



The City of Auburn's Historic & Cultural Sites Commission

c/o Cayuga County Office of Tourism

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Auburn's Historic & Cultural Sites Commission Creates a New American History Program

Participating organizations:

Auburn Enlarged City
School District

Auburn Public Theater

Cayuga County
Arts Council

Cayuga County
Chamber of Commerce

Cayuga County
Historian's Office

Cayuga County
Office of Tourism

Cayuga Museum &
Case Research Lab

Downtown Auburn
Business Improvement
District

Harriet Tubman Home

Schweinfurth
Memorial Art Center

Seward House

Willard Memorial Chapel

For Immediate Release: Auburn, NY (11/19/08): In hopes of encouraging high school students to visit Auburn's museums, and learn more about American history, members of Auburn's Historic & Cultural Sites Commission sponsored the program "Exploring American History, Art, and Culture in Auburn, New York" in collaboration with Auburn school teachers Jeff Alberici, Matt Drastal, Jennie Higgins and other colleagues. These teachers, and others in the field, have been perfecting these plans and accompanying materials for the past two years. All the information is in hard copy binders, on CDs, or can be downloaded from <http://tourauburnny.com/lessonplans.asp> on www.TourAuburnNY.com.

As part of the marketing campaign, promotional DVDs- or teasers- about the site locations were created to lure teachers to participate in the program. Some have been narrated by high school students to further encourage involvement and interest from their peers. The program's material includes the following 10 lesson plans: **Cayuga Museum: Phases of American History**, **Fort Hill Cemetery: Orienteering**, **Harriet Tubman: Alphabet Soup**, **Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center: Analysis and Interpretation of Art Work**, **Seward House: Scavenger Hunt**, **Willard Memorial Chapel: Preserving our Nation's History**, **Local Historical Figures: Leaders of their Time**, **Community Hunt for Local History: South Street**, **Saint Mary's Church: Gothic Architecture** and **Harriet Tubman Home: Her Legacy**.

Each lesson plan has a welcome letter and a list of resources from each of the site locations. All of the lessons have strictly adhered to NYS Learning Standards, making it easy for teachers to incorporate the information and experiences into their curriculum. Most plans lead students through the process of using primary information sources and research. The binder also includes teacher guidelines for planning a successful field trip.

To quote Jeff Alberici, "Our goal is to help make Auburn's rich history accessible to as many educators and students as possible."

Distribution of the information will include BOCES component schools and outlying schools. Lesson plan creators will also try and distribute copies of the CDs at regional and state social studies conferences.

Moving forward, the group will discuss a strategy for adding and distributing new lessons plans that will supplement the original ten. The teachers hope to create 1-2 more each year. There is also a collection of middle school lesson plans that should be available in the spring of 2009.

For more information about the Lessons on Auburn program, please call (315) 255-1658, or visit www.TourAuburnNY.com.

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