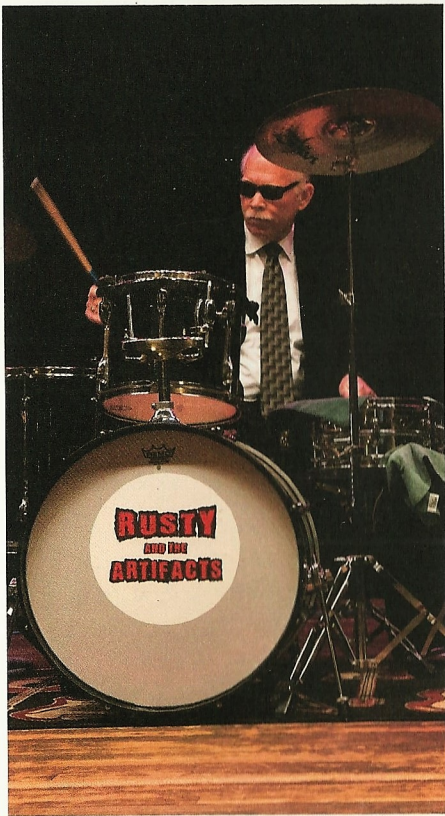


# IN MEMORY OF **RUSSELL LEWIS**

By Danielle Gilfoyle, institutional advancement summer intern

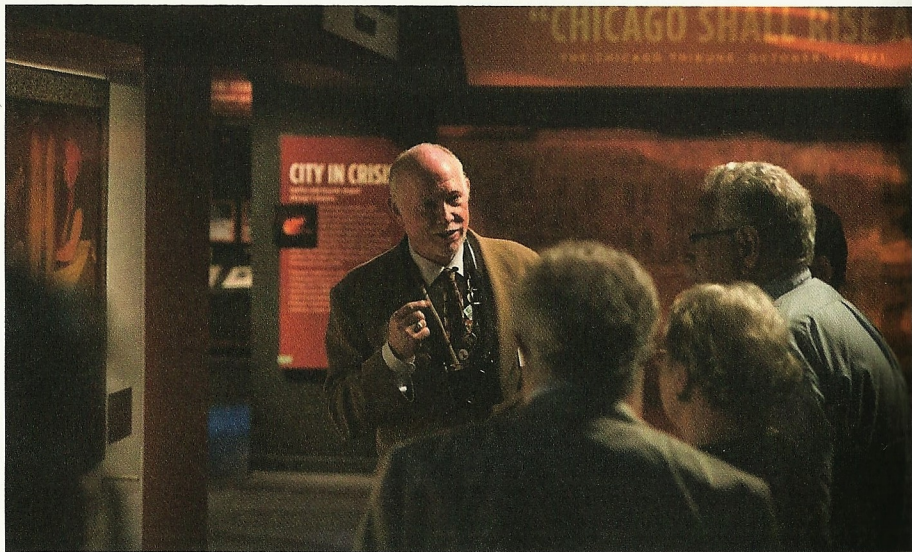
In April 2019, Russell Lewis, a beloved staff member of the Chicago History Museum, passed away. Russell was a treasured part of CHM for nearly four decades. During his 36-year career, his contributions to the Museum were extensive and invaluable. Russell started working at the Museum in 1983 as an assistant editor and concluded his career as executive vice president and chief historian. He served as interim president of the Museum on two occasions and was a co-director of the Museum's Urban History Seminar. After retiring, he was named chief historian emeritus of the Museum.

Russell was known for his wide-ranging knowledge as a historian. As an expert on Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the Great Chicago Fire, and urban planning, Russell brought depth and perspective to all his endeavors at CHM.



While most will remember Russell as a distinguished historian and Chicagoan, we also have fond memories of him as a co-worker, friend, and lead drummer in the band he formed with Museum staffers called "Rusty and the Artifacts," and later his other musical work in the "Frozen Ground Blues Band."

Photo: Russell playing drums on stage at CHM's Chicago Hot Dog Fest  
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## Russell's Legacy

The Museum was not the only beneficiary of Russell's expertise. He was an active public historian, serving as chair of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society and the Friends of DuSable, as well as an advisor to History Makers and Ford's Theater. He was also an active leader in the Chicago's Museums in the Park, the American Association for State and Local History, and the Illinois State Historical Society.

Russell's many contributions were recognized by the Association of Midwest Museums with the Distinguished Career Award in 2018 and by the Chicago Historical Society with the J. Young Scammon Award in 2019. Russell was also a member of the Lincoln Honor Roll Society.

Photo: Russell leading a Museum tour © Chicago Historical Society, all rights reserved.

## Creating your legacy

The Lincoln Honor Roll Society was established to recognize those special individuals, like Russell, who support CHM in their wills, trusts, life insurance policies, retirement assets, or other estate planning.

**For more information about the Lincoln Honor Roll Society and planned giving options, contact Michael Anderson, director of institutional advancement, at 312.799.2142 or [manderson@chicagohistory.org](mailto:manderson@chicagohistory.org)**

**You can also visit our website at [chicagohistory.org/planned-giving](http://chicagohistory.org/planned-giving)**

*Full honor roll for the Lincoln Honor Roll Society is on pg. 16.*