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**CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART AND D.C. COMMISSION ON THE
ARTS AND HUMANITIES LAUNCH “ARTS 101”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design and the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) announce the launch of **Arts 101**, a new and innovative visual arts engagement program designed to supply educators with interdisciplinary resources and materials necessary to effectively teach key standards of learning through American art. Drawing on the unique resources of the institution, the program will empower D.C. students to think and act creatively in their lives, their learning, and their community.



Educators are provided with teaching posters and a unique Resource Packet that help to deliver arts-based curriculum and programming for approximately 12,000 DCPS and DCPCS middle school students – linking visual and language arts. The program incorporates important American artists represented in the Corcoran Collection.

“Arts 101 is a necessary piece to the whole education and creative economy puzzle,” said Ayris Scales, Interim Director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. “Data consistently demonstrates that youth who study the arts enhance their critical thinking skills and their ability to learn tolerance for cultural differences. They are more engaged in school and less likely to drop out. This program has the promise of a new world.”

“Arts 101 is a significant and innovative collaboration between the Corcoran, the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and DCPS and DCPCS, teachers, educators, and community leaders,” said Sarah Durkee, vice president of public education at the Corcoran. “Leveraging the unique assets of the college and the museum –

in combination with the support of our community partners – this program prioritizes D.C. students and teachers by offering valuable tools to activate the learning process through art.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity for D.C. middle school students to engage with art, their teachers, and a great arts institution, right in their own communities,” said Brian Jones, chair of the DCPCS.

Students and teachers will participate in hands-on workshops, gain access to Corcoran educators, faculty, curators, and artists, and receive bus transportation reimbursement for on-site visits to the Corcoran. In addition, ongoing teacher support through professional development workshops and in-classroom resources will be provided by MAT faculty and students, and museum educators. A teacher advisory panel has been created to help guide and structure the program, in combination with rigorous assessment.

“We fully support the development of this partnership,” said Michelle Rhee, chancellor of DCPS. “It is one that



places thoughtful resources into the hands of our teachers, provides professional development to enable them to effectively incorporate these resources into their instruction, and supplies the necessary elements for students to have quality learning experiences.”

“Arts 101 is an opportunity to unlock the door of creativity for our students, inspiring them to think outside the box, to be curious, and to discover the relevancy of

appreciating and creating art in their classrooms, communities, and ultimately, in their lives,” Durkee said.

PROGRAMMING

Corcoran American Art and Arts 101

Educator Workshop

Saturday, February 12; 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 10; 4:30–8 p.m.

FREE for D.C. Middle School Teachers

Explore the Corcoran Gallery’s outstanding collection of American art, specifically works that are included in the Arts 101 resource packet and teaching posters. Discuss new common themes spanning 400 years of American cultural life and learn how the ideas and concerns presented in these works may be used to make interdisciplinary curricular connections and engage students in making their own comparisons. Gallery activities, related lesson plans, 16 teaching posters, and hands- on projects are included. Though this is a series of workshops for Arts 101, it is not necessary to have attended previous workshops. To register as an Arts101 Teacher (free), please email your first name, last name, and school name to education@corcoran.org or call (202) 639-1466. For more information and to register, please visit <http://programs.corcoran.org/products/corcoran-american-art-and-arts-101>.

ABOUT THE D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities supports the work of schools, arts organizations, teaching artists, and teachers to ensure that life-long learning opportunities are available for the residents of the District of Columbia. The Commission works to build the necessary relationships between community members, artists, government agencies and arts organizations in order to identify gaps in access to the arts, fill those gaps with quality programming and create a community of children and young adults who are artists and arts enthusiasts.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as Washington's first and largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. Founded in 1890, the Corcoran College of Art + Design is Washington's only four-year college of art and design offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design, visit www.corcoran.org.

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