



Picturing America

THE MISSION

- Through the Picturing AmericaSM initiative, the NEH aims to tell the story of America through its art.
- The program seeks to introduce Americans to their artistic heritage and inspire them to become more informed citizens.

THE DETAILS

- Picturing America is a free resource that provides each participating institution with the following materials:
 - Forty large, high-quality reproductions of the selected masterpieces (24" x 36")
 - An in-depth resource book providing educators with a wide range of ideas and background information for using the works of art in core subjects
 - A dynamic online resource providing access to images, lesson plans, and more detailed information on the masterpieces and artists, available at PicturingAmerica.neh.gov
- These materials unlock the potential of the works of art, showing how they can enhance the study of American history, social studies, language arts, literature, and civics.

THE IMPACT

- Over 76,000 schools, public libraries, and Head Start centers in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. Territories have been awarded Picturing America.
- In January 2008, the program was piloted to over 1,500 schools.
- Over 26,000 recipients were awarded Picturing America in the first application cycle ending April 15, 2008 and received materials in the fall of 2008.
- Over 29,000 schools and public libraries were awarded Picturing America in January 2009, as the result of a second application period ending November 14. Materials will be distributed in the spring of 2009.
- In partnership with NEH, the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start has made Picturing America available to the 20,000 Head Start centers around the nation.

THE GOALS

- Picturing America allows everyone to learn about our history and culture in a fresh and engaging way, giving Americans a deeper appreciation for our country's history by introducing them to its great art.
- The NEH's goal is to make Picturing America available to the greatest possible number of K-12 schools and public libraries nationwide.

THE PROGRAM

- The NEH has carefully selected American masterpieces that bring us face to face with the people, places, and events that have shaped our country. The images are just a small sample of significant works. They serve as a starting point for learning about our nation's history and artistic legacy.
- The works portray America's history, ideals, and aspirations. For instance, the masterpieces:
 - Portray great American leaders, in images such as Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington and Alexander Gardner's photograph of Abraham Lincoln;
 - Depict American courage and sacrifices, in works such as Emanuel Leutze's *Washington Crossing the Delaware*;
 - Illustrate our founding principles of freedom and equality, as shown in the *Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-Fourth Regiment Memorial* in Boston;
 - Show the workings of American democracy, in images such as Norman Rockwell's *Freedom of Speech*; and
 - Illustrate our nation's Native American heritage, through works like Black Hawk's "Sans Arc Lakota" Ledger Book.
- The works were selected for their quality, range of media, and ability to be grouped in ways that expand the program's educational potential.
- The images appeal to students and citizens of all ages, from elementary school through high school and beyond.
- In partnership with the American Library Association, NEH is distributing high-quality reproductions of selected American masterpieces to schools and libraries nationwide.

