

# Press Release



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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## National Endowment for the Humanities Selects Newark Museum to Host National Conference for Teachers - American Visions: *Picturing America* School Collaboration Project

*Note to editor: list of teachers at the bottom of release*

**(NEWARK)** One day in the not-too-distant future, works from the Newark Museum's renowned American Art collection will be used by American history and English teachers across the country to develop a deeper cultural appreciation among students in their classrooms.

Masterpieces from the Newark Museum's American Art collection as well as artworks from other American museum collections may indeed become an integral part of the teaching of American history and culture all across the United States thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) which has funded a series of teacher development conferences to be held at the Newark Museum February 10-13, April 21-24 and June 23-26. Similar conferences are scheduled in Boston and Chicago.

The conferences, entitled "**American Visions**": *Picturing America* School Collaboration Project, support the classroom use of a "Picturing America" curriculum, featuring masterpieces of American art, distributed by the NEH to more than 75,000 teachers nationwide in 2008. .

More than 225 educators and school librarians nationwide will attend conferences in Newark, Boston and Chicago to learn how to better use the "Picturing America" curriculum, and, more generally, works of art in their teaching. Seventy professionals representing 28 states – including eight from New Jersey – will participate in the conference series at the Newark February 10. The Newark Museum was selected by the

NEH to host three of the national conferences following a rigorous, highly competitive application process.

Themes of conferences to be held at the Newark Museum are: “Young America,” 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century art, Feb. 10-13, 2010; “Towards Modern America” 19<sup>th</sup> century art, April 21-24, 2010 and “Modern and Contemporary America” 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century art, June 23-26, 2010. Conference attendees will collaborate with teachers, Museum educators, curators, humanities scholars and educational specialists in the three-day conferences.

“The Museum is honored to have been selected for this most prestigious award,” said Ted Lind, the Museum’s Deputy Director for Education. “We are excited about the endless potential the project will hold for our community. The conferences will bring great attention to the resources we have available here. The Museum’s American art collection is an ideal match-up to the artists and themes that are included in to the national curriculum for subjects related to American studies.”

The Museum’s participation is also a perfect fit with its mission, initiated by founder John Cotton Dana more than 100 years ago, as a museum of service and education for teachers and their students, and a leader in connecting objects and ideas to the needs and wishes of its constituencies. The Museum believes that the art and science collections have the power to educate, inspire and transform individuals of all ages, and the local, regional, national and international communities that are served. In the words of founding Director John Cotton Dana: “A good museum attracts, entertains, arouses curiosity, leads to questioning—and thus promotes learning.”

“The Newark Museum’s “American Visions” Picturing America School Collaboration Project’ will help teachers better understand how to use art as a tangible resource in the classroom,” said Elizabeth Meola Aaron, the Museum’s Picturing America Project Coordinator. “It will encourage teachers to put the museum learning and museum objects front and center in their teaching. The Museum will provide each participant with a copy of its recently published *Selected Works* catalog as well as digital images of many of the American artworks so that they can be incorporated into lessons back in their home districts and libraries.”

Dr. Clement A. Price, Professor of History and Director of the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience at Rutgers University, Newark Campus, will present the keynote address and welcome at each of the three conferences. The conferences will include presentations and interactive programs with educational specialists and leaders, college professors, historians, New Jersey ‘teacher leaders’ and the Newark Museum curators including: Ulysses Grant Dietz, Curator of Decorative Arts; Holly Pyne Connor, Curator of 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Art; Beth Venn, Modern/Contemporary Curator and Senior Curator of American Art, and Tricia Bloom, Curatorial Associate. Also, David Roediger, University of Illinois; Edward O’Donnell, College of the Holy Cross; Wendy Bellion, University of Delaware; Paul Clemens, Rutgers-New Brunswick; and April Masten, SUNY-Stony Brook.

Andrea Laquerre, a history teacher at Summit High School in New Jersey, will be one of the ‘lead teachers’ in the program. Laquerre said she plans to teach a lesson she designed, entitled “George Washington-The Qualities of a Leader,” which will feature excerpts from biographies on the president and two works of art that feature him at different stages of his life. Laquerre and five other New Jersey teachers were selected by the Museum to lead the conference participants in sessions designed to help them see how to pair works from the NEH collection of resources and the Museum’s collection for use in the classroom.

Thousands of teachers from across the United States wrote essays and applied to participate in the conferences. Participants for the programs were selected from school districts and libraries in over 30 states, including New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas, California, Georgia, Louisiana and Illinois, Maine, Montana, Wyoming, Vermont, Tennessee, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

For more information on the conferences, visit *NewarkPicturingAmerica.blogspot.com*.

#### **ABOUT THE NEWARK MUSEUM**

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street in the Downtown/Arts District of Newark, New Jersey, just 3 blocks from NJPAC and 10 miles west of New York City. The Museum is open all year round: Wednesdays through Fridays, from Noon - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., October 1 – June 30; and Saturdays and Sundays, from Noon – 5:00 p.m., July 1 – September 30. Suggested Museum admission: Adults, \$10.00; Children, Seniors and Students with valid I.D., \$6.00. Members and Newark residents are admitted free. The Museum Café is open for lunches Wednesday through Sunday. Convenient parking is available for a fee. For general information, call 973-596-6550 or visit our web site, <http://www.NewarkMuseum.org>. The Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State—a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Wallace Foundation, and other corporations, foundations and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.

