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High-resolution images available upon request and online at: [www.canarypromo.com/rosenbach](http://www.canarypromo.com/rosenbach)

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**The Rosenbach publishes *The Water Project*  
created by students of Wissahickon Charter School  
*Museum's education project explores how water inspires artists & writers***

PHILADELPHIA – Since 1999, the **Rosenbach Museum & Library** has developed several long-term, in-depth community education programs with students in the Philadelphia School District, including school partnerships, artists-in-residences, curriculum guides, film series and more. In spring of 2007, the Rosenbach's education staff began a partnership with the **Wissahickon Charter School** in the Germantown section of Philadelphia to create *The Water Project*. Working with students ages twelve through fourteen, the project culminated in a newly published wave-shaped book documenting student photography, illustrations and writing using water as inspiration.

**Bill Adair** (of West Mount Airy), Hirsig Family Director of Education at the Rosenbach, and **Kristi Littell** (of Germantown), the Dean of Administration and Environmental Educator at Wissahickon Charter School, worked closely with students to explore how water has inspired artists and writers for centuries, eliciting fear, curiosity, and respect. While visiting the Rosenbach, students listened to poems and stories about water and viewed drawings, prints, and paintings that celebrate the element, including works by Langston Hughes and James Joyce.

Through educational outreach, the Rosenbach aims to teach through the arts, rendering the museum's collections intellectually and physically accessible to students and teachers throughout the region.

"The Water Project has been one of our most successful opportunities to engage students in multidisciplinary learning," said Adair. "The project involved reading, writing, drawing, photography, scientific exploration and interaction with the natural world – all inspired by the museum's extraordinary collections. We believe projects of this kind to be models for a new comprehensive approach to learning that appreciates the diversity of students' talents and abilities."

As part of *The Water Project*, students were paired with environmental educators and visited Wissahickon Creek to explore the ecosystem. The project then traveled to the Atlantic Ocean in New Jersey to explore saltwater ecosystems and experience the ocean—many of the students never had the privilege to visit a beach or see the ocean previously. Back in the classroom, students created their own imaginary water ecosystems, incorporating living and non-living elements, food chains, and environmental health. The students then used their experiences viewing both the creek and the Atlantic Ocean as inspiration to

create their own writing and art that is featured in *The Water Project* publication. The finished book was then distributed to all of the participating students and parents and to Wissahickon Charter School for distribution among the student body. The publication is also available to all museum visitors and anyone interested in obtaining a copy is encouraged to contact the museum.

In addition to *The Water Project*, the Rosenbach completed a number of inventive and successful community education projects in the 2006-2007 season, including partnerships with the **Greenfield School** in Center City, **Philadelphia Young Playwrights**, North Philadelphia's **Meade School** and the **Duckrey School**.

In 2008, the museum is looking forward to a number of exciting education projects including collaborations with the **Philadelphia Center for the Book**.

*The Water Project is made possible by the generous support of the Hirsig Family Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation.*

### **About the Rosenbach**

The Rosenbach Museum & Library seeks to inspire curiosity, inquiry, and creativity by engaging broad audiences in exhibitions, programs, and research based on its remarkable and expanding collections. The museum was founded by legendary book dealer A.S.W. Rosenbach and his brother and business partner Philip. With an outstanding collection of rare books, manuscripts, furniture, and art, the Rosenbach is a museum and world-renowned research library, set within two historic 1865 townhouses, that reflects an age when great collectors lived among their treasures. The Rosenbach Museum & Library is located at 2008-2010 Delancey Place and is open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and free for children under 5. For more information, please call (215) 732-1600 or visit [www.rosenbach.org](http://www.rosenbach.org).

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