The History Hunters Youth Reporter Program is an exciting, literacy-based educational program. Students in the program will become investigative reporters, writing about their experiences with the history, buildings, and artifacts of their community. Since its development nearly ten years ago, the History Hunters Youth Reporter Program has served some 15,000 Philadelphia schoolchildren, and won numerous national and state awards. This innovative program offers fourth and fifth grade students the unique opportunity to experience history outside of the classroom and to learn about the people who once lived in their same Philadelphia neighborhoods long ago.

La Salle University Art Museum (LSUAM) has been invited to participate in the program beginning in 2014-2015, as a fifth historic site alongside historic Germantown houses Stonet, Cliveden, Johnson House, and Wyck. The program emphasizes the use of primary sources to engage students in learning local history. The curriculum previously had no art component, though paintings and portraiture certainly exist in the four historic houses, and art (both viewing and making it) can serve as a valuable and fun primary resource for students to learn about the past.

The objective of LSUAM’s participation in the History Hunters program is to advance young students’ ability to read works of art as primary sources and to learn how artists and people long ago created visual records of themselves before the invention of photography. LSUAM’s portion of the program will focus on portraiture and the art of prominent Philadelphia artist Charles Willson Peale, who lived at Belfield (now the office of the University President) from 1810-1821. History Hunters lessons are designed to complement state educational standards.

Day of the Museum (Graph A)
Students were asked if they had ever been to more than other students by asking if other students.

Each two hour site visit with History Hunters Guides will include:
- Introduction and guided tour around the Belfield property
- Gallery Lessons in our 18th and 19th century galleries
- Highlights include portraits by Charles Willson Peale, his brother James Peale, son Rembrandt Peale, and silhouettes from Peale’s Philadelphia Museum
- Looking at Portraits - First-person monologue writing activity
- Self-portrait drawing activity in our Art Education Studio

Post-visit “reporter assignments” guide students in thinking about the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How of newspaper writing

The History Hunters program follows a full year curriculum. The Belfield/LSUAM site visit will occur third in the series, to fit chronologically into the timeline after Stonet and Cliveden, and before Johnson House and Wyck.

The mission of the La Salle University Art Museum is to further the University’s Lasallian educational objectives by helping students, other members of the University community and the general public to experience significant, original works of art in an intimate setting and to place them in meaningful contexts. In addition to acquiring, preserving and exhibiting its collections, the Museum offers viewers an opportunity to sharpen their aesthetic perception and to investigate the interrelationships which emerge between art and other disciplines.

The mission statement reflects the Art Museum’s desire to serve the broadest possible community of viewers as a place of ongoing education and discovery. The inclusion of “Lasallian” in our mission statement clarifies the unique way in which the Art Museum advances the University’s mission and its longstanding commitment to teaching, community service, and social justice.

This program will enable the Art Museum to reach an additional 3,000 school children each year, and will more than double the attendance of pre-K-12 school children we are currently able to serve with one Curator of Education on staff. LSUAM seeks funding support for the program transportation costs in accordance with its educational mission.

Stenton: the Logan family, James Logan, William Penn, Native Americans, and the founding of Pennsylvania
Cliveden: the Chew family, the Battle of Germantown and the Revolutionary War in Pennsylvania, yellow fever in Philadelphia, and slavery in 18th-century America
Belfield/LSUAM: 18th and 19th century art and portraiture, Charles Willson Peale and his Philadelphia Museum, the artist’s retirement and life at Belfield
Johnson House: mid-19th century slave laws, the Johnson family involvement in the Underground Railroad, and the abolitionist movement
Wyck: family life in 19th century Philadelphia, emphasizing the Haines and Johnson family Quaker values, with a view to 19th century gardening and medicine

Poster design and development by Rebecca Orsiego, LSUAM Museum Assistant, and Graduate Student in La Salle University’s Department of Public History
Special Thanks to LSUAM Curator of Education/ Miranda Clark-Binder, Museum Director and Chief Curator/ Klare Scarborough, and History Hunters Program Coordinator/ Kaelyn Taylor