



NATIONAL
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FOR THE
HUMANITIES

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506
(202) 606-8446
WWW.NEH.GOV

Media contact: Lindsey Mikal (202) 606-8317

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227 DALLAS ISD SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE NEH'S PICTURING AMERICA

Free Education Initiative Brings Great American Art Directly to Dallas Classrooms and Libraries

DALLAS, TX (April 16, 2008) – Today at the Nasher Sculpture Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will announce that the entire Dallas Independent School District's 227 schools will receive Picturing America. Picturing America is a free initiative helping to teach American history and culture by bringing some of the country's great art directly to classrooms and libraries.

"The Endowment believes that Picturing America should be in every school and public library in the United States. As a result of our first round of applications, thousands of schools, and millions of people all around the country will have the chance to view and learn from this collection in their own communities," said Dr. Bruce Cole, Chairman of the NEH. "Here in Dallas, this hope is being realized. As a result of the strong support of the community, students and teachers at all 227 schools in the Dallas ISD will benefit from this wonderful learning resource."

"This program will bring history, arts, and the humanities together into our community," said Mayor Tom Leppert. "We in Dallas are lucky to have a vibrant cultural scene, but Picturing America will bring our students and library patrons face to face with great American art in a way that will deepen their awareness of American history and culture"

Picturing America Pilot Program

In January 2008, the NEH distributed Picturing America materials to over 1,500 participating pilot schools nationwide. **Seventy-three schools in the state of Texas** participated in the pilot program, **including five Dallas schools**. Feedback from the Dallas educators has been tremendous.

"The quality of the materials is superb. I'm so pleased," said Christine Miller, Fine Arts Specialist from Dallas's School for the Talented and Gifted Magnet. "My freshman students are using the materials to help guide their art discussions. I leave out the resource book for reference and some of the kids have spontaneously picked up the book and started digging in."

The Application Process

From January 7 through April 15, 2008, schools and libraries across the country participated in the first nationwide application period for the Picturing America program. **Nearly 30,000 schools and public libraries across the country submitted applications** to be part of the program. In the city of Dallas, institutions such as private and parochial schools, in addition to the Dallas ISD, as well as public libraries applied during this time. Successful applicants will receive forty large, high-quality reproductions of great American art and a comprehensive teachers resource book to assist educators using the works of art in core subjects. Delivery of these materials is scheduled for August 2008. Additional education resources are also available through the Picturing America Web site (PicturingAmerica.neh.gov).

The NEH will offer Picturing America to more schools and libraries through a future enrollment opportunity beginning in August 2008. All eligible schools and public libraries in the US and its territories who have not previously received Picturing America may apply for the program **from August 4 through October 31 of 2008** at PicturingAmerica.neh.gov.

Partnership with Head Start

In addition to schools and libraries, through an interagency agreement, NEH and the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will work together to make Picturing America available to the **20,000 Head Start centers** around the nation. This

partnership will provide for the development of materials to supplement Picturing America and ensure that the program will enhance early childhood development and family literacy.

“We are thrilled to be collaborating with the National Endowment for the Humanities on Picturing America. These images will be a valuable tool for the Head Start community,” said Daniel Schneider HHS’ acting assistant secretary for children and families at HHS. “Children and low-income families will soon have access to great arts and the humanities – and the lives of those enrolled in Head Start will be enriched as a result of this program.”

Today’s Event at the Nasher Sculpture Center

Educators and students from some of the participating pilot schools in Dallas will attend today’s event at the Nasher Sculpture Center, where several of the Picturing America images will also be on display. During the event, remarks will be given by:

- **The Hon. Bruce Cole**, Chairman of the NEH
- **Tom Leppert**, Mayor of Dallas
- **Robert M. Edsel**, President of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art
- **Michael Hinojosa**, Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District
- **Loriene Roy**, President of the American Library Association, a partner in the distribution of Picturing America
- **Daniel Schneider**, Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The NEH wishes to thank the following organizations: the American Library Association, Office of Head Start, Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Park Service, The History Channel, and the National Trust for the Humanities. The NEH is grateful for the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Smith and, in addition, wishes to thank Mr. Robert M. Edsel, the O’Donnell Foundation, and Humanities Texas for local support, as well as the Nasher Sculpture Center for hosting today’s event.

Picturing America is distributed by the NEH in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA). For information about the ALA, please visit www.ala.org.

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About Picturing America

Public, private, parochial, and charter and home school consortia (K-12), as well as public libraries in the US and its territories, are eligible to receive Picturing America materials. Interested schools and public libraries will be able to apply through the NEH for the second round of Picturing America awards, beginning August 4 through October 31, 2008 for receipt of the materials in spring 2009. Detailed instructions for submitting an application can be found in the ‘Apply Now’ section of the Picturing America Web site, PicturingAmerica.neh.gov.

Picturing America comes with a comprehensive package of materials that includes:

- Forty large, high-quality color reproductions of the selected masterpieces (24” x 36”)
- A comprehensive teachers resource book providing a wide range of ideas and background information to support educators using the works of art in core subject areas
- Additional resources and lesson plans available through the Picturing America Web site, PicturingAmerica.neh.gov

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. The study of the humanities — history, literature, philosophy, and the arts — helps us explore what it means to be human. The humanities enable us to understand the world and our place in it.

Because “democracy demands wisdom,” NEH serves and strengthens our Republic through promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. Through its programs, NEH provides opportunities for all citizens to embrace the humanities and benefit from their wisdom. For more information about NEH, visit www.neh.gov.