

# Sample Press Release

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Maryland Humanities Council Sponsors Talk on the Harlem Renaissance**

The Maryland Humanities Council announces a free lecture and slide presentation entitled “The Harlem Renaissance: Its Art and Politics” at the Washington Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown, on Sunday, October 17, 2004, at 2:30 PM. The event is a *We the People* project of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Although the Civil War and Reconstruction marked the end of slavery as an American institution, economic freedom for many freed slaves was only an illusion. Black people began leaving the South in a mass migration, taking their culture and political outlooks northward. The flowering of the arts and the coming of major political organizations among African-Americans in New York came to be known as “The Harlem Renaissance.” Dr. Priscilla Ramsey examines the political and cultural aspects of this vast movement that occurred between 1910 and 1929. Dr. Ramsey is Associate Professor in the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University and has a Ph.D. in Literary Studies from The American University. She is a member of the Maryland Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, which provides free speakers to nonprofit organizations in Maryland to engage public audiences throughout the state in dialogues about their history and culture.

The Maryland Humanities Council is a private, educational nonprofit organization that is affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The purpose of the Council is to create and disseminate programs that broaden an individual’s understanding and appreciation of our common – and diverse – heritage, traditions, and culture; promote constructive and meaningful projects on the value and role of the Humanities to better our personal, civic, and professional lives; and engage citizens and the academic and cultural communities in statewide dialogues designed to enhance our quality of life.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities. The *We the People* initiative is administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities and was established to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and the *We the People* initiative is available at [www.NEH.gov](http://www.NEH.gov).

For information about the Maryland Humanities Council Speakers Bureau presentation on October 17, contact the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts at 301-739-5727.

For information about the Maryland Humanities Council and its programs, visit the Council’s website at [www.mdhc.org](http://www.mdhc.org) or call 410-685-0095.