

Empowering a New Renaissance

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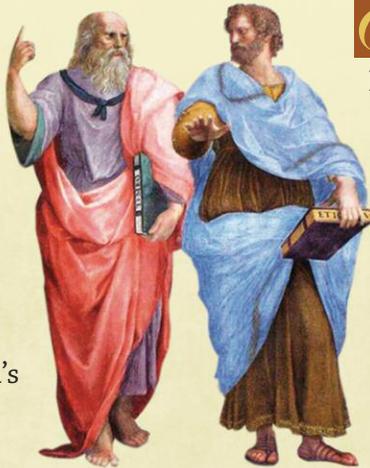
Raphael As Teacher

The artist Raphael's *School of Athens* fresco, painted in the Apostolic Palace of Vatican City between 1509 and 1511, brilliantly captured the spirit of the High Renaissance. Depicting the most accomplished ancient Greek scientists, artists, and humanists, all actively engaged in their craft, the piece vividly highlights the core educational philosophies upon which our Western civilization is grounded. The viewer is

reminded that science, art, and humanistic inquiry (history, ethics, philosophy, languages, jurisprudence, literature, archaeology, and comparative religion) were originally considered complementary and interdependent; no discipline was held in higher esteem than any other. Indeed, the very definition of a "Renaissance person" is an individual whose broad intellectual interests lead to varied accomplishments across the arts, humanities, and sciences.

A Lesson for Today

Raphael's masterpiece celebrating the potential of human achievement was presented at a time when the Western world's spirit of inquiry was reawakening, following the Dark Ages (renaissance = rebirth). In



addition to its breathtaking, timeless beauty (all the more remarkable, considering that he was still in his 20s when it was completed), the painting's continuing relevance is unmistakable. Now, as our country's political divisiveness and continuing economic turmoil shrink budgets and fuel an unproductive "science versus humanities" debate, some of us wonder whether we are entering a new Dark Age—at least where public support for the arts and humanities is concerned. More than ever, Louisiana, and the nation as a whole, require a well-educated citizenry, possessing *both the creative mindset and the scientific skills* necessary to lead our state into a successful and fulfilling future.

Empowering a New Renaissance

For more than four decades, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities has served the people of Louisiana as the standard-bearer, promoting and celebrating historical, artistic, and humanistic inquiry for all socioeconomic groups in all 64 parishes. With your help, we will continue to bring humanities-rich educational and cultural programs to citizens statewide. Together, we can empower a new Renaissance in Louisiana.

LEH PROGRAM INVESTMENT AND IMPACT: 42 years and \$68 million in Grants and Programs!

PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME

The PRIME TIME methodology comprises a set of strategies for engaging new and underserved audiences in the exploration of the humanities. Building on the success of *PRIME TIME Family Reading Time*, new programs based on the same methodology have been developed. All PRIME TIME programs offer partner sites research-based approaches that promote self-directed learning through literature, questioning/inquiry, and meaningful dialogue.

PRIME TIME Family Reading Time exposes families (3-10 year-olds and parents) to at-home story-sharing and book discussion techniques that build reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. From 1991 through 2013, 721 Louisiana-based programs will have been implemented, reaching nearly 29,000. Another 774 programs in 39 other states have reached nearly 30,000 participants.

PRIME TIME Preschool models at-home reading between parents/caregivers and their children (3-5 year-olds), and introduces families to the humanities through age-appropriate storytelling and literary exploration via center-based play. From 2012 to 2013, 35 programs will have been implemented, serving an estimated 700 participants.

PRIME TIME HomeRoom delivers humanities-based, teacher professional development for public school districts. The inaugural PRIME TIME HomeRoom Workshop was conducted during Fall 2013. Nearly 50 teachers and administrators from 5 Caddo Parish schools participated in a day-long training on integrating literacy instruction across subjects, employing student-centered and collective learning strategies, and promoting home-school partnerships.

Stemming the Tide, a recent 10-year study of academic growth among PRIME TIME graduates revealed that PRIME TIME students outperformed non-PRIME TIME graduates across the full spectrum of disciplines (e.g., English language arts, reading, mathematics, physical science, etc.) on statewide examinations. PRIME TIME not only impacts reading, it improves ALL dimensions of learning—or, as the LEH has maintained, *creates the precondition for all future learning*.

KNOWLA

KnowLA.org (an abbreviation of "Know Louisiana") is the LEH's unprecedented online encyclopedia of Louisiana history and culture. Aimed at local, statewide, national, and global audiences, KnowLA's mission is to become the first point of reference for Louisiana history and culture. Hundreds of scholar-written entries are enhanced by digitized historical documents and archival media that were previously

available only in museums and special collections. This material is now accessible to online readers, and is especially relevant for those living in rural areas or beyond the state's borders.

READINGS IN LITERATURE & CULTURE (RELIC)

No adult reading and discussion program in the United States surpasses RELIC for range of topics, populations reached, and overall program excellence. RELIC was created so that public libraries (and especially rural ones with fewer resources) could offer engaging, comprehensive programs for adult readers. RELIC has completed 858 programs with attendance in excess of 104,000 in 120 locations throughout the state, with over 96,000 books read.

LOUISIANA CULTURAL VISTAS MAGAZINE

Approaching its 25th anniversary and with an accumulation of nearly 9,500 pages, *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* magazine, the winner of 134 awards from the Press Club of New Orleans, has focused on the state's culture, arts, and history with the best in visuals and text from Louisiana writers, artists, and photographers.

LEH GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

The LEH Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program funds a wide range of projects—from documentary films to exhibits, conferences, and festivals — across the state. Audiences for these programs have ranged from a few dozen people to millions of television viewers. Overall, the LEH's economic impact via this program has been in excess of \$200 million.

TEACHER INSTITUTES FOR ADVANCED STUDY/TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY SEMINARS

Since 1985, the LEH has sponsored more than 250 Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study and Teaching American History Seminars for Louisiana's elementary, middle, and high school teachers. Nearly 6,000 teachers have participated in these intensive professional development seminars—benefiting an estimated 750,000 students.

LOUISIANA HUMANITIES CENTER

An extension of four decades of LEH programming, the Louisiana Humanities Center (LHC) is an innovative, Wi-Fi and web conferencing-equipped learning and meeting space located in New Orleans. The LHC presents original public programs focused on oral history, documentary films, and the cultural traditions of the state. The LHC is available for rental.

