

Gotham Fellows Program 2005-2006

Description

The *Gotham Fellows Program* is a comprehensive program for middle school teachers. The program is designed to link the teaching and learning of American and New York City history, offer new teaching methodologies, and support the participating teachers in the development of units of study to pilot in the classroom, and then disseminate to teachers citywide.

This year, the program began with an intensive **Summer Institute, *New York and the Nation: From Seaport City to Metropolis, 1790-1898***, followed by seminars during the academic year from October 2005 through June 2006. The summer institute investigated New York City's history from a Seaport City to a Metropolis, followed by hands-on workshops. This institute examined the effects on the City and the Nation of the opening of the Erie Canal and westward expansion, the extension and restrictions of democracy during this period, and the advent of industrialization and immigration.

Following the Summer Institute, the Gotham Fellows participate in monthly seminars focusing on the 19th century. Scholars and well-known historians will teach the basic concepts, content and chronologies of American history, using local examples. The talks are followed by hands-on workshops that explore how history can be brought into the classroom through informed teaching and engaging methodologies linked to New York City and New York State Learning Standards. The workshops are designed and implemented by the cultural partners and the New York City Department of Education, including folklorists, museum educators, staff developers, history educators, historians and drama artists.

The program includes the integration of content and methods into the classroom and curriculum planning. The Gotham Fellows will each research, develop and write a unit of study incorporating the New York City history and the innovative strategies from the program. Participants are working collaboratively to develop units of study for future citywide dissemination