**The Newark Museum is just a few steps from the NJTransit Light Rail Washington Park Station. Direct connection with the Light Rail at the Broad Street Station and through Penn Station makes the Museum a convenient ride from all points in the region.**

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#### TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN FEBRUARY 2010 Conference

Alford	Sheryl	Dresden Middle School	Dresden	TN
Allen	Alyce	Red Bug Elementary School	Casselberry	FL
Altvater	Martha	De La Salle Middle School	St. Louis	MO
Alwell	Mariana	Garden Gate Elementary	Cupertino	CA
Augthun	Carol	Pine Street Elementary School	Spartanburg	SC
Bennett	Emily	East Picacho Elementary	Las Cruces	NM
Bieg	Denyse	Millbridge School	Delran	NJ

Cox	Amie	Crawfordsville High School	Crawfordsville	IN
Cusick	Carolyn	River Valley Middle School	Caledonia	OH
Dautrich	Camille	Bradleyville R-I School	Bradleyville	MO
Dave	Geeta	Glasgow Middle School	Baton Rouge	LA
Ellis	Sandra	North Iredell Middle School	Olin	NC
Espinoza	Dyanna	Community Home Education Program	Cypress	CA
Farina	Neil	Lynbrook North Middle School	Lynbrook	NY
Flannery	Amy	Boyertown Area SD Education Center	Boyertown	PA
Foulks	Beth	Ponca Public School	Ponca	NE
Franklin	Joy	Duncan High School	Duncan	OK
Franklin	Ardith	Thompson Brook School	Avon	CT
Galvis	Ivan	English High School	Jamaica Plain	MA
Garrison	Jeanne	The Arlington School	Belmont	MA
Gialanella	Dana	Demarest Middle School	Demarest	NJ
Gillette	Sharon	Divine Mercy Catholic School	Merritt Island	FL
Gross	Thomas	Pekin Community High School	Pekin	IL
Hart	Rebecca	Pine Forge Elem/Earl Elem/Boyer.ASD	Boyertown	PA
Helmetag	Amy	Mettawee Community School	West Pawlet	VT
Hodge				
Messick	Kathryn	Lone Jack High School	Lone Jack	MO
Ivy	Michelle	Douglas Anderson School of the Arts	Jacksonville	FL
King Taylor	Carol	Harlow Elementary	Harrodsburg	KY
Kneeland	Linda	Heritage Christian School	Bozeman	MT
Kobertson	Susan	Stamford Central School	Stamford	NY
Konietzko	Lothar	Everett High School	Lansing	MI
Kraft	Pamela	Encampment K-12 School	Encampment	WY
Krinsky	Steve	Learning Community Charter School	Jersey City	NJ
Krombach	Caroline	Auburndale Central Elementary	Auburndale	FL
Labbate	Amy	P.S. 304 - The Early Childhood Lab	Bronx	NY
Lambertsen	Martha	Wallingford Elementary School	Wallingford	PA
London	Maggie	Technology High School	Rohnert Park	CA
Lorenz	Marilyn	Pine Forge Elem/Earl Elem/Boyer.ASD	Boyertown	PA
May-Beaver	Bernadette	The Lovett School	Atlanta	GA
Meehan	Sean	The Biotechnology High School	Freehold	NJ
Nasta	Deborah	TAH Proj Director/ NYC DOE	NY	NY
Noble-				
Kline	Kathryn	Antolini Elementary	New Hartford	CT
O'Neill	Kathleen	Southport Elementary	Southport	NC
Ober	Mark	Garrett High School	Garrett	IN
Patlen	Danielle	Kinnelon Road	Kinnelon	NJ
Porschet	Jonathan	Geneva Middle School Library	Geneva	NY

Porschett	Christine	Marcus Whitman High School Library	Geneva	NY
Randell	Joyce	Youth Study Center	Philadelphia	PA
Reeves	Diana	The Gordon School	East Providence	RI
Ringer	William	Viera High School	Viera	FL
Ruggles	Donna	Springfield Estates Elementary School	Springfield	VA
Schurter	Richard	Pekin Community High School	Pekin	IL
Seppi	Jennifer	Home School	Westminster	MD
Shrum	Michele	Sunset Elementary School	Pasadena	MD
Slezak	Diane	John F. Ryan School	Tewksbury	MA
Smith	Miguel	Matapeake Middle School	Stevensville	MD
Spanos-Telsing	Kim	Riviera Beach Elementary School	Pasadena	MD
Stucky	Mel	Southwest Junior High	Lawrence	KS
Tripp				
Johnson	Karen	LaBelle Middle School	LaBelle	FL
Tworek	Debbie	Ridge School	Ridgewood	NJ
Vanderpoel	Deborah	Mosier Elementary School	South Hadley	MA
Walden	Douglas	Clifton High School	Clifton	NJ
Walinski	Connie	International Charter School Hunter / Tannersville Central School	Pawtucket	RI
Watson	Nancy	District	Hunter	NY
West	Anne	Lake Mary Elementary School Thomas Eaton Fundamental Middle School	Lake Mary	FL
Winker	Brooke		Hampton	VA
Yosca	Patricia	North Middle School	Lynbrook	NY
Youngblood	Julie	Del Valle High School	El Paso	TX
Zapoticky	Kathleen	Adamsville School Garden State Talks & Treasures	Bridgewater	NJ
Zeronis	Sharon	Homeschool	Pittsburgh	PA