

## Olivia Mahoney Chief Curator



**Experience:** Chicago History Museum (Chief Curator, 2003–present; Director, Department of Historical Documentation, 1997–2003; Curator, Decorative and Industrial Arts, 1994–97; Assistant and Associate Curator, 1980–94). Northwestern University (Education Coordinator, Block Art Gallery, 1980)

**Education:** MA, Museum Studies, Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University of New York, 1980; BS in 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. In 2006, she served as the chief curator of the permanent exhibition, *Chicago: Crossroads of America*. Ms. Mahoney previously curated *Go West! Chicago and American Expansion* (1999), *America's Reconstruction: People and Politics After the Civil War* (1996), *Douglas/Grand Boulevard: The Past and The Promise* (1995), and *A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln* (1990).

Ms. Mahoney was honored in 1997 with the American Association for State and Local History Merit Award for the exhibition, *America's Reconstruction: People and Politics After the Civil War*. She was also awarded the Illinois Humanities Council Lawrence V. Towner Award in 1992 for *A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln*. The exhibition's catalog, which she co-authored with Eric Foner, received the Gustavus Myers Award for outstanding book on the subject of human rights in the United States.

Ms. Mahoney is a member of the American Association of Museums, serves on the Advisory Board of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum and Visitor Center, and as a consultant to the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.