

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

For Release to Newspapers
Sunday, August 11, 1940

HARRINGTON INVITES WORLD'S FAIR VISITORS TO SEE WPA EXHIBIT

Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, today urged all visitors to the New York World's Fair this summer to include the WPA exhibit in the Federal Works Agency Building in their sightseeing itinerary.

"No one can witness this impressive display of what the unemployed have created in exchange for their work relief wages without being forcefully impressed by the importance of a work program to our national well-being," Colonel Harrington declared.

"That the morale and the physical welfare of the unemployed have been sustained through the work program is generally recognized. What is not so well known is that these same unemployed laborers, artisans and professional workers have made powerful additions to our national wealth. They have built roads, bridges, airports and schools. They have improved the physical plant of our Army and Navy. They have taught the illiterate to read and write; brought medical and nursing care to the destitute, and healthful recreation to millions of slum children.

"The World's Fair exhibit makes these facts strikingly and dramatically clear. An hour's visit to this building will enable the visitor to evaluate the work which the unemployed have done, as well as what they are capable of doing in a time of emergency."

Approximately 500,000 persons already have visited the WPA exhibit since the opening of the Fair, Colonel Harrington added.

This year's exhibit is housed in the same building with other agencies comprising the Federal Works Agency. The general design of the building is that of a horseshoe, with the open portion in the center developed with flowers and shrubbery as a garden. Within this area there is a bandshell and seats comprising an outdoor auditorium. Throughout the day musical performances are given by the New York Symphonic Band and popular dance orchestras of the New York WPA Music Project. In addition, there are regularly scheduled dance recitals by WPA folk dance groups, and the performances of the now-famous Dr. Zip, an old-time circus clown who directs his peculiar talents to juvenile health instruction.

Within the building are a number of displays depicting various types of WPA projects. The theme of this year's exhibit being "Work" -- "Work is the right of every American," "Work builds better communities," "Work, the basis of culture," etc. -- many of the exhibits consist of individual workers actually performing their project tasks. Other activities are depicted by photographs, models and dioramas.

One of the most interesting of the latter shows LaGuardia Airport -- only a mile distant from the fair site -- in faithful miniature. The diorama is supplemented by four large moving models and a recorded narration which explains the details of the airfield and its construction.

The WPA Art Program occupies a separate building and has assembled an exhibition of modern American art which has received warm praise from critics. Part of the building is devoted to work done by workers on WPA art projects throughout the country while the remainder is given over to showings arranged by other cooperating art groups. An outstanding feature of the exhibit this year are the workshops in which painters, sculptors, print makers and others from the New York City Art Project pursue their regular activities in full view of visitors. Guides are on hand to explain the various processes.

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