

# National Gallery of Art

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 25, 1996

Press Contact: (202) 842-6353  
Information Officer, Deborah Ziska  
Publicist, Ann Greer

**GRANT FROM FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NATIONAL GALLERY'S**  
**"ART AROUND THE CORNER" FOR THREE D.C. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS;**  
**MULTI-VISIT PROGRAM COORDINATES WITH SCHOOL OBJECTIVES**

Washington, D.C. -- "Art Around the Corner," an innovative educational program created by the National Gallery of Art for fifth and sixth graders in neighboring public schools, continues into its second year of an expanded program through a three-year grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation. Twelve classes from Seaton, Thomson, and Savoy elementary schools with 288 students and seventeen teachers are involved in the program.

"The nation's art gallery is also part of a neighborhood, and we consider being an involved neighbor an important part of our mission," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "'Art Around the Corner' not only aids in establishing the next generation of gallery goers, but it also provides an alternative learning site for the development of visual, verbal, and written skills."

"The Fannie Mae Foundation is enthusiastic about participating in a program that makes one of the nation's leading art museums more available to students in Washington, D.C.,

-more-

**art education...page 2**

elementary public schools," said Harriet M. Ivey, executive director of the Fannie Mae Foundation. "This program also fulfills an important Foundation goal: to contribute to the quality of life in the communities where Fannie Mae employees live and work, particularly our hometown city."

The 1995-1996 program involves small groups of students working with the same Gallery docents throughout the school year, who also make two visits to the school. Students, some of whom are in the program for the second year, and teachers come to the Gallery six times throughout the school year. They work with the docents and with members of the Gallery's educational staff, who also provide teachers with in-service training at the Gallery.

Topics covered in the sessions include the elements of design, painting, sculpture, and architecture, and thematic tours such as mythology and world history. All visits integrate District of Columbia curriculum objectives and include hands-on activities, social studies projects, creative writing opportunities, and the chance to develop language arts and public speaking skills.

At the final session in mid-March, the three schools will have their own Family Day when each student leads a presentation of his or her chosen work of art for family and guests, followed by a reception.

Marsha C. Selmar, principal of Savoy elementary school, said of the program, "'Art Around the Corner' has generated curiosity

**art education...page 3**

among students and teachers about the relationship of art to everyday life. It is an exciting program that engages students in direct inquiry through art activities."

The primary goal of the Fannie Mae Foundation is to support national and local nonprofit organizations working to provide decent and affordable housing in communities throughout the United States.

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

# # #