’s rich history.

To foster a more meaningful exploration of our history and create a permanent legacy of Idaho’s territorial sesquicentennial, ISHS will build a one of a kind exhibition emphasizing and celebrating the Lincoln connection to Idaho. The twelve-hundred square foot exhibit will create a signature Abraham Lincoln research collection of books, documents, images, and artifacts of value to scholars. This opportunity will also build the Agency’s capacity to create compelling, dynamic, and meaningful learning experiences with significant collections.

### Project Description- The Lincoln Legacy and Idaho at 150

The Idaho State Historical Society strives to be a relevant, engaging, and dynamic resource for the people of our region to connect with Idaho history. March 4, 2013 marks the anniversary of the creation of Idaho Territory. The twenty-seven year territorial era was the most important period in Idaho history in terms of shaping the state we know today. Do you drive on Idaho’s main highways? Did you attend Idaho public schools? Do you pay county taxes? Did you find it surprising in the 1990s that the U.S. Supreme Court granted ownership of part of Lake Coeur d’Alene to the Coeur d’Alene Tribe? Have you wondered why Idaho has three state universities? Have you found it curious that many northern Idahoans refer to their part of the state as North Idaho, when no other region uses such capitalization? Have you ever voted for a Supreme Court justice? Do you have irrigation water rights? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then you are living with the result of decisions made during Idaho’s territorial period. Specifically, the Lincoln Legacy exhibition will focus on President Lincoln’s impact on the creation of Idaho Territory, and his impact on the development of the Rocky Mountain west and the US history of that era.

### The Lincoln Legacy Collection and Exhibition

The collection is the most significant grouping of contemporary artifacts ever assembled relating to the relationship of Abraham Lincoln and the Rocky Mountain West. No institution, public or private, national or regional, can duplicate the 1,500 tangible objects,

books, letters, photographs, publications, cartoons, relics, paintings, statuary, campaign mementos, association pieces and Lincoln family items planned for donation to the Idaho State Archives. With statewide activities undertaken from 2007-2009, the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission began telling the little known account of the sixteenth President's personal connection to Idaho Territory and the state. A new, major, permanent exhibition at the Idaho State Archives will dramatically project this story using a glassed-in, walk-through gallery adjacent to the entry atrium and Research Center.

Among the unique items slated for display are:

- The New York Herald, March 11, 1863 edition, mapping and announcing the President's creation of Idaho Territory.
- Lincoln's signed appointment of the first territorial Chief Justice.
- Lincoln's signed appointment of the second territorial Governor.
- Lincoln's remarks to Congress in 1863 and 1864 reporting on the progress made in organizing Idaho Territory.
- A letter from Lincoln's Vice-President, Hannibal Hamlin, suggesting an appointment for Idaho Territory.
- A letter from Sam Parks, Idaho Supreme Court Justice, describing his political relations with his friend and fellow Illinois lawyer, Mr. Lincoln.
- An invitation to Lincoln's second Inaugural Ball, March 1865, listing William H. Wallace, Idaho's Member of Congress, as one of the managers.
- The printed handbill from Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865 announcing the play to which Lincoln invited the Idaho Congressional delegate, William H. Wallace, and his wife to attend with him and Mrs. Lincoln just hours before his assassination.
- The Order of Procession for the President's funeral parade in Chicago on May 1, 1865, listing the Honorable William H. Wallace of Idaho Territory as a Member of Congress in attendance.
- An original photograph of the congressional delegation posted in front of the Lincoln residence in Springfield before the President's funeral depicting Congressman William H. Wallace among the group, representing the people of Idaho Territory.
- A piece of floorboard from the Lincoln Springfield home, which was occupied during 1847-1848 by renter Mason Brayman, who became the Governor of Idaho Territory in 1876.
- A large, framed, inscribed photographic portrait of the last Idaho Territorial Congressman, and later U.S. Senator, Fred T. Dubois, a childhood playmate of Lincoln and his sons.
- A lock of Lincoln's hair, taken at his autopsy in the White House by James Barnes, the Surgeon General of the United States.

