



Cyndi Bohlin
Communications & Marketing Manager
(202) 667-0441, ext. 78
cbohlin@textilemuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 18, 2008

Contact: Annie Laurie Sánchez, Communications & Marketing Assistant
(202) 667-0441, ext. 77 or asanchez@textilemuseum.org

The Textile Museum Leaves No Child Behind

Museum Educates and Enriches Local Students through Unique Partnership Program

March 18, 2008, Washington, D.C. — Arts curriculum is increasingly cut from schools in order to meet the rigors of the No Child Left Behind Act, but The Textile Museum is doing its part to ensure that D.C. Public School students have continued access to and engagement with art from around the world.

The Museum's annual **Museum-School Partnership** program – free and open to all 1st through 6th grade classes in D.C. Public Schools – educates students about textiles and the cultures that produce them and works with students in the creation and display of their own textile

artwork. The Textile Museum offers **free transportation** and **funds for project supplies** to participating schools; **matches each class with a docent** who provides interactive tours of the Museum's exhibitions and works with the students right in their classrooms over the course of several months; and **displays the students' artwork** during the Museum's largest public program, Celebration of Textiles, and throughout the month of June.

The Museum-School Partnership program fulfills **six of the D.C. Public Schools' Standards of Learning for Fine Arts** and **four for Social Studies**. Students learn by looking closely at textiles in the Museum's exhibitions, trying hands-on activities in the Museum's Textile Learning Center, watching an artist's demonstration, and by creating art within their classrooms. "We are committed to our educational mission, and the Museum-School Partnership is an integral component of our outreach



Students from Oyster Bilingual Elementary School work on textile art as part of the 2006 Museum-School Partnership program.

--more--

programs. This initiative creates a bridge between local schools and The Textile Museum’s renowned collection of handmade textiles from around the world,” explained Textile Museum Director Daniel Walker.

The Textile Museum’s three 2008 program partners include a 3rd grade art class at **A. Kiger Savoy Elementary School** (Ward 8), a 5th grade art class at **Anthony Bowen Elementary School** (Ward 6) – one of the 20 schools the D.C. government is considering closing – and a 5th grade class at **JC Nalle Elementary School** (Ward 7). The students’ artwork will be unveiled at the Museum’s 30th annual Celebration of Textiles festival on Saturday, June 7, and the students will be publicly recognized during a ceremony at 12:30 pm that day. Their textile art will remain on view at The Textile Museum through June 2008 and will then be on view at the participating schools in fall 2008.

This unique program serves a critical role in supplementing arts curriculum in D.C. Public Schools. The Washington, D.C.-based Center on Education Policy recently reported that a majority of the nation’s school districts have increased time spent on reading and math in elementary schools since the No Child Left Behind Act became law in 2002, while simultaneously cutting time from one or more areas including science, social studies,

art and music, physical education, recess and lunch. Budgetary and time constraints have also resulted

in fewer school trips to area museums and cultural centers. These trends show what an integral role programs like the Museum-School Partnership provide in supplementing curriculum. The Textile Museum covers expenses related to the program – providing transportation to and from the school and museum as well as funds for art supplies – and brings experts and artists right to the students’ classrooms.

Comments from participating teachers and students demonstrate the importance of this program within the local community. “Thank you for the opportunity [to] do this. Each time I venture into the world of textiles, I come away with so much more than I ever thought I would. My

students and fellow teachers are the beneficiaries,” reflected an art teacher from Oyster Bilingual Elementary School on her school’s participation in 2006.

For more than 20 years, The Textile Museum has displayed large banners made by local students

--more--



Students from Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School work on textile art in their classroom as part of the 2006 Museum-School Partnership program.



Students from Seaton Elementary School work on textile art in their classroom as part of the 2006 Museum-School Partnership program.

during the Museum’s Celebration of Textiles festival, held the first weekend in June each year. In 2004, this tradition evolved into a more in-depth Museum-School Partnership program designed to enrich the lives of local students by creating connections between textile art and their own lives and by educating the students about other cultures.

In addition to the annual Museum-School Partnership program, The Textile Museum offers interactive tours for students of all ages, teacher workshops and hands-on learning opportunities in the Museum’s permanent Activity Gallery. In the 2006-7 school year, the Museum offered school tours or Museum-School Partnerships for schools from every ward in D.C. Through its ongoing participation in the D.C. Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, a grassroots community-based organization, The Textile Museum strengthens and promotes the arts and humanities as an essential part of high quality education. The Collaborative’s “Arts for Every Student” program builds on school curriculum through free, interactive museum experiences and offers free transportation to and from the schools.

In fall 2009, when The Textile Museum opens its expansion space at 421 7th Street, NW, in Washington, D.C.’s Penn Quarter neighborhood, the Museum will further expand its educational offerings. The new space features a classroom for demonstrations and activities as well as an interactive area that provides an in-depth introduction to the textile arts. Increased family and teacher programs are also a key facet of the Museum’s expansion. As it expands to 7th Street, the Museum will play an even more vital role in serving the local community as a cultural resource.

###

Founded in 1925 by George Hewitt Myers, The Textile Museum is an international center for the exhibition, study, collection and preservation of the textile arts. The Museum explores the role that textiles play in the daily and ceremonial life of individuals the world over. Special attention is given to textiles of the Near East, Asia, Africa and the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The Museum also presents exhibitions of historical and contemporary quilts, and fiber art. With a collection of more than 18,000 textiles and rugs and an unparalleled library, The Textile Museum is a unique and valuable resource for people locally, nationally and internationally.

The Textile Museum is located at 2320 ‘S’ Street, NW in Washington, D.C. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 1-5pm. Admission is free; suggested donation is \$5.00. For further information, call 202-667-0441 or visit www.textilemuseum.org.

In fall 2009 The Textile Museum will open an expansion site – located at 421 7th Street, NW, in Washington, D.C.’s Penn Quarter – dedicated to exhibitions and educational activities. For more information about this exciting initiative, visit www.textilemuseum.org/expansion.htm.

For more information or images, please contact Annie Laurie Sánchez, Communications & Marketing Assistant, at (202) 667-0441, ext. 77 or asanchez@textilemuseum.org or visit www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm.