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Historical Society of Washington and DCPS launch DC History Educational Initiative

Program that is endorsed by Mayor Adrian Fenty and School Chancellor Michelle Rhee would enhance the current social studies curriculum for grades PreK-12

Washington, DC (January 20, 2008) – The Historical Society of Washington, through a \$150,000 challenge grant provided by the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation to fund public programs, will supply students from grades PreK-12 with enhanced social studies lesson plans that will focus on DC history. The program that has been accepted and approved by School Chancellor Michelle Rhee would enable teachers to link each grade's social studies content, performance tasks, thinking skills, vocabulary and reading comprehension to create a fun and engaging lesson plans and resources using local history.

“We truly see the dedication of the resources made possible by the grant from the Meyer Foundation as a benefit to DC's students and teachers,” said Sandy Bellamy, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Washington. “Our goal is to ensure that D.C. teachers have a quality resource that they can use to reinforce their standards but, more importantly, build a greater civic pride among our students who are indeed the future of Washington, D.C.”

The timetable for developing the DC History Educational Initiative for grades PreK-12 will begin in February of 2008 and with pilot lesson plans tested in fall 2008 semester and final lessons disseminated in 2009. The program will be instituted as an on-going program from that point forward. To ensure the success of this program the Historical Society will devote the necessary resources to hire a coordinator to not only develop the lesson plans, but will work with the teachers while they are piloting the lesson plans and implementing them after the resource has been vetted by teachers. The program will also provide compensation for teachers for their participation and development in all teacher workshops.

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About the Historical Society of Washington, DC

For more than a century, the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. has been the only organization with the singular mission of collecting, conserving and sharing our city's history. The Columbia Historical Society, as it was called until 1988, was founded in 1894 by a group of 36 men and women and had as its goal "collecting the scattered and rapidly disappearing records

of events and individuals prominent in the history of the city and District." The Historical Society is devoted to documenting and sharing the history of the District of Columbia and its people to build a great sense of identity, place and pride in Washington for those who live and work here and for the nation as a whole.

The Historical Society of Washington, DC is open to the public Tuesday—Saturday, 10 am—5 pm and is located at 801 K St. NW. Visit us on line at www.historydc.org or call us at (202) 383-1850.

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