"All Americans: Images of Heritage and Citizenship"

"We celebrate the creativity of American young people and the willingness of our cultural community to invest in making every child's life a work of art."

President Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, said "Much depends on the good government that is America."

"All Americans: Images of Heritage and Citizenship"

Like the citizens of all nations, Americans young and old hold the promise of their communities in a special place in their hearts.

"All Americans: Images of Heritage and Citizenship"

All Americans take pride in the "Old Glory" of the State and Stripes. The American flag personifies the values of freedom, individual rights, and the human dignity and protection that it affords.

"All Americans: Images of Heritage and Citizenship"

America is a beautiful land, we see it in the images associated with our people, institutions, history, and the rich culture we hold dear.

"All Americans: Images of Heritage and Citizenship"

The world today is an ever changing place, calling each of us to be the best we can be in order to succeed and to serve our country. Some of us find our way through a language, others in visual, musical, mathematical, kinesthetic or spatial reasoning and ability, others in understanding of people.

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When our varied abilities are nurtured from early childhood and beyond, the quest for learning becomes lifelong. The fine arts act as a connecting thread across all subject areas. The arts enhance cultural understanding, good citizenship, judgement, innovation, and the creative applications needed at work, at home and in the world.

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"In his inaugural address of the 43rd president of the United States, George W. Bush, presented a call to all Americans regarding the importance of "Building a Nation of Character." His words communicate an understanding that "we all have a stake, all of us, in a long story, a story we continue but which one day will never end."

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Despite our differences, the Founders said that all Americans are "united across generations by grand and enduring ideals. The generation of these ideals is an enduring American promise, that welcomes belonging, that welcomes dissent as a chance, that no insignificant person was ever born. Americans are called to enact this promise in our lives and in our laws."

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As young people venture and grow in the democratic process, the arts help them to craft new blueprints for civic participation that embrace shared culture and promote citizenship.

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All young people must be affirmed in their own special gifts and abilities, for our character and our destiny are shaped by a few very important factors – what we think of ourselves and of others, the future we wish to obtain, and the teachings, insights, and experiences of our elders. From, it sense of history, duty, responsibility and civic engagement is the cultural lodgement of democracy.

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