



NATIONAL
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HUMANITIES

PRESS RELEASE

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86 ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVE NEH'S PICTURING AMERICA AWARDS

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

Atlanta, GA (Sept. 23, 2008) – Today at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will announce that **86 schools in the Atlanta Public Schools system** have been awarded Picturing America. Picturing America is an education initiative that helps teach American history and culture by bringing some of our nation's greatest works of art directly to classrooms and libraries.

"The Endowment believes that Picturing America should be in every school and public library in the United States," said NEH Chairman Bruce Cole. "As a result of the strong support of the Atlanta community during our first application period, I'm pleased to announce that **86 schools in the Atlanta Public Schools system** have received Picturing America, as part of over **26,000 successful school and public library recipients across the country** that will have a chance to learn from this wonderful education resource this fall."

"Picturing America provides a unique way for students to learn about the important people, places, and moments in our history," said Dr. Martha Reichrath, Deputy Superintendent for Standards, Instruction and Assessment at the Georgia Department of Education. "I know the students in Georgia will find Picturing America interesting, informative, and entertaining. This is the type of collaboration we need to provide a rigorous and relevant education to all our students and emphasize the importance of using the visual arts across all areas of the curriculum."

Of the over **1,500 pilot schools** that participated in the nationwide Picturing America pilot program, **27 are Georgia schools**. Feedback from local educators using the materials in library and classroom learning has been tremendous.

"Historically, aesthetically, and emotionally each of these pictures touches us in a special way," said Janet Brown, Curriculum Coordinator at Christ the King School in Atlanta. "The impact that these pictures has had and will continue to have in our school community is far greater than I could have imagined."

Today's Award Announcement

In the **state of Georgia, 807 schools and public libraries** have been awarded Picturing America, including **121 institutions in the city of Atlanta** (see http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/public_awards.php for a full listing of recipient schools and libraries). These local recipients are part of the **26,320 schools and public libraries across the country** that will participate in the program this fall. Awardees 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. Materials were shipped earlier this month. Additional education resources are also available through the Picturing America Web site (<http://PicturingAmerica.neh.gov/>).

For schools and public libraries that did not apply during the initial application period, NEH is currently accepting a second round of applications **through October 31, 2008** at PicturingAmerica.neh.gov.

Partnership with the National Park Service

Through a joint partnership with NEH, the National Park Service is making select images from the Picturing America collection available to patrons at several National Park sites around the country, including Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Picturing America will provide visitors at each site with an innovative way to explore the history and character of America through some of the nation's greatest works of art.

“National parks are home to many of our nation's cultural and historical treasures, making the National Park Service a natural partner of the Picturing America Initiative,” said Lindi L. Harvey, Deputy Director of the National Park Service. “We are pleased to exhibit American masterpieces at several historic locations around the country this year, including Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta.”

Today's Event at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site

Educators and students from participating pilot and first-round schools in Atlanta will attend today's event at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, 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
- **The Hon. Tevi Troy**, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Lindi L. Harvey**, Deputy Director, National Park Service
- **Judy Forte**, Superintendent, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site
- **Martha Reichrath**, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Standards, Instruction, and Assessment, Georgia Department of Education
- **Kate Nevins**, Past President, Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) and Executive Director, SOLINET
- **Chris C. Womack**, Executive Vice President, External Affairs, Georgia Power

In addition to schools and libraries, through an interagency agreement, the NEH and the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start 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.

The NEH wishes to thank the following organizations: the American Library Association; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start; the National Park Service; the Department of Defense Education Activity; The History Channel, and the National Trust for the Humanities. NEH is grateful for the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Smith and for local support provided by Georgia Power. In addition, NEH wishes to thank the Georgia Humanities Council for local support and planning, as well as Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site 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 may apply through the NEH for the second round of Picturing America awards 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. Please note that previous recipients of the Picturing America collection are not eligible for a second award.

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

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge, and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, exhibitions, and programs in libraries, museums, and other community places. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov.