



STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

January 10, 2002

Mr. Allan Kullen, President
People of America Foundation
5760 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Allan:

I would like to write this letter of support for the People of America Foundation and its work to develop an inclusive database that honors the cultural diversity of our nation. Even though Vermont continues to be a rather homogeneous state, we need to prepare our students to live in a diverse nation. This database will help prepare our students to meet the challenges facing them inside and outside Vermont.

Vermont has extensive and rich history. However, most of our original historical documents and artifacts are in various locations around the state, not easily accessible to Vermont educators and students. This project will provide a database to share these valuable primary resources in a way that is equitable and easily accessible.

It is the goal of the Vermont Department of Education to provide Vermont schools with a variety of standards-based materials and resources. The People of America project will allow Vermont educators to identify, develop and disseminate curriculum materials to support the Standards-based teaching/learning process. It will provide educators with the valuable instructional and assessment tools needed to successfully implement Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities.

Thank you for selecting Vermont as one of the first AmericansAll Pilot Sites. The Vermont Department of Education is excited to be a partner with other organizations around the state to develop the Vermont AmericansAll Project. We look forward to working closely with you as the project moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray McNulty".

Ray McNulty
Commissioner



HISTORICAL ♦ SOCIETY ♦

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The Vermont Historical Society
is a tax-exempt nonprofit
corporation dedicated to collecting,
preserving and interpreting
Vermont's history for present and
future generations.

November 25, 2001

Allan S. Kullen

President

People of America Foundation

5760 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Allan,

On behalf of the Vermont Historical Society, I am writing to express our enthusiasm and support for The People of America Foundation's endeavor. We believe that your efforts to create a database of content-rich, inclusive curriculum materials will enhance social studies education in Vermont. As the only institution existing solely to interpret Vermont history, we are working toward this same goal, and anticipate taking a leadership role in this project.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful social studies teachers around the state. They are creating innovative historical projects; often using local primary documents and including living history elements. In traveling around the state, I have also been amazed by the amount of resources that exist about Vermont history in local historical societies and museums. The People of America project will fill a real need by connecting these teachers and students to the resources that reflect Vermont's diverse history.

The People of America project comes at a ideal time for the Vermont Historical Society. We had identified a real need in the state to connect teachers with Vermont history resources and have made that a major goal of our education department. In addition, we are undergoing a renovation of our current space and expanding into the Vermont History Center, a 60,000 square foot renovated school building built in 1891 and designated as a Save America's Treasures Official Project. Once completed, we will have a permanent exhibit on Vermont history, a hands-on history room, four classroom spaces and an auditorium. This physical expansion gives us an opportunity to serve teachers, students, and the general public like never before.

Thank you so much for your support of the People of America project in Vermont. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely Yours,

Amy Cunningham

Director of Education

The Vermont Folklife Center

November 10, 2001



To Whom It May Conceren:

I would like to write a strong letter of support for the People of America Foundation and for their work nationwide in developing an inclusive database which will include and honor the cultural and ethnic diversity of each state, thereby providing access to each state's social, cultural and political history for elementary and secondary school levels.

Vermont is exceedingly fortunate to have been chosen as one of the three states to serve as a pilot for the Foundation's program. The Vermont Folklife Center would be glad to help in any way we can. Over the last fifteen years the VFC has been involved in doing numerous interviews with individuals from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We now have an archive of 3500 audio and video tapes, and their transcripts, 20,000 photographs and a small number of family manuscripts detailing a family member's life history or memoir. Among our materials there are strong collections of Abenaki, African American, South East Asian, Yankee and such European immigrants as French Canadian, Italian, Spanish, Irish, Yankee, Scandinavian, Russian and Polish. We see the web as the way to give students access to this material and are in the process of digitizing it. This of course is an expensive, slow process, however it could serve as a rich resource for the Foundation's program and we would be pleased to work with them to make these materials available. Such a project is closely tied to our mission to preserve and present the traditional cultures of Vermont and the surrounding region. As you can well imagine, the VFC has a very personal stake in wanting to encourage a project like this to go forward. The People of America Foundation has our unqualified support.

Sincerely,

Jane C. Beck

Jane C. Beck
Executive Director

Gregory Sharrow

Gregory Sharrow
Director of Education

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Celebrating the Traditions of Vermont

VERMONT ALLIANCE *for the* SOCIAL STUDIES

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November 30, 2001

Allan S. Kullen
5760 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Allan:

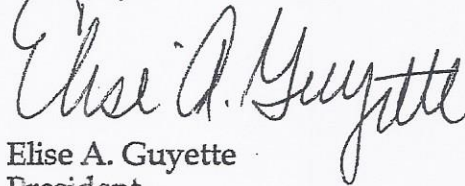
I am delighted to write this letter of support for the *Americans All* project in Vermont. The goals of the project mesh very nicely with the mission of the Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies and will enable us to further our goals to:

- 1) promote an understanding of the key concepts, content, standards, and methodology in the fields of history, the social sciences, and social studies' education;
- 2) foster teaching practices rooted in democratic principles;
- 3) provide resources and professional development opportunities for K-16+ social studies' educators.

The project materials also give teachers tools they need to teach *Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities*. Throughout the Framework we find such concepts as culture, migrations, and interpreting various perspectives based on ethnicity, race, gender and class. The existing *Americans All* materials and those that will be developed by and about Vermonters will provide these needed perspectives on historical and contemporary society.

I also have a scholarly interest in this project, since I have been researching and writing about the ethnic history of Vermont for the past decade. There are others in the state immersed in similar endeavors. Imagining all these resources brought together in one web site and made easily available to educators throughout the country is thrilling indeed. You have our complete and eager support.

Sincerely,



Elise A. Guyette
President

The University of Vermont

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AND VERMONT STUDIES PROGRAM
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December 19, 2001

Mr. Allan S. Kullen
President
People of American Foundation
5760 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Allan:

The Center for Research on Vermont, with twenty-five years of experience in coordinating and disseminating research about Vermont, is committed to educating new generations of researchers in a wide range of topics relating to our state's history, settlement, and diverse ethnic heritage.

After attending your presentation in Montpelier this fall and receiving the Americans All curriculum materials, it is clear that your project's objectives are compatible with our own interests and initiatives. We can envision using these curricular materials ourselves as a model with at least two different audiences. First, these materials would work well in helping us develop new units within the introductory Vermont Studies course, which is currently fashioned around five interdisciplinary themes growing out of Vermont's cultural, political, social, and environmental history. In addition, some of these units would be useful in several of the discipline-specific courses that make up the Vermont Studies minor at the University of Vermont. Second, these units will be perfect to use with public school teachers with whom we will be working in summer institutes, beginning in the summer of 2002. These teachers will in turn take the materials back to their own classrooms and publicize their availability to their colleagues in schools from around Vermont. We are willing to work with you to "kitchen test" your Vermont materials with these audiences before you make them widely available.

We, therefore, wholeheartedly support the People of America Foundation's endeavor in Vermont. The Center's members, who number nearly three hundred, represent a broad spectrum of research interests and expertise. We are certain that many will make valuable contributions to the construction of a Vermont historical timeline and the assembly of the state's photograph and poster collections. In addition, we will be happy to publicize the availability of your materials through the Center's Web site, newsletter, and electronic discussion list.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Eschholz
Director, Center for Research on Vermont
and Vermont Studies Program

Kristin Peterson-Ishaq
Coordinator, Center for Research on Vermont
and Vermont Studies Program



December 19, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

Shelburne Museum wholeheartedly supports the work of the People of America Foundation and their efforts to develop an inclusive, accessible database of information highlighting the cultural and ethnic richness of each state's social, cultural, economic, and political history.

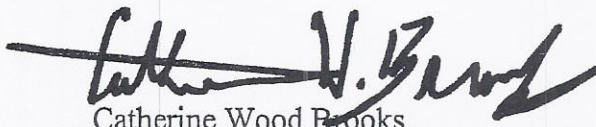
Vermont, as one of the three states piloting the Foundation's program, can serve as a leader in creating data collection models for dissemination to other participants. Shelburne Museum's collections vividly bring to life the cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity of not only Vermont, but also the entire northeast. The Museum's collections of more than 100,000 objects are housed in 39 buildings on 45 acres near Lake Champlain.


