

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART EXPANDS "ART AROUND THE CORNER" AT SEATON, SAVOY, AND THOMSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- This fall the National Gallery of Art began an expanded multiple visits program called "Art Around the Corner" for 240 fifth and sixth graders attending Seaton, Savoy, and Thomson Elementary Schools in the District of Columbia. The program is made possible with a grant from Ford Motor Company.

"We are delighted to be working with the support of Ford Motor Company and the District of Columbia school system in this creative program for children in nearby communities," said Earl A. Poweil III, director, National Gallery of Art.

"'Art Around the Corner' provides access for our students to one of the major art resources on the Mall, the National Gallery of Art. The program corresponds to and enhances the already innovative curriculum and teaching methods at Seaton, Savoy, and Thomson Elementary Schools for the benefit of the students. We welcome this partnership and believe that it will be a model for future school and cultural institution collaborations," said Dr. Franklin Smith, superintendent of the District of Columbia Schools.

"The men and women of Ford Motor Company are proud to support the dynamic educational initiative of the National Gallery of Art to bring Washington

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children inside one of the world's leading cultural institutions. The Gallery will become a living classroom for the students, reinforcing community-based efforts, and providing students with the opportunity to broaden their experience and knowledge in the arts," said F.V.J. Darin, corporate affairs officer, Ford Motor Company.

Two graduate minority interns, Melissa Ho and Rodney Reynolds, working with staff in the Gallery's department of teacher and school programs and District principals and teachers, successfully tested this program in three schools last spring. Sally Shelburne, the National Gallery supervisor of the expanded program, is assisted this year by Gallery minority intern Elizabeth Morin. The District of Columbia school system coordinator and advisor is Marilyn Tyler Brown, associate superintendent of student services.

The 1994-1995 multiple visit program involves two docent visits to the school and eight student and teacher visits to the Gallery throughout the school year. Gallery education staff meet with docents, classroom teachers, and art teachers to discuss curriculum and integrate interdisciplinary approaches to the program. The classroom teachers will also participate in in-service training at the Gallery.

"Art Around the Corner" encourages students to interact with original works of art in a museum setting by addressing the subject matter, formal elements, and purpose of individual works of art. Teachers select thematic tours for their classes from such topics as American history, world cultures, and heroic adventures. "Art Around the Corner" curriculum will include hands-on activities, social studies projects, creative writing opportunities, and the chance to develop language arts and public speaking skills.

"We hope that the National Gallery learning experiences will become part of

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the public schools' art curriculum and will encourage teachers, students, and their families to make the museum part of their lives," said Linda Downs, head of education at the National Gallery of Art.

At the end of the school year each school will have a "Family Day" when students can bring their families to the Gallery. Preceding a reception, students will have the opportunity to select and describe to their family a work of art on display in the Gallery's permanent collection.

For more information about the National Gallery's teacher and school programs, call (202) 842-6880.

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