



ABOUT LITERACY WITHOUT WALLS

How does Cool Culture's *Literacy Without Walls* program work?

The Cool Culture program (1) provides a single staff person from each enrolled school with a series of 5 professional development workshops designed to help them get families more involved in their child's education, through the arts – and (2) provides families with children in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten with free, unlimited access to 90 museums, botanical gardens and zoos via the *Cool Culture Family Pass*.

What kind of Professional Development is provided to Title I staff?

Literacy Without Walls professional development 5-part workshop series occurs during the school year and during school hours. Each 4.5 hour workshop takes place at a different cultural institution, and includes a guided tour by a museum educator, and an introduction to simple strategies, parent-child activities and materials that workshop participants can hand off to parents. Participants leave the session well informed about the range of cultural programming geared toward children and families in NYC; and prepared to turnkey the information to parents in their school. Each workshop participant will be entitled to sign up all of their **Universal Pre-Kindergarten** and **Kindergarten** families for the *Cool Culture Family Pass*.

What do Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families receive?

All Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families enrolled in Cool Culture will receive a *Cool Culture Family Pass* which they simply show at entry for free and unlimited admission, similar to a museum membership card. Cool Culture also provides each participating family with a subscription to *Family Time*, our quarterly publication, which includes a calendar of cultural activities and events geared toward parents and children as well as feature articles about our partnering cultural institutions. Families also receive Cool Culture's *e-Family Time* monthly newsletter, and access to our unique cultural hotline, *Cool Culture Connect*, to learn more about what's going on around town. Our website is a valuable family resource with museum treasure hunt cards and activity plans.

How do Title I public schools enroll in Cool Culture?

Literacy Without Walls is a **\$2,500 fee-for-service program available to a limited number of Title I Schools** (participation is free for families). To enroll, Principals need to:

- (1) assign one early childhood staff member to serve as a "Cultural Liaison" for the program. It may be a Teacher, Family Assistant, Parent Coordinator or Social Worker that will attend the 5 professional development workshops, and enroll and engage families in the *Cool Culture Family Pass* program.
- (2) fill out and sign the (a) School Enrollment Form, (b) Cultural Liaison/Principal Agreement Form & (c) Enrollment Contract and return it to Cool Culture by **September 15, 2010**, or sooner, email: bpalley@coolculture.org or fax:718.230.4556
- (3) submit payment via a check or purchase order to Cool Culture. NYC DOE vendor #161636968

Please note that space is limited, and enrollment will take place on a first come, first served basis. Upon receipt of your enrollment materials, Cool Culture will return a signed copy of the contract along with an invoice.

Does Cool Culture have a contract with the NYC Department of Education?

Yes, our vendor number is 161636968. Please contact Barbara Palley at 718.230.4186 x304 or bpalley@coolculture.org to learn more.

What is the role of *Literacy Without Walls* workshop participants?

All workshop participants serve as a *Cultural Liaison* for their school. Liaisons enroll **Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten** families in Cool Culture, distribute materials, hold meetings to keep parents up-to-date, and create a Cool Culture display space at their schools to provide parents with information about cultural institutions. **Liaisons should attend all 5 workshops to ensure the success of the program.**

What happens if my school is enrolled?

In September all *Literacy Without Walls* participants will receive materials to sign up families to receive their personalized Cool Culture Family Passes. At Orientation on **November 8, 2010** Liaisons will learn more about Cool Culture, enjoy their first workshop experience and receive their families' *Cool Culture Family Passes*.

Where will the 2010-2011 *Literacy Without Walls* workshops take place, and on which dates?

Workshops take place throughout the five boroughs at cultural institutions that represent the diversity of NYC. **Locations and dates TBA.** Every year locations change, previous workshops included: Botany and Beauty (Prospect Park Audubon Center and Zoo), Visual Literacy (The Whitney Museum) and Flowers, Herbs and Medieval Arts (The Metropolitan Museum of Art-The Cloisters).