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THE HISTORY CHANNEL® ANNOUNCES MUSEUM OF CULTURAL ARTS IN HOUSTON AS 2006 *SAVE OUR HISTORY* NATIONAL AWARDS FINALIST

Finalists Receive Trip to Washington, D.C. for National Awards Luncheon Hosted by *Save Our History* National Spokesperson Cokie Roberts

HOUSTON, May 25, 2006 — The History Channel today announced the Museum of Cultural Arts, Houston (MOCAH) in Houston as one of 10 finalists for the national *Save Our History* National Awards to honor local communities and classrooms that demonstrate outstanding commitment to history education and preservation of local history. The finalists will each receive a trip to Washington, D.C for history-themed activities, including private tours of the White House, trolley visits to the national monuments, and culminating with the June 5 awards luncheon hosted by best-selling author and political commentator Cokie Roberts.

First Lady Laura Bush, representing Preserve America, will personally meet with and present three finalists with an additional grand prize National Award that recognizes their outstanding work in the following categories:

- The *Save Our History* Time Warner Cable Preservation Award – a \$10,000 award to one exemplary historical organization that demonstrates outstanding commitment to preservation and history education.
- The *Save Our History* Classroom Award - a \$10,000 cash prize to the school or educational organization that demonstrates exceptional commitment to the program through projects and implementation of lesson plans.
- The *Save Our History* Lowe's Community Award – a \$10,000 cash prize to the school, preservation organization or community group that displays superior commitment to their project and community.

The History Channel chose the 10 finalists from a pool of 26 grant winners that demonstrated their dedication to instituting innovative education projects designed to bring communities together and engage children in the preservation of their local history. In the first two years of the National Grant Program, The History Channel has received funding requests exceeding \$8 million from history organizations representing 50 states and the District of Columbia. In 2006, The History Channel will have contributed more than \$500,000 in grant funding toward this cause.

This year's 2006 grants are a diverse and extensive representation of significant American history spanning more than 300 years in 26 communities. Projects range from tracing our nation's revolutionary beginnings, to investigating the history and culture of a community's racially charged past, from the civil war to the civil rights movement.

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In January, The History Channel awarded the MOCAH with a \$10,000 *Save Our History* grant to partner with Phyllis Wheatley High School students to create a mural documenting the Fifth Ward, one of Houston's oldest and most historic African-American communities. The students have been working with original documents and conducting oral histories of elders in their community to compile the data they need to create the mural. They will also design, produce, and document the creation of the mural, depicting the local history of the Fifth Ward and those who lived there from 1865 – 2006. The mural, which will be installed on concrete walls at a well-traveled intersection in the Fifth Ward, will be presented to the public at an unveiling ceremony scheduled for October 21, 2006.

"Many of Houston's oldest inner-city neighborhoods are experiencing considerable revitalization and change," said Reginald Adams, Executive Director of MOCAH. "The *Save Our History* grant has enabled MOCAH to work with students from Wheatley High School to discover, capture and preserve some of the rich history of the Fifth Ward by creating a memorial to the community for future generations to learn from."

Javari Liggins, a 9th grade student at Phillis Wheatley High School, is inspired while he walks the halls of Houston's first African American high school. He says, "I am often in awe as I walk the halls of Phillis Wheatley High School. It is overwhelming to know that so many history making individuals walked the same halls that I walk down. I am honored to be from 5th Ward and if others knew the history of this community then they would develop the same sense of pride for this school and the community that I have."

The History Channel created the *Save Our History* Grant Program as an extension of the *Save Our History* philanthropic initiative and is committed to inspiring and motivating local communities to learn about and take an active role in the preservation of their past through projects involving artifacts, oral histories, sites, museums or landmarks that exist in their own neighborhoods.

About Save Our History Educational Materials

The History Channel, in collaboration with leading educators from the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), developed a comprehensive Educators' Manual containing standards-based lesson plans, enrichment activities, and resources that help elementary, middle and high school teachers connect American History content to their local history. The manual guides teachers to engage students in hands-on, experiential preservation projects. The Educator's Manual is supplemented by monthly *Save Our History* lesson plans sent via email to educators who register online to receive them at www.saveourhistory.com. To date, more than 40,000 educators at schools, youth groups, history museums, and historic sites have used the educational materials to teach over 1.2 Million students about their local history and the importance of preserving it.

Program Sponsor

For 2006, Lowe's has signed on as the primary sponsor of *Save Our History*, as the official "home improvement" sponsor. Lowe's will also be the on-air sponsor for the program.

About Lowe's

With fiscal year 2005 sales of \$36.5 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE® 50 company that serves approximately 11 million customers a week at more than 1,100 home improvement stores in 48 states. Based in Mooresville, N.C., the 59-year old company is the second-largest home improvement retailer in the world. For more information, visit Lowes.com.

About Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors is one of the world's largest philanthropy services, helping donors create thoughtful, effective philanthropy throughout the world. Originally developed as the private philanthropy service of the Rockefeller family, it is now an independent, nonprofit service that represents the cumulative knowledge and experience of more than a century of high-quality professional service to America's most philanthropic family. Over the past decade, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors has served more than 100 clients and facilitated over \$850 million in gifts/grants to more than 40 countries.

About AASLH

AASLH was born in 1904 as a department within the American Historical Association. Now, one hundred years later, AASLH is the only national association dedicated to the people and organizations that practice state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides a variety of programs and services, as well as leadership in the national arena.

About Save Our History

Save Our History is an Emmy® Award-winning strategic philanthropic initiative of The History Channel that launched in 1998, designed to further historic preservation and history education. The program supplements the teaching of history in America's classrooms, educates the public on the importance of historical preservation and motivates communities across the country to help save endangered local historic treasures. The *Save Our History* campaign includes original documentaries, special teachers' materials, national promotion on The History Channel, broadband activities in schools, and has worked with The Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National World War II Memorial, American Rivers and The White House 200th Anniversary.

Additional information about the grassroots *Save Our History* program, including a comprehensive school manual containing suggested lesson plans for grades two through 12 and details about working with local preservation organizations can also be found at www.saveourhistory.com.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

The History Channel® is one of the leading cable television networks featuring compelling original, non-fiction specials and series that bring history to life in a powerful and entertaining manner across multiple platforms. The network provides an inviting place where people experience history in new and exciting ways enabling them to connect their lives today to the great lives and events of the past that provide a blueprint for the future. The History Channel has earned six News and Documentary Emmy® Awards and received the prestigious Governor's Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the network's *Save Our History®* campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. The History Channel reaches more than 89 million Nielsen subscribers. The website is located at www.History.com.

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