

# 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:

M.A., American Culture from University of Michigan (1975); B.A., 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.

Lewis has been involved in the development of numerous museum exhibitions and community history initiatives. He has led a number of digitization projects, including *The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory* (1996); *Wet with Blood: The Investigation of Mary Todd Lincoln's Cloak* (2004); *Studs Terkel: Conversations with America* (2002); and the online version of *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*. He is the author of *Historic Photos of Chicago* (2006), and *Historic Photos of The Chicago's World's Fair* (2010), as well as articles on urban planning, Abraham Lincoln, and biohistorical research.

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. Lewis serves on the boards of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Society, the Friends of DuSable, the American Association for State and Local History, Chicago Historical Society. He is an advisor to the History Makers and Ford's Theater. He is co-director of the Chicago History Museum's Urban History Seminar.