Shelburne Museum is committed to enriching people's lives through art, history, and culture. We collect art and artifacts of the highest artistic and historical merit, celebrating the American spirit of ingenuity, creativity, and craftsmanship.

Each year Shelburne welcomes more than 12,000 students to the Museum and serves an additional 5,000 students through outreach programs. Still, digitizing aspects of our collections would allow students on-going, online visual access to the paintings, decorative arts, tools, architecture, and furnishings that help humanize the events of the past.

We believe that the efforts of the People of America Foundation can help us deepen the available educational resources for Vermont's students and look forward to working with them and our Vermont colleagues in developing rich and accessible materials for learning.

Sincerely,


Catherine Wood Brooks
Director of Education


Karen E. Petersen
Assoc. Director of Education

SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Darlene H. Worth
Director of Curriculum

December 3, 2001

Mr. Allan Kullen
President
People of America Foundation
5760 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Allan:

First, I want to thank you very much for sending me the complete sets of the Americans All materials to share with the members of the Champlain Valley Education Consortium. As I told you, they were very well received and we can see that they will be a most welcome addition to our instructional programs. We have a shortage of materials in the social studies area.

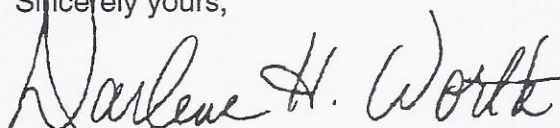
The Foundation's program has a great deal of value for us here in Vermont. We are a state that is very decentralized and as a result, it is very difficult for all of our teachers to have access to the same quality teaching materials and instructional units. In addition, because of that decentralization, we do not have the benefit of a central clearinghouse where quality materials can be stored and made available to all instructors and students.

Vermont is also an extremely homogeneous state; and yet, we need to prepare our students to enter a world that does not look like the place they grew up. Having the wealth of these materials will enable us to prepare all of our students to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Finally, as you know, there is a great deal of emphasis now being placed on our standards and assessment programs. Having all materials that we use tied directly to these measurement tools, as well as our scope and sequence for teaching social studies, will enable us to fully concentrate on our work in the classroom, rather than spending an inordinate amount of time trying to find what we need to get our jobs done properly.

Thanks again for bringing this program to our attention and we look forward to being one of the first states in the nation to make it fully operational.

Sincerely yours,



Darlene H. Worth
Director of Curriculum

January 8, 2002

Dear Allan,

I'm writing this letter to let you know I've been doing a little work with the Americans All Program and its relationship to the Vermont Standards and Learning Opportunities Framework.

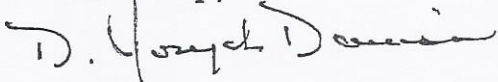
As you may or may not know, during the 1997-98 school year, I was awarded a Christa McAuliffe Fellowship. During my year, I was given the task by the Vermont Department of Education to re-visit and revise seven of the Fields of Knowledge Standards in Social Studies in the Vermont Framework. With the help of a committee that I selected, we were able to accomplish this. In addition, I was asked to work with teachers in Vermont in creating and evaluating standards-based teaching units. I became a jurist whose responsibility it was to assess units created by Vermont teachers that were submitted for inclusion in a state-wide resource on the Inter-Net. Teachers from all over the country could then access these units to be used in their classrooms. Obviously, being familiar with the Vermont Framework was crucial.

When you asked me to look over the Americans-All materials, of course I was curious as to how well the program was aligned with the Vermont Framework. I looked primarily at the high school materials since I taught on the high school level for 35 years. In one activity entitled New Home, I found a great deal of correlation in the activity goals, and the objectives, as well as the knowledge material being in line with the Field of Knowledge Standards in the Vermont Framework. There was also substantial correlation in the Learning Opportunities of the Framework as well.

I am very confident, that this program would dove-tail nicely into the Vermont Framework. I also feel that by aligning this program, it would go a long ways in the implementation of the program throughout the state of Vermont. Teachers here are looking for materials that are "standards friendly", that would enable teachers to tap into these resources without having to take the time to research and align the activities themselves.

I hope that my humble research has been helpful. If there are any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Joseph Davison".

D. Joseph Davison