ROCHESTER, NY, February 3, 2009 — To mark the opening of an exhibition that celebrates the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln, the Memorial Art Gallery will offer admission for one penny on February 12, 2009—the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth. Curated by director Grant Holcomb, Lincoln in Rochester includes more than 40 artworks, artifacts and memorabilia from area collections including the Memorial Art Gallery, George Eastman House, Rochester Historical Society, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Seward House Museum, Strong National Museum of Play, and University of Rochester Rare Books & Special Collections.

“Several of the works on view reveal direct connections between Lincoln and western New York,” notes Holcomb. “Douglas Gorsline’s drawings, for example, illustrate the story of a famous letter sent to Lincoln by Grace Bedell, a young Westfield, New York girl. Acclaimed sculptor Leonard Volk grew up outside Rochester and is said to have lived here for a short period of time; his life casts of Lincoln’s face and hands were a resource for other American artists while his own monumental portrait of Lincoln in Washington Square Park remains one of the most significant outdoor sculptures in this part of the state. Lincoln’s unique friendships with Rochester’s Frederick Douglass and Auburn’s William H. Seward (who served as his Secretary of State) are also reflected in the exhibition.”

The exhibition is possible by the Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Fund and presented in honor of the City of Rochester’s 175th anniversary. Lincoln in Rochester remains on view through April 19.

MAG on the web: mag.rochester.edu

Other links of interest:
To learn more about the Lincoln penny, first introduced in 1909, visit www.treas.gov/education/fact-sheets/ currency/lincoln-cent.shtml.

The US Mint has announced plans to release four new commemorate designs in 2009. www.usmint.gov/ mint_programs/lincolncent.shtml.

Press contacts:
Larissa Masny, 585-276-8934 lmasny@mag.rochester.edu
Patti Giordano, 585-276-8932 pgiordano@mag.rochester.edu