### Context of the Exhibition

Visitors will enter the exhibition through a reconstruction of the Lincoln-era Cabinet Room where President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in the White House. The reconstructed Cabinet Room will contain replica furnishings, fixtures and wall coverings. Visitors will exit through the last gallery depicting the façade of the Presidential Box in Ford's Theater where President Lincoln was assassinated. In between, visitors will

explore four more exhibition galleries exploring the chronological and topical depiction of Lincoln's life, achievements, and relations with the West.

The interpretive themes in the exhibition will be:

- Idaho Connections
- Lincoln's Youth
- Lincoln as Lawyer and Legislator
- Lincoln as Presidential Candidate
- Lincoln as President
- Assassination

The exhibition will be located within the Idaho State Archives which holds the most comprehensive collections of Idaho and Northwest history. The exhibition will be located in the Northwest corner of the Archives and will take advantage of an existing glass wall and display walls formed by existing infrastructure.

The selected exhibition design consultant will align interior renovations (done by the state) that will create the gallery "palette" including display walls, exhibition lighting, and location of utility supply(s) with the exhibition planning, design, and fabrication.

### Audience

The Research Center at the Idaho State Archives is first and foremost an educational center. Our impact goes beyond traditional scholars to reach life-long learners. Visitors come because we offer engaging and informative ways to learn. This exhibition will have immediate impact on visitors to the Research Center and will provide a draw for school groups, researchers, and tourists and visitors of all ages. The Idaho State Archives will become a regionally significant destination exhibit with a vibrant presentation that will increase visitation to and access of the Archives and its remarkable collections.

### Evaluating Project Success

The ISHS is continually evaluating our ability to reach our mission through a variety of methods. In addition to tracking attendance, we will employ two strategies: 1) Exit surveys: visitors will be asked both demographic information and questions regarding their educational experiences at the exhibition. This allows us to evaluate the impact of exhibits on our visitors. 2) Specific surveys: we plan to develop a survey that will allow us to evaluate the impact of the Lincoln Legacy exhibit.

## **The Idaho State Historical Society**

Created in 1881 and established as a state agency in 1907, the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) preserves and promotes Idaho's rich cultural heritage and benefits Idahoans through essential services including records management and dynamic public programs in education, preservation and stewardship, and technical assistance. We seek to inspire, enrich and engage all Idahoans by leading the state in preserving and sharing our dynamic cultural heritage.

The Idaho State Historical Society impacts our state and community through helping people of all ages explore and appreciate Idaho's rich past and learn more about themselves. The Idaho State Historical Society:

- Offers services that are essential to the state on all levels, providing information and understanding to everyone from schoolchildren to members of the upper echelon of state government.
- Is a trusted guide through the state's history and how it has shaped every aspect of our lives — our land, our communities, our government and our people — while also illuminating how history sheds light on the future.
- Is an active member of the state that engages community by building on shared experiences and inspires further action and understanding.
- Uses its resources to provide a window to the past for people of all ages, leading to a shared vision for the future.

## **Now is the Time to Invest In Idaho's Future Through Your Support of the Lincoln Legacy Exhibition**

### **"Lincoln Legacy Circle"**

The "Lincoln Legacy Circle" is a special group of corporations, foundation and individuals who contribute at a significant level. Private support is crucial to the Society's vitality, and to the creation of this special, singularly unique exhibition. This circle of friends provides the base of this support. Their leadership and support, along with ISHS members, make the Society one of the largest history organization in Idaho.

Your support will assist in creating a one of a kind, 1,200 square foot permanent exhibition emphasizing and celebrating the Lincoln connection to Idaho that will:

- Enhance Idahoan's knowledge about Abraham Lincoln, including the creation of Idaho Territory in 1863 and Lincoln's impact on the development of the Rocky Mountain west and the US history of that era
- Serve Idaho school children and the community through a compelling and fun exhibition
- Inspire heritage tourists to visit the Idaho State Archives and Old Penitentiary District
- Support the development of the most significant Lincoln collection of books, documents, images, and related materials in the Mountain West

### **"Lincoln Legacy Circle" Benefits**

#### \$500- Youth

- Listing in annual report
- Listing on the donor wall
- 2 invitations to donor opening reception

