

FRAMING AMERICAN HISTORY

***From Staff Development to Student Achievement
In the Study of American History***

Partners

**New York City Department of Education
Gotham Center for New York City History/City University of New York,
City Lore, the Historic House Trust, Henry Street Settlement,
The New-York Historical Society and
The Brooklyn Historical Society**

PROGRAM ABSTRACT

New York City's Department of Education proposes to develop, document, evaluate, and disseminate a citywide program of systematic professional development that will (a) instruct and engage public school teachers in basic concepts of traditional American history; (b) measure the increase in student achievement that results from increased staff development; (c) document and disseminate successful units of American History created through the program; and (d) serve as one of many sustainable staff development models for New York City beyond the grant period, and a replicable model for school systems across the country.

Framing American History will be a collaboration among the Department of Education; the Gotham Center of the City University of New York (CUNY); City Lore, New York's Center for Urban History and Culture; the Historic House Trust of New York City; Henry Street Settlement; The New-York Historical Society; the Brooklyn Historical Society; and other historical societies and museums across the city. The combined expertise of these organizations will bring to teachers and their students the essential content of American History in an immediately accessible framework.

Framing American History will encompass professional development with three components: a forty-hour Saturday institute for 50 teachers in grades 4 through 8; a sixty-hour Fellows Summer Institute and yearlong mentoring for twenty-four 7th and 8th grade teachers representing all twelve regions, and an ambitious program of formal, mentored dissemination throughout the school system in the third year of the grant that will fully prepare an additional 144 teachers to teach American History. In addition, *Framing History* strategies and methods will be disseminated citywide through one day workshops with at least 160 teachers and through the website for over 800 teachers.

Framing American History will be evaluated by The Edwin G. Michaelian Institute for Public Policy of Pace University.

The program will target teachers in schools that are not served by other enrichment programs, including other Teaching American History programs. The program will identify other under-performing schools and schools with a preponderance of under-trained teachers. The program will build on relationships and experience developed over many years between schools and the participating cultural organizations.