



LEARNING PREP SCHOOL RECEIVES PICTURING AMERICA PROGRAM

West Newton, Learning Prep School Receives National Endowment for the Humanities Initiative,
Bringing Great American Art Directly to Classrooms and Libraries across the Country

April 2009 West Newton, MA – Learning Prep School is one of over 56,000 schools and public libraries across the nation awarded the Picturing America program. Picturing America is a free initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) that helps teach American history and culture by bringing some of the country's great art directly to classrooms and libraries.

"Social Studies presents knowledge of human experiences, while art has the power to provide an intimate understanding of human experiences through personal encounters that yield insights. These students thrive when the curriculum is not solely based on reading. The symbiotic relationship between art and social studies lends itself to an integrated curriculum."
-Social Studies Teacher

Learning Prep School was awarded 40 large, high-quality reproductions of great American art and a comprehensive teacher's resource book to facilitate the use of the works of art in core subjects. Picturing America's resources are designed to allow each work of art to enhance the study of American history, social studies, language arts, literature, and civics.

"The Endowment is delighted that so many students and citizens across the nation will be benefiting from Picturing America," said NEH Chairman Bruce Cole. "Picturing America helps us understand our democracy by bringing us face to face with the people, places, and events that have shaped our country. It provides an innovative way to experience America's history through our nation's art."

First piloted to 1,500 schools in January 2008, the program was launched nationally in February 2008 and awarded to over 26,000 schools and public libraries across the country in the first application period. During the second application period from August 4 through November 14, 2008, over 29,000 schools and public libraries received Picturing America awards. In addition to schools and public libraries, through a partnership with NEH, the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Head Start has made Picturing America available to the 20,000 Head Start centers across the nation. To date, over 76,000 schools, public libraries, and Head Start centers nationwide have been awarded this free education resource.

Picturing America recipient schools and public libraries are located in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. Territories. District-wide applications during both application periods have brought Picturing America to major public school districts in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, San Antonio, and San Francisco, as well as to school and library districts in Washington, DC.

In West Newton, MA, three institutions have been awarded Picturing America. A complete list of recipient schools and public libraries by city and state can be found by visiting the media page of the Picturing America Web site at: http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/public_awards.php.

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.

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, were eligible to receive Picturing America materials.

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

NEH will provide further programming opportunities for Picturing America recipients by offering professional development workshops in summer 2009 hosted by institutions such as museums and historical societies. This grant opportunity is designed to help teachers and librarians form connections with Picturing America artworks and courses in the core curriculum. Interested educators will be able to apply in spring 2009.

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.

