

## Teacher Lab: American Art in the Classroom

### Fact Sheet

The *Terra Teacher Lab* is a free professional-development program designed to help CPS teachers use works of American art in their instruction to deepen students' engagement and interest in U.S. history, English/language arts, and art. The program supports ISBE learning goals and standards and is offered in partnership with the DePaul Center for Urban Education and the Art Institute of Chicago.



*Huck Finn*, 1936, Thomas Hart Benton (1889–1975), Terra Foundation for American Art

Through the Terra Teacher Lab, participants learn about the history of American art and its relationship to U.S. history and American literature. They learn strategies for teaching with American art that motivate students to read, write, and discuss interpretations and ideas. They develop thematic interdisciplinary lessons and units based on American art, American literature and other texts aligned with language arts, art, and social studies standards. By the end of the program participants will have tested and refined these lessons—which they can use year after year—and shared them with other teachers through workshops and meetings. The Terra Foundation will post exemplary student work online.

The Teacher Lab is designed to sustain teachers' professional growth over a one-year period. It begins with an eight-day summer institute and continues with five workshops during the school year and a culminating event.

### **Dates and Locations**

- Summer Institute (typically 8 weekdays starting in late June into early July, 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.).
- School-Year Workshops: 6 sessions between September and May 2010. Dates to be determined with input from participants.

### **Program Staff**

Key faculty members/instructors for the Teacher Lab are: Dr. Barbara Radner, Center for Urban Education, DePaul University; Dr. Amy Mooney, Professor of Art History, Columbia College, Chicago; Dr. Wendy Greenhouse, independent curator and scholar; Sarah Alvarez, Associate Director of Teacher Programs, Art Institute of Chicago. Program director, Jenny Siegenthaler, Terra Foundation for American Art.

## **Benefits for Participants**

In addition to learning new content and approaches that will help to enrich their teaching, participants will receive:

- CPDU credits (40 hours for the summer institute plus additional hours for the workshops during the school year);
- Lane credit;
- A \$1,000 stipend for participating in professional-development sessions and completing related assignments (\$500 summer; \$500 school year);
- Valuable teaching resources (color posters, curriculum manuals, and publications on American art) valued at more than \$200;
- Budget of for the purchase of additional supplies and resources needed to bring American art into the curriculum; and
- Budget for bus transportation to take students to see American art at the Art Institute of Chicago.

## **Eligibility & Requirements**

- The program is highly selective and open to Chicago Public Schools middle-grade and high-school teachers of social studies/history, English/language arts, and art; and to school librarians.
- Schools must have a team of at least two participants.
- Schools must designate a liaison (teacher or administrator) in order to streamline communications between school and Teacher Lab staff and faculty.
- Principals must agree to support teachers in implementing the program, which includes allowing participants to present their work during one or more institute days and collaborating with teachers to integrate American art in the curriculum. Some planning time will be required.
- Participants must commit to the full program (summer and school-year sessions), developing model lessons, taking students to the Art Institute, and presenting the project at institute days or half-days.

**For further information contact:** Jenny Siegenthaler, Program Officer, Terra Foundation for American Art: 312.654.2253; [Siegenthaler@terraamericanart.org](mailto:Siegenthaler@terraamericanart.org).

### **About the Terra Foundation for American Art**

The Terra Foundation is dedicated to fostering exploration, understanding, and enjoyment of the visual arts of the United States for national and international audiences. Recognizing the importance of experiencing original works of art, the foundation provides opportunities for interaction and study, beginning with the presentation and growth of its own art collection in Chicago. To further cross-cultural dialogue on American art, the foundation supports and collaborates on innovative exhibitions, research, and educational programs. Implicit in such activities is the belief that art has the potential both to distinguish cultures and to unite them. In addition to developing and implementing programs, the Terra Foundation awards grants for exhibitions, teacher programs, and academic and public programs. For further information visit the foundation's Web site at: [www.terraamericanart.org](http://www.terraamericanart.org).