

**2010-2011 ALA CD#36 Revised 1/11/11
2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

This resolution was *ADOPTED* the ALA Council at its Council III meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, in San Diego, CA

**Resolution on the Removal and Censorship of Artwork
from the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery**

Whereas some elected federal officials pressured the National Portrait Gallery to remove artwork in an act of censorship relating to themes of sexual orientation and religious viewpoint;

Whereas some elected federal officials threatened to restrict funding of materials related to sexual orientation and religious viewpoint within their publicly funded institutes;

Whereas "We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas" (Policy 53.9, "Libraries: An American Value");

Whereas "Fair and equal representation of all the diverse expressions of life of the citizens of these United States is protected by the First Amendment and by state constitutions, and attempts to proscribe such representation in publicly funded libraries violates freedom of speech" (ALA "Resolution on Threats to Library Materials Related to Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation");

Whereas materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval" (Policy 53.1, "Library Bill of Rights");

Whereas "The American Library Association stringently and unequivocally maintains that libraries and librarians have an obligation to resist efforts that systematically exclude materials dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation" (Policy 53.1.15, " Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation");

Whereas "Libraries should challenge censorship" and "cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas" (Policy 53.3-4, "Library Bill of Rights"); and

Whereas the American Library Association recognizes that any abridgement to the freedom of speech in publicly funded galleries or museums also threatens libraries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolution on the Removal and Censorship of Artwork from the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery/2

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA):

- (1) commends the National Portrait Gallery for its inclusion of materials that reflect the diversity of our society, including those related to religious viewpoint, specifically as presented in the Hide/Seek Exhibition;
- (2) commends the National Portrait Gallery for its inclusion of materials that reflect the diversity of our society, including those related to sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, specifically as presented in the Hide/Seek Exhibition; (ALA Resolution on Threats to Library Materials Related to Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation);
- (3) condemns the censorship of the Hide/Seek Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery;
- (4) urges the National Portrait Gallery to immediately reinstate the video artwork by David Wojnarowicz to the Hide/Seek Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery;
- (5) urges the National Portrait Gallery to refuse to censor by removal or alteration other works of art from any exhibition or collection; and
- (6) urges the Smithsonian Institution to fight censorship of works of art or collections dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religious viewpoint in its national galleries, museums, archives and libraries.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, January 11, 2011
In San Diego, California