#### \$1000- Candidate

- Listing in annual report
- Listing on donor wall
- 4 invitations to donor opening reception

#### \$2500- Legislator

- Listing in annual report
- Listing on donor wall
- 6 invitations to donor opening reception
- Listing in Mountain Light Newsletter and electronic histor-e newsletter

#### \$5000- Idaho

- Listing in annual report
- Listing on donor wall
- 8 invitations to donor opening reception
- Listing in Mountain Light Newsletter and electronic histor-e newsletter
- Recognition on ISHS website for one year

#### \$10,000- Territory

- Listing in annual report
- Listing on donor wall
- 10 invitations to donor opening reception
- Listing in Mountain Light Newsletter and electronic histor-e newsletter
- Recognition on ISHS website for one year
- Recognition on advertising and in public relations efforts

#### \$20,000- Emancipator

- Listing in annual report
- Listing on donor wall
- 12 invitations to donor opening reception
- Listing in Mountain Light Newsletter and electronic histor-e newsletter
- Recognition on ISHS website for one year
- Recognition on advertising and in public relations efforts
- Private exhibition tour
- Private lunch with David and Nancy Leroy, the Idaho State Archivist and ISHS Executive Director
- One private facility use at the Idaho History Center, including a guided tour of the exhibition

#### \$50,000- President

- Listing in annual report
- Listing on donor wall
- 12 invitations to donor opening reception
- Listing in Mountain Light Newsletter and electronic histor-e newsletter
- Recognition on ISHS website for one year
- Recognition on advertising and in public relations efforts
- Private exhibition tour
- Private lunch with David and Nancy Leroy, the Idaho State Archivist and ISHS Executive Director
- One private facility use at the Idaho History Center, including a guided tour of the exhibition

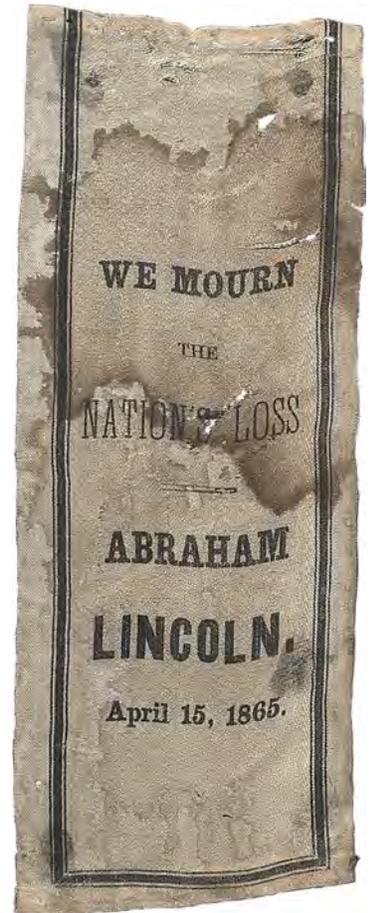
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- Customized benefits to be determined

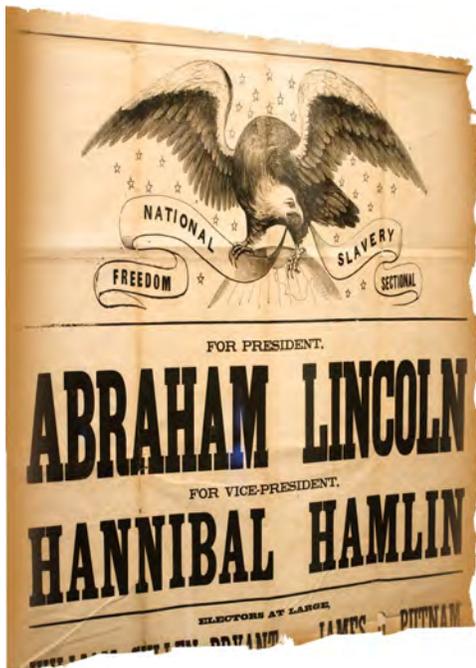
# Unique items slated for display in the Lincoln Legacy Exhibition



Top left: Lincoln Portrait  
Top right: Mourning announcement  
Center: Law office advertisement



