About the *Mundos de Mestizaje* Curriculum

The History and Literary Arts Program at the National Hispanic Cultural Center has created a K-12 Social Studies and Language Arts educational curriculum centered on *Mundos de Mestizaje*, the monumental buon fresco inside the torreón on the NHCC campus.

Mundos de Mestizaje, by New Mexico master-artist Frederico Vigil, is a buon fresco that depicts thousands of years of Hispanic identity, history, and culture in the broadest sense, from Europe to Mesoamerica to the American Southwest. At 4,000 square feet, it is the largest concave fresco in North America.

By engaging with the fresco, children and young adults will explore history (including issues of identity, culture, and trans-cultural exchange), geography, civics, government, and economics through a wide range of lesson plans and activities.

Overall, the goal of this curriculum is to cultivate a deeper and more complex understanding of Hispanic/Chicanx /Latinx history and identity as well as other ethnic identities that are the result of thousands of years of cultural cross-pollination. At the NHCC we believe that such an understanding encourages courageous and compassionate civic dialogue and mutual respect.

On the *Mundos de Mestizaje* curriculum page, you will find lesson plans and activities for K-12 students, listed in order of subject. This is an evolving resource for students, educators and parents and will grow with time.

We also refer educators and parents to The Human Body as Art, an educational resource that addresses nude figures in the fresco.

The classroom atmosphere in which these lessons and activities take place matters immensely. Because *Mundos de Mestizaje* often generates spirited discussion in the classroom, we encourage educators to develop a culture of listening, of conversation, and of friendly disagreement within their classrooms.

Educators interested in how to cultivate this kind of classroom are encouraged to read an excerpt from a report on visual thinking by Harvard Project Zero.