

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Come Celebrate the Presidential Recognition of *Sojourn to the Past* as a Finalist for the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

Dear Colleague:

We would like to invite members of Congress and staff to a reception celebrating the achievement of *Sojourn to the Past* as a finalist for the 2011 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. **The reception will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd from 6:00 – 8:00pm in Rayburn B338.**

The award is presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for outstanding after-school and out-of-school programs that exemplify how extracurricular arts and humanities enrich and transform the lives of young people by teaching new skills, nurturing creativity, and building self-confidence. In addition to being honored by H.Res. 1058 in July of last year, *Sojourn* is one of the finalists selected from out of 471 nominations. Congresswoman Jackie Speier, whose district *Sojourn* was founded in, and Congressman John Lewis, who participates in the program, formally endorsed the nomination of *Sojourn*. The program was also endorsed by Dr. William Ferris, former Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Winners receive the award from First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House.

Sojourn's academic immersion program has taken more than 6,000 11th and 12th grade students from diverse academic, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds on a ten-day moving classroom journey along the path of the Civil Rights Movement across five states of the American South. *Sojourn's* holistic educational approach incorporates music, text and video into a rigorous curriculum that lets students interact with historical landmarks, museums, and the movement's foot soldiers themselves, to bring the lessons of our shared American history to life. Each year, *Sojourn* reaches more than 300,000 students and teachers across America with presentations that mirror the history lessons taught on the journey and their relation to current societal issues.

I hope you can join us in celebrating *Sojourn to the Past* for its prestigious and well-earned nomination at our Capitol Hill reception on Wednesday, November 2nd. If you have any questions please contact Nahmyo Thomas in Congresswoman Speier's office at nahmyo.thomas@mail.house.gov or 5-3531.

Signed by,

Jackie Speier	Anna Eshoo	George Miller
John Lewis	Barbara Lee	Jared Polis
Karen Bass	Zoe Lofgren	Lynn Woolsey

Members of Congress