Bottom left: Election poster  
Bottom right: Life mask





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CONCEPT

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JOB #

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DATE **8.9.11**

PROJECT **EXHIBITION PLANNING**

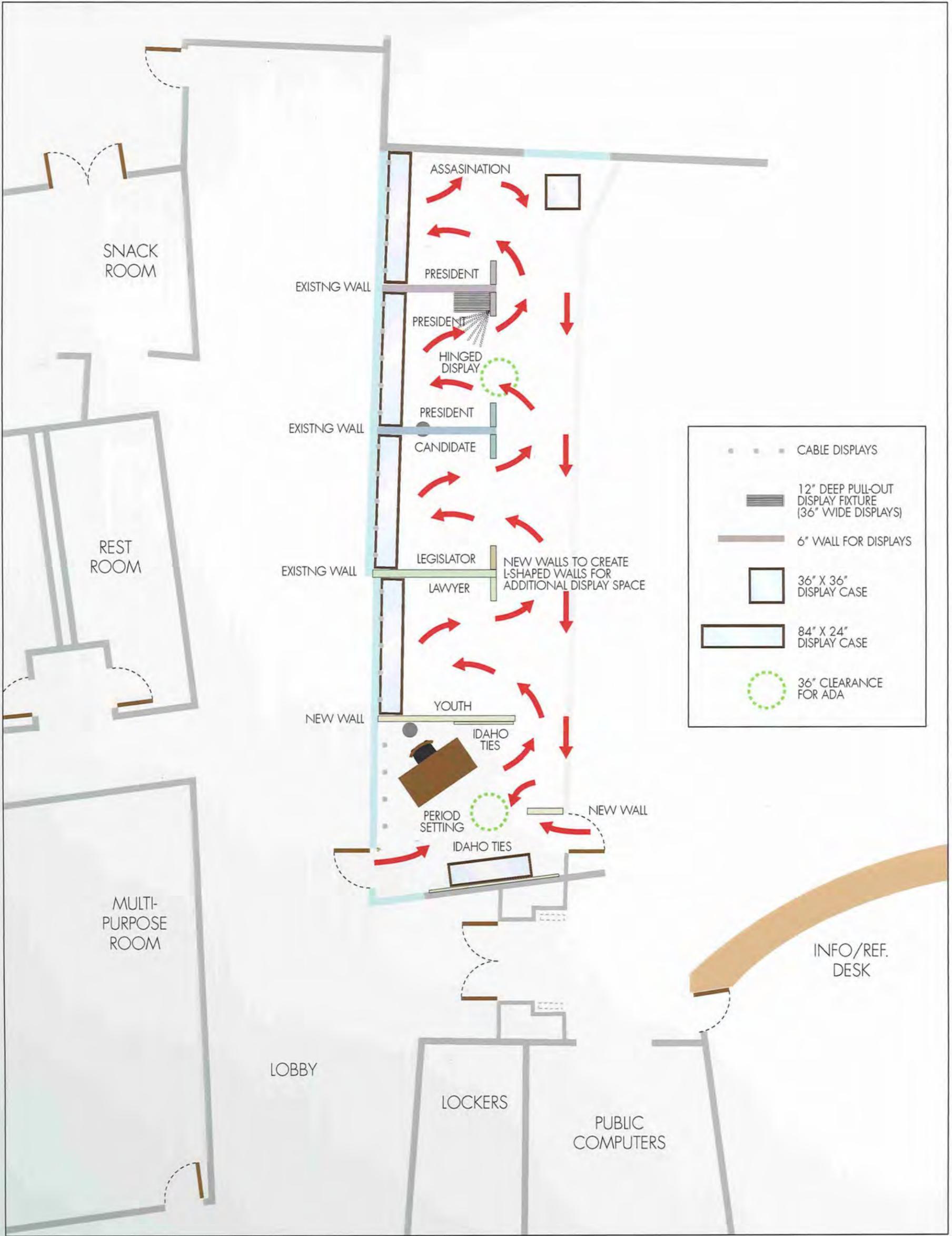
DESIGNER **BRYAN RICH**

ACCT. EXEC. **RUSTY KATSUKI**

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NOTES

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