



A perfect and inexpensive field trip for 4th and 8th grade Social Studies classes and all Art classes!

Nearby in the village of Mount Morris!

New York State Standards and the New Deal Gallery

The New Deal Gallery at Livingston Arts Center in Mount Morris is home to Livingston County's collection of WPA artwork. A visit to this facility can help you meet five of the nine New York State Standards in Social Studies and Art.

Social Studies

Standard 1: History of the United States and New York

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.

What fits this standard better than the *era* of the Great Depression, the *theme* of government spurring of the economy, and the *turning point* of the implementation of the New Deal?

Standard 4: Economics

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of how the United States and other societies develop economic systems and associated institutions to allocate scarce resources, how major decision-making units function in the United States and other national economies, and how an economy solves the scarcity problem through market and nonmarket mechanisms.

The Works Progress Administration that sponsored this art was a major decision-making *economic institution*. It was set up precisely to *allocate scarce resources* and *solve problems* of unemployment through *market and nonmarket mechanisms*.

Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship, and Government

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the necessity for establishing governments; the governmental system of the United States and other nations; the United States Constitution; the basic civic values of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation.

The New Deal Gallery is concrete evidence of one way governments are useful to their populations. After all, the reason for *establishing government* is to represent the people. America's *civic values* are strongly represented in this collection. As F.D.R. said, "The American people want work, not a handout." The program that brought about these paintings gave men and women work. Discussion can include questions about what *rights* (especially economic) an individual can expect to have their government insure and the related *role and responsibilities* of the individual.

Art

Standard 3: Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art

Students will respond critically to a variety of works in the arts, connecting the individual work to other works and to other aspects of human endeavor and thought.

We have forty paintings hanging at any one time in the New Deal Gallery. A *variety* of styles and subjects are always on display, from impressionistic to American primitive and still-life to landscapes. Students can discuss not only the *individual works*, but how they are related to art, and other aspects of *human endeavor* from the mid-20th century.

Additionally, a second gallery space, Apartment One, features generally present-day work by regional artists and includes 2- and 3-D work across a variety of mediums. This is yet another opportunity for students to *respond critically* to works of art.

Standard 4: Understanding the Cultural Contributions of the Arts

Students will develop an understanding of the personal and cultural forces that shape artistic communication and how the arts in turn shape the diverse cultures of past and present society.

The paintings in the New Deal Gallery were meant to bring pleasure to patients at a large public institution. This is most definitely art that was meant to *shape* the *culture* of a portion of *society*. Discussion can include how these paintings relate to the *cultural forces shaping artistic expression* during the Depression. They are also a perfect example of Depression-era concerns of society and behavior.

Livingston Arts Center is located at 4 Murray Hill Drive in the village of Mount Morris. Admission is free.

Please call in advance to schedule your visit: 585.243.6785; www.livingstonartscenter.org offers more information and directions.

Livingston Arts Center is managed by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts, Livingston County's recognized arts council.

