

For Immediate Release:

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Northern Illinois University Art Museum receives DeKalb Community Foundation Grant.

The DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF) has awarded a Community Needs grant to the NIU Art Museum for collaborative research, documentation and educational programs with the DeKalb Public Library and NIU department of Media Services. The project will document and highlight the restoration of an original New Deal mural by Gustaf Dahlstrom located in the DeKalb Public Library.

In conjunction with two major exhibitions at the NIU Art Museum on the “Art of the New Deal Era” extensive educational programs and projects have been planned. Librarian Dee Coover of the DeKalb Public Library will research and document the mural and its restoration in order to share the information with the public and local school children. Ms. Coover will work with Sophia Varcados of NIU Media Services to create two posters – one on the artist Gustaf Dahlstrom and one on the mural’s restoration by the Chicago Conservation Center.

The informational posters will be on display at the NIU Art Museum in April and May 2010 during the related exhibitions. Subsequently they will be available to local schools for temporary display with an optional educational presentation on Works Progress Administration (WPA) murals offered by NIU Art Museum staff. After one year of traveling to DeKalb County schools, the posters will be on display at the library as an educational supplement for the actual mural.

Thanks to the DCCF Community Needs Grant, a masterful local treasure, reflective of a national, historic art movement, will be given the attention and greater awareness it deserves.



DeKalb Public Library head librarian Dee Coover and NIU Art Museum Director Jo Burke receive the DCCF Grant Check from Board Member Joan Fenstermaker in front of the Dahlstrom mural.