

WINTERTHUR



Winterthur Press Release

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WINTERTHUR PRAISES NEH GRANT AWARD FOR DELAWARE ART CONSERVATION TEAM TRIP TO CUBA

Experts in cultural preservation from the Winterthur-University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation to have cultural exchange with Cuban counterparts and visit Cuba's museums, archives, and libraries

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE – Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library heralds the National Endowment for the Humanities' announcement today it will provide a grant to a distinguished group of American art conservators from the Winterthur-University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation to visit Cuba to learn about preservation challenges and methods. NEH is a federal grantmaking agency and a member of a historic U.S. government cultural mission to Cuba.

The \$30,000 grant will go to the Department of Art Conservation at the University of Delaware, one of the leading conservation programs in the United States. The grant will support a delegation of students and professors who will visit Cuba to have a cultural exchange with their Cuban counterparts about conservation methods and practices.

"All of us at Winterthur and, I am certain, all persons at the University of Delaware are enormously proud to be a part of this historic opportunity for our students to learn about conservation in Cuba," said David Roselle, Director of Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.

The delegation will be led by Professor Debra Hess Norris, one of the world's leading preservation experts, and Jocelyn Alcantara-Garcia, Ph.D., a bilingual conservation research scientist. These professors and their graduate students plan to talk with their Cuban counterparts about their preservation challenges and methods, and see Cuban collections and visit museums, libraries, and archives.

The Delaware art conservation program is run jointly with Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, a premier museum of decorative arts with an unparalleled collection of nearly 90,000 objects made or used in the United States between 1640 and 1860. Graduates of the program have assisted with the preservation of notable treasures such as the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Dead Sea Scrolls, decorative murals in the United States Capitol and at Radio City Music Hall, the world's first photograph, and works of art by artists ranging from Rembrandt to Picasso and Andy Warhol.

NEH Chairman William D. Adams was a member of the U.S. government cultural mission to Cuba from April 18 to 21. He visited cultural sites and met with Cuban officials and cultural leaders to begin a new U.S.-Cuba cultural exchange.

NEH supports preservation and conservation projects as part of its grantmaking in the humanities to help ensure that materials that can illuminate history and culture are available for future generations. Since the agency's founding in 1965, the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded 80 grants totaling \$2.5 million to scholars, educators, and filmmakers who make Cuba the focus of their work.

"As I've visited Cuban museums and talked with scholars and curators this week, it's clear to me that we have much to learn from the ways in which museum professionals in Cuba approach the important work of collecting and preserving Cuban culture and history," said National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman William D. Adams. "I am honored that the National Endowment for the Humanities will provide a grant to this distinguished group of art conservation professionals and students from the United States to visit Cuba to observe conservation practices concerning photographs, manuscripts, and other collections. This trip will offer important insights and lessons that will enhance and broaden American conservation practices."

"I have visited cultural institutions all over the world, but have never had the opportunity to go to Cuba," said Debra Hess Norris. "With this support from NEH, my colleagues and I can learn from our Cuban counterparts about conservation challenges that arise from the warm climate and other issues that affect the preservation of their cultural heritage."

The Winterthur-University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation began in 1974 and graduating students have trained and worked as curators and directors for museums, historic sites, and other cultural organizations. The University of Delaware and Winterthur program officials will work with their Cuban counterparts to plan the trip details, including the date and which collections and sites to visit.

#CubaVisit



An Havana street scene, Havana, (c1903), Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, 016753.

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house, as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children’s garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

Museum hours are 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday–Sunday. Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883 or 302.888.4600, or visit Winterthur.org.

National Endowment for the Humanities: *Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.*