



Queensborough Community College
A College of The City University of New York
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Nassau County Museum of Art and Queensborough Community College Partner to Create Literacy Program

October 29, 2009 (Bayside, N.Y.) – As a result of a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Nassau County Museum of Art (NCMA) will partner with Queensborough Community College's (QCC's) Literacy Program, to develop CALTA (Culture and Literacy through Art), an innovative, multi-generational visual literacy program that uses visual art as a catalyst for literacy and critical thinking in adult English Language Learners (ELLs) and their families. CALTA is a pioneering visual literacy initiative which integrates museum and literacy resources to build verbal and written literacy skills for English as a Second Language (ESL) adult students and their families. This planning phase will include a survey to determine national need and identify similar efforts, the development of a curriculum and the establishment of a professional development institute for docents, museum educators and adult ESL educators. NCMA sees tremendous potential in adapting this model across diverse cultural organizations and educational institutions nation-wide.

“Projects funded by IMLS’s National Leadership Grants focus on education, health, computer literacy, and problem solving skills. We believe that museums and libraries play an important role in building a competitive workforce and engaged citizenry. We are equally confident that these institutions will elevate museum and library practice through this work,” said **Anne-Imelda Radice, IMLS Director.**

“It is a pleasure to announce that the Nassau County Museum of Art is leading the way with this truly special educational partnership,” said **NCMA Acting Director, Constance Schwartz,** “The Museum’s world class exhibitions and collections are central to the program. Reflecting the needs of the changing demographics of the population in the communities of Long Island, Queens and beyond, this program will create a dynamic focus for immigrant families seeking to integrate into the mainstream of society.”

“Together, we will open new doors for adults and children of all ages, expanding and enhancing the depth and breadth of their English language skills, critical thinking abilities, and cultural knowledge,” notes **Kitty Bateman, Associate Professor, Basic Educational Skills, and Director, QCC Literacy Program, Continuing Education,** which has provided free English language instruction to ELLs for more than 20 years.

Queensborough Community College, a College of The City University of New York, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary during the 2009-10 academic year, along with the launch of the Freshman Academies and the opening of the new Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center. Queensborough, located on a picturesque 37-acre site in Bayside, Queens, offers a rich liberal arts and science curriculum, as well as career and pre-professional courses. Over half of the faculty holds doctorates compared with 21% of faculty in other community colleges nationwide. Comprising one of the most diverse populations of any college in the U.S., nearly 15,000 students pursue an Associate degree or Certificate program and another 10,000 students of all ages attend continuing education programs. Among the campus’s prized resources

are the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center, the QCC Art Gallery, and the Queensborough Performing Arts Center (QPAC), created to stimulate ideas and intellectual curiosity while exposing students and the public to culture and the arts. Please visit our website at qcc.cuny.edu.

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