



**BURCHFIELD
PENNEY
ART CENTER**
at Buffalo State College

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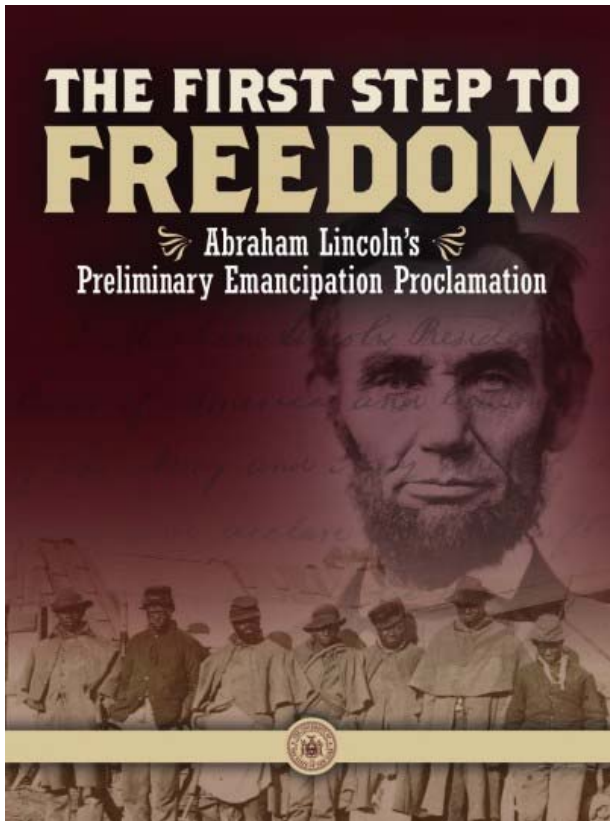
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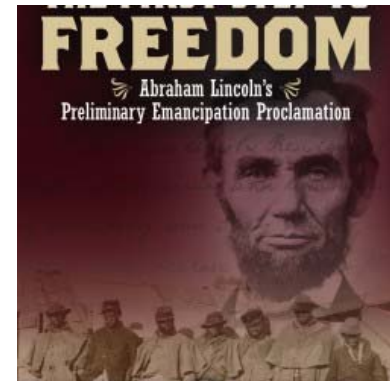
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EXHIBITIONS



[THE FIRST STEP TO FREEDOM: ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S PRELIMINARY EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION](#)

October 5–October 6, 2012

OBJECTS



CONTEXT

State Education Department Announces Exhibit Featuring Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

Friday, September 14, 2012

[The New York State Museum](#), a division of the New York State Education Department, has organized an exhibition to mark the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation that will be on view October 5-6, 2012 at the Burchfield Penney Art Center at Buffalo State. Museum hours for the two days are from 10am - 7pm on Friday, October 5 and from 10am - 5pm on Saturday, October 6.

The exhibition, entitled *The First Step to Freedom: Abraham Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation*, will travel to eight cities across New York State this fall. The exhibition will offer an unprecedented display of the only surviving version of the document in Lincoln's [handwriting](#) and will include historical background and interpretation of the document. The First Step to Freedom will also include the manuscript of a speech written and delivered in New York City in September 1962 by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the Proclamation's centennial.

"America was born with the declaration that all men are created equal," State Education Commissioner John B. King, Jr. said, "but it took almost 100 years after our nation's founding -- until President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the Union achieved victory and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were added to the U.S. Constitution -- to begin to make that declaration a reality for people of African descent brought here

As one of the preeminent artists of his time, Charles E. Burchfield was celebrated in the first solo artist exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in 1930. This exhibition featured dozens of his earliest watercolors.

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