

# AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM

800 KEY HWY • BALTIMORE, MD • 21230 • USA • 410.244.1900 • AVAM.ORG

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2013

## MEDIA CONTACT:

Nick Prevas  
[nick@avam.org](mailto:nick@avam.org)  
410.244.1900 ext. 241

## KINDNESS WORKS

AVAM's educational outreach to Howard County schools to help end bullying

**BALTIMORE, MD (March 25, 2013)**—In salute of Howard County's community response to the plight of young people devastated by bullying, the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM) has engaged National Art Honors Society students from five Howard County high schools in creating canvas quilts that express acts of kindness, courage, and responses to bullying. The quilts represent a collective voice of pro-civility, composed of individual expressions. This special Outreach Howard project, titled **KINDNESS WORKS**, is made possible through the generous funding of the Howard County Arts Council.

The resulting collaborative project will consist of five, 5'x5' quilts, which will be displayed at The Mall in Columbia beginning on March 28<sup>th</sup> and running through April 7<sup>th</sup>, with an additional exhibition planned at the Howard County Center for the Arts running from June 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a reception at the Howard County Center for the Arts on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm–8:00pm. Both exhibitions, and the reception on June 20<sup>th</sup> are open to the public. Schools participating in the **KINDNESS WORKS** project include: Hammond High School; Long Reach High School; Oakland Mills High School; Wilde Lake High School; and Howard High School.

AVAM's educational programming, along with the **KINDNESS WORKS** project, is deeply rooted in the museum's Seven Educational goals, which include: *1. Expand the definition of a worthwhile life. 2. Engender respect for and delight in the gifts of others. 3. Increase awareness of the wide variety of choices available in life for all —particularly students. 4. Encourage each individual to build upon his or her own special knowledge and inner strengths. 5. Promote the use of innate intelligence, intuition, self-exploration, and creative self-reliance. 6. Confirm the great hunger for finding out just what each of us can do best, in our own voice, at any age. 7. Empower the individual to choose to do that something really, really, well.*

In January of 2013, AVAM hosted an Anti-Bullying Program that featured personal stories from PostSecret founder Frank Warren, Executive Director of Baltimore's The Leadership Jan

Houbolt, and career educator Debbie Phelps, along with an audience discussion and participatory project. AVAM, along with its current exhibition *THE ART OF STORYTELLING: Lies, Enchantment, Humor & Truth*, has made a year-long commitment to raising awareness, fostering meaningful discussions, and educating students and the greater public about the negative effects of bullying on our community. The exhibition's exploration of "Lies, Loshon Hora & True Confessions of Bullies & The Bullied Innocents" examines the dark underbelly of storytelling, and features a selection of anonymous postcards about bullying, courtesy of Frank Warren and his PostSecret project. AVAM's exhibition is an articulate plea for greater civility and kindness in our ways of telling stories about, and speaking to, one another.

Home to the Jim Rouse Visionary Center, the American Visionary Art Museum has a bedrock belief that creative acts of social justice are the highest form of performance art. AVAM wishes to help keep up the fine momentum generated by schools and community leaders in working to end bullying in our schools, and to foster a greater consciousness of civility and pro-kindness in a creative and an effective way. The project serves as a roadmap for young people across the country to be inspired by the possibilities of positive acts of kindness and courage that diminish bullying and value civility. In this manner, the actions of Howard County youth will provide a shining model for what we all can embrace and magnify.

## **KINDNESS WORKS EXHIBITION DETAILS:**

**MARCH 28 – APRIL 7, 2013**

**THE MALL IN COLUMBIA**

10300 Little Patuxent Pkwy

Columbia, MD 21044

More info: <http://www.themallincolumbia.com/>

**JUNE 3 – JULY 2, 2013**

**HOWARD COUNTY CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**Reception: June 20, 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

8510 High Ridge Road

Ellicott City, MD 21043

More info: [http://hocoarts.org/center\\_for\\_the\\_arts.php](http://hocoarts.org/center_for_the_arts.php)

For more information on the KINDNESS WORKS project, contact **Amy Armiger** at [amy@avam.org](mailto:amy@avam.org).

**# # #**

**AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM (AVAM)** is America's official national museum and education center for self-taught, intuitive artistry. Since its opening in 1995, the museum has sought to promote the recognition of intuitive, self-reliant, creative contribution as both an important historic and essential living piece of treasured human legacy. The one-of-a-kind American Visionary Art Museum is located on a 1.1 acre wonderland campus at 800 Key Highway, Baltimore Inner Harbor. Three renovated, historic, industrial buildings house wonders created by farmers, housewives, mechanics, retired folk, the disabled, the homeless, as well as the occasional neurosurgeon – all inspired by the fire within. From carved roots to embroidered rags, tattoos to toothpicks, the visionary transforms dreams, loss, hopes, and ideals into powerful works of art.

## **CURRENT EXHIBITION:**

### ***THE ART OF STORYTELLING: Lies, Enchantment, Humor & Truth***

**October 6, 2012–September 1, 2013** • From scripture to fairy tale, cartoons to cyber-bullying, the raw power of stories to inspire and enchant, spread lies or inform, simply has no equal. “THE ART OF STORYTELLING: Lies, Enchantment, Humor & Truth” is AVAM’s 18th original, yearlong exhibition featuring embroidery, diorama, sculpture, film, graffiti, and PostSecret confession – promoting all manner of acute ‘visual listening’ and delight for the whole family.

**MORE INFO:** <http://avam.org/exhibitions/art-of-storytelling.shtml>

## **VISITOR INFORMATION:**

**AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM (AVAM)** is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10am – 6pm. The museum is closed on Mondays,\* Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day. AVAM is located next to historic Federal Hill park at 800 Key Highway, Baltimore Inner Harbor, 21230. Admission prices, general museum info, directions, and parking info can be found online at <http://avam.org> or by calling 410-244-1900.

*\*OPEN Monday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as AVAM’s celebration of all of life’s possibilities! Free admission & special programming.*

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Nick Prevas:** [nick@avam.org](mailto:nick@avam.org), 410.244.1900 ext. 241

**PRESS IMAGES** are available for download from AVAM’s website:

<http://avam.org/news-and-events/media-info.shtml>, email [nick@avam.org](mailto:nick@avam.org) for password.

**PROGRAMS & EVENTS CALENDAR:** For a complete list of AVAM’s Programs & Events, please visit:

<http://avam.org/news-and-events/calendar.shtml>.

## **AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM**

800 Key Highway • Baltimore, MD 21230 • 410.244.1900 • [www.avam.org](http://www.avam.org)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/theavam>

**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/theavam>

**Foursquare:** <http://tinyurl.com/cjmwk8w>

**Youtube:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/FifiLePinkPoodle>