Title: Then and Now  
Type: Category 2

Lesson Overview
This lesson plan is in general for older students that have some background and understanding of the Great Depression. We will be focusing on the WPA artists represented in this exhibition. While looking at these artists students will be asked to think how a federally funded arts program would affect the art created and what it would mean not only for the artists involved but for the nation as a whole. Students will then be asked to create an original piece that is inspired by this discussion. By exploring the idea of being a working artist that was seeking funding from a Federal program in order to be paid as a professional, students will need to come up with a piece of artwork that conforms to the idea of representing America, as the WPA artists were asked to do.

Observe, question, explore
Students will explore the Artmobile Exhibition and discuss the theme outlined above. They will consider the concepts presented and the work in general. They will talk about the piece(s) that they feel are the strongest or most representative of the time period and why they see them that way.

Create
After looking through the exhibition students will use an appropriate printmaking method to explore the concepts, themes and possible parallels to current events to create a piece of art that could be accepted into and funded by a fictional contemporary Federal Arts Project.

Reflect
Students will have the opportunity to share what they create and discuss the ideas represented in their pieces.

Suggestions for Teachers
- Before the Artmobile arrives students should have a basic understanding of the New Deal and the WPA/FAP and what that meant to artists. This needed background allows for many different types of cross curricular lessons and intersections. Through research in history and social studies students can explore the Great Depression, the New Deal and what this program meant to the Nation.
- Students should have some knowledge of printmaking processes and the different types of marks and images that are best suited to each.
Essential Questions Addressed:
1. What is the WPA and the FAP?
2. Why did printmaking become so popular in this time period?
3. How do you decide what form of image making is most suitable for your idea?
4. Does a monochromatic color palette fit your idea better than a colored palette?
   - What’s the difference between the two?
   - Why use one rather than the other?
5. Are there parallels between the Great Depression to current events?
6. What sort of things do you consider when you are making artwork for large groups of public and not just for your own enjoyment?
7. What sort of climate or tone did the art work created with Depression era funded depict?

Suggested Use in the Curriculum

The study of *Where We Are Is Just the Beginning* plus the historical and cultural knowledge students will gain from studying the work and ideas behind the exhibition tie to multiple curricular areas, including the study of art, writing, reading and literature, history and social studies, geography, geology, biology, chemistry, math and more. The Artmobile Curator will work with teachers to address specific Wyoming Teaching Standards and to align Artmobile projects and studies with ongoing classroom curricular units and areas of study.