



**INSTITUTE for EDUCATION and the ARTS**  
Education Alive!

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**STARK COUNTY EDUCATORS VISIT WASHINGTON, DC**  
**IN PREPARATION FOR OHIO'S NATIONAL OVERTURE**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Institute for Education and the Arts hosted a visit to Washington, D.C, this week by a team of Stark County educators for in-depth briefings and discussions at the Library of Congress, discovering expertise and resources that could be used in classrooms throughout the county. This trip was a key step in preparation for the *NATIONAL OVERTURE OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS IN OHIO* program announced last October in Canton. The goal of the *National Overture* program is to demonstrate and facilitate use of the creative arts, from Ohio and around the country, to help improve academic performance in all subjects by all students at the K-12 level.

The *National Overture* program involves schools, arts and cultural groups, a broad range of business and civic organizations and public officials as well as parents and the general public.

The delegation was organized with the Stark County Education Service Center. The delegation included Stephanie Rosselli, ESC Arts Consultant, James R. Adkins, Coordinator of Fine Arts, Plain Local Schools; Dr. Faith Kittoe, Curriculum Director, Lake Local Schools, and Diane M. Oplinger, Supervisor, Gifted and Talented Education, North Canton City Schools.

The Institute for Education and the Arts presented an intensive two and a half day schedule of meetings with Library of Congress experts in music, prints and photographs and manuscripts to discuss what is available to teachers through the Library's vast collection, including through distance learning connections and through the Library's extraordinary website.

The Ohio educators also met with members of the D.C. Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative to compare experiences and ideas about enhancing the interaction between the arts and other core subjects in K-12 classrooms, building community support and participation.

Donna Power, Vice President for Education of the Institute and a member of the Board of Directors of the D.C. Collaborative, welcomed the opportunity for the two groups to meet, saying, “We are extremely impressed with the initiatives being taken in Stark County by both school officials and arts organizations to build stronger partnerships and share their talents and resources for the advantage of their students. Creating opportunities to share experiences with others across the country is an important role of the Institute, and we hope this will be the first of many exchanges between these two groups.”

Stephanie Rosselli, ECS Arts Coordinator, noted that, “The developing partnership between the Institute and Stark County will purposefully address our curriculum needs. Real world experiences with authentic original resources like those we had access to at the Library of Congress will assist us in implementing Ohio Fine Arts and other Academic Content Standards. It is a pleasure to be part of this initiative in order to support quality learning experiences for our students and to support the adults who work with them”.

[For additional quotes from other delegation participants, please see attached page.]

Jon Newsom, Chief of the Library of Congress Music Division, who attended last year’s opening ceremony in Canton, served as the group’s mentor during the tour and meetings at the Library, and expressed his pleasure that schools in Stark County would now develop a closer and more extensive relationship with the Library, including both the collections and the many experts who are eager to be helpful. A cooperation agreement already exists between the Library of Congress and the First Ladies’ Library in Canton, and this new level of contact throughout the schools will be a welcomed expansion of that presence in Stark County

The Institute for Education and the Arts is a non-profit education organization based in Washington, DC. For more information about the Institute, please see [www.edartsinstitute.org](http://www.edartsinstitute.org).

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**COMMENTS FROM DELEGATION PARTICIPANTS:**

“Seeing all the potential resources at the Library of Congress – both human and paper – was a mind-boggling experience. The opportunities for teachers are exciting and endless and we are anxious to bring them to Stark County.”

- Diane M. Oplinger, Supervisor, Gifted and Talented Education,  
North Canton City Schools

“This exciting affiliation will allow us to come back and continue to strengthen and promote the arts in Stark County.”

- Dr. Faith Kittoe, Curriculum Director, Lake Local Schools

“The connection of our students directly with national experts, primary sources, and national treasures is an awesome opportunity indeed. The potential for motivating and sustaining learning for all children is real, and can be accomplished through the cooperative efforts of our schools, community, civic and cultural organizations. The Institute for Education and the Arts can help get that job done!”

- Jim Adkins, Coordinator of Fine Arts, Plain Local Schools