



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Public Library Paintings Part of Global Art Conservation Project *Three Bierstadt Paintings to be Restored Through Bank of America Grant*

New Bedford, Massachusetts –Three paintings by New Bedford native Albert Bierstadt will be restored as part of Bank of America’s global Art Conservation Project. Without restoration, these paintings would likely be removed from public view and permanently stored in order to prevent further damage.

“When these paintings come back to New Bedford, they’ll be as the world was meant to see them,” said New Bedford Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell. “We are grateful to Bank of America for helping preserve this important part of New Bedford and American history, and for their continued commitment to the community.”

The Bank of America Art Conservation Project began in 2010. In 2013, it will fund 24 projects in 16 countries around the world including such notable projects such as Jackson Pollock’s “Number 1A,” “One” and “Echo” at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and several portraits of Queen Elizabeth I at the National Portrait Gallery in London. For a full description of the 2013 projects and images, please visit <http://museums.bankofamerica.com/arts/GrantRecipients>.

New Bedford projects include: “A Sunset Light, Wind River Range of the Rocky Mountains,” “Salt Lick in Sunset Glow,” and “Mount Sir Donald”. All three paintings require treatment to prevent further tearing of the brittle canvas and to remove layers of yellowed synthetic varnish. The current condition of the works prevents the library from taking full advantage of the opportunities they can offer. For example, loan and educational requests from other museums are being turned down, as the paintings are too unstable to travel.

The grant was obtained through the Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library, a nonprofit group that supports the library’s mission through programming, advocacy and funding

“This is a much-needed restoration project that will allow us to take full advantage of the educational opportunities these paintings provide,” said Library Director Stephen

Fulchino. “The restoration will remove the varnish that’s been giving the public a distorted view of Bierstadt’s work – both figuratively and literally.”

“These paintings are an important part of New Bedford’s rich history,” said Bob Gallery, Massachusetts president, Bank of America. “Once restored, we want to see them shared with the widest audience possible for years to come, building on the city’s cultural vibrancy.”

Library officials, Bank of America leaders and local dignitaries gathered for an official send-off reception on Tuesday, July 23. The restoration work will be conducted at an off-site facility.

The New Bedford Public Library

One of the oldest public libraries in America, the New Bedford Free Public Library opened its doors in 1853 with a collection of approximately 5,000 volumes. Today, the main library and its four branches hold over 363,000 volumes in addition to electronic resources, and serve over 230,000 patrons annually.

Bank of America Corporate Social Responsibility

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