

New York City and the Nation

A School/Community Consortium to Teach American History

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The New York City Department of Education is proud to be part of a school/community consortium to sponsor professional development in American history. This partnership, *New York City and the Nation*, is made possible by two Teaching American History grants from the U.S. Department of Education awarded to the New York City Department of Education for "**American Journey**" and "**Framing History**." New York City Department of Education and cultural partners are developing, documenting, evaluating and disseminating a professional development program instructs teachers in the basic concepts, content, and chronologies of American history through the lens of New York City. For most of U.S. history, New York City was very near the fulcrum of the American Experience, thus our city's past provides a privileged vantage point on the course of national events. *New York City and the Nation* brings this vantage point into the classroom through informed teaching and engaging methodologies that follow New York City and New York State Learning Standards.

New York City and the Nation is a collaboration among the **Gotham Center of the City University of New York (CUNY)**, **City Lore**, **the Historic House Trust**, **Henry Street Settlement**, **the Brooklyn Historical Society**, **The New-York Historical Society** and other historical societies and museums across the city. The combined expertise of these organizations is bringing to teachers and their students the essential content of American and local history in an immediately accessible framework.

The foundation of the *New York and the Nation* program is a series of professional development courses for 4th through 8th grade teachers. The program includes **Summer Institutes** for teachers in elementary and middle schools and a **Gotham Fellows** program, held throughout the academic year for selected middle schools teachers. Both teach basic concepts, content and chronologies of American history, demonstrating how they are illustrated by some local examples. They also show how these histories, both national and local, can be brought into the classroom through informed teaching and engaging methodologies. Methods explored in the program utilize architecture, neighborhood walks, visual arts, drama, historic sites, primary documents, oral history, artifacts, research libraries, and museum collections. Program instructors include folklorists, historians, staff developers, drama artists, visual artists, and museum educators.

The Edwin G. Michaelian Institute for Public Policy and Management of Pace University is evaluating *New York City and the Nation* by using a quasi-experimental design with a treatment group and a pre-test/post-test non-equivalent control group model. The research will address two questions: What are the effects of the *New York City and the Nation* on a group of New York City seventh and eighth grade school teachers? What are the effects on different learner groups of exposure to *New York City and the Nation* on trained teachers?

For more information about *New York City & the Nation*, please contact the grant's Project Directors.

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