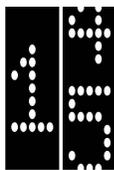


SPLENDOR OF  
FLORENCE



15 Years  
Arts & Events  
The World Financial Center



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For Release September 29, Please

Presenting Partners

SPLENDOR OF FLORENCE  
ELEVEN-DAY FESTIVAL OF CULTURAL EVENTS  
COMES TO LOWER MANHATTAN  
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 10

UFFIZI GALLERY LENDS 22 PAINTINGS TO FEDERAL HALL  
RENOWNED FLORENTINE ARTISANS RECREATE STUDIOS IN THE WFC WINTER GARDEN;  
EXHIBITION OF DAVID LEES PHOTOS CHRONICLING  
THE DEVASTATION & RESTORATION OF FLORENCE AFTER THE 1966 FLOOD

US PREMIERE OF FILM PONTORMO STARRING JOE MANTEGNA,  
FLORENCE FILM FESTIVAL AND LECTURES AT PACE UNIVERSITY  
CONCERTS WITH NY CITY OPERA AND MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

TUSCAN FOOD & WINE

NEW YORK, September 29 – **Splendor of Florence 2004**, an eleven-day festival of cultural events taking place all over Lower Manhattan, September 30 - October 10, honors the artists and artisans of the world's most important city of art and culture.

The World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street, will be transformed into a "Piazza Fiorentina" where renowned artisans recreate their workshops and demonstrate their talents on wood, crystal, marble, paper, leather, silver and gold, perfumed potpourri, and lace.

22 UFFIZI PAINTINGS  
8 ARTISAN STUDIOS  
7 CONCERTS  
7 LECTURES  
4 FILMS  
FOOD, KIDS & MORE

Historic Federal Hall National Memorial will house *The Medici on Wall Street*, 22 magnificent 16th and 17th century portraits of the powerful Medici family, the world's first art patrons, in an unprecedented loan from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. The recently recovered and restored *Madonna della gatta*, a 17th century masterpiece not seen by the public for centuries, will join the portraits in this not-to-be missed exhibition on view October 1 for an extended display through November 12.

Other highlights include a night of opera with singers from Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and New York City Opera (September 30); an exhibition of photographs by *Life* magazine photographer David Lees chronicling the catastrophic flood of 1966 and the remarkable efforts to save the treasures of Florence (October 1 - November 12); the U. S. premiere of *Pontormo*, starring Joe Mantegna as the tormented Renaissance painter, (October 10) as part of a film series at Pace University; the first public performance in 50 years of Florentine composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *The Sacred Service from the Sabbath Eve* at the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust (October 10); and *Tastes of Tuscany* in which The Grill Room, a World Financial Center restaurant, will be transformed into a Tuscan trattoria with guest chefs from Florence creating gastronomic works of art.

"The festival focuses on Florentines who have been creating with their hands for centuries -- the famous artists whose masterpieces grace the halls of the Uffizi Gallery, the skilled artisans who for generations have been crafting in tiny shops along the Arno River, the masterful musicians with repertoires once enjoyed in the great music rooms of the Medici Palaces, and the creative chefs who take their inspiration from centuries-old recipes," said Joyce Acciaioli Rudge, the founder, curator and producer of Splendor of Florence, which made its debut in Providence, Rhode Island in 1999 and was restaged in Philadelphia in 2001.

"One of the biggest effects of our highly technological world is the loss of interest in working with one's hands and the subsequent threat of extinction of many wonderful skills," said Ms. Acciaioli Rudge.

The festival is co-produced by the World Financial Center Arts & Events Program, whose Executive Director Debra Simon stated, "The World Financial Center, effected by the events of September 11, 2001 and integrally involved in the revitalization efforts in Lower Manhattan, is the perfect main stage for Splendor of Florence."

"The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation is committed to enriching Lower Manhattan's cultural community and to supporting its economic growth. The Splendor of Florence's choice of Lower Manhattan for this year's festival is just one more sign that downtown is back and better than ever," said Kevin M. Rampe, President of the LMDC, the presenting sponsor of Splendor of Florence. "The festival will not only be a unique cultural experience, but an economic boost for the downtown area—potentially drawing a quarter of a million people downtown. We are pleased to welcome the festival to Lower Manhattan and hope attendees will enjoy the experience of

Renaissance Florence without ever leaving New York City and take advantage of all that Lower Manhattan has to offer—its restaurants, shops, open spaces and historic and cultural treasures."

"Culture is very important to any city, but particularly to a city as vibrant as New York, which has encountered significant stresses in recent times," stated Dr. David Caputo, President of Pace University and Chairman of the Splendor of Florence Advisory Committee. "Our affiliation with Splendor of Florence gives us the opportunity to reach out to the community in Lower Manhattan and be part of bringing the enjoyment of music, theater, and art to many thousands of people."

Admission is free to All Splendor of Florence events. Events at the Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts, the Multi-purpose Room at Pace University and the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust are free, ticketed events.

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## ART

### **Medici on Wall Street: Portraits from the Uffizi Gallery**

October 1 - October 10, 9am - 5pm, daily

Exhibition extended through November 12, 9am - 5pm, weekdays only

Federal Hall National Memorial, 26 Wall Street

On loan from the prestigious Uffizi Gallery in Florence, this stunning collection of 16th and 17th century portraits depicts the most colorful and powerful members of the Medici family, the world's first patrons of the arts. These magnificent works of art, some of which have not been seen by the public for centuries, represent the unprecedented successes of the Medici family at the height of its power and prestige. Dressed in their finest clothing and surrounded by precious objects belonging to the family patrimony, these official portraits demonstrate why the Medici were born to rule during a turbulent period in history which set a tradition in art and culture that is still followed today.

### **A Special Exhibit on the Restoration of *La Madonna della gatta***

October 1 - October 10, 9am - 5pm, daily

October 11 - November 12, 9am - 5pm, weekdays only

Federal Hall National Memorial, 26 Wall Street

After being almost completely destroyed in a restoration mishap and relegated to centuries of obscurity, this 17th century masterpiece was recently restored to its original splendor by the Friends of the Uffizi. *La Madonna della gatta* will join the Medici portraits in a special exhibit that will include photographs of its unique restoration.

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## ARTISANS

### **Artisans Re-create Workshops in the Winter Garden**

October 1 - 10, weekdays 10am - 6pm, weekends 11am - 5pm

World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street

### **Gucci**

Having developed a reputation as master artisans of handcrafted leather saddles, the Gucci family quickly expanded its horizons to become one of the foremost names in fashion. Always striving to extol its "artisan roots," four artisans from Gucci's world headquarters in Florence will demonstrate how their famous Bamboo Bag, popularized during the 1950's, is made from 120 different pieces. <[www.gucci.com](http://www.gucci.com)>

### **Santa Maria Novella**

Originated in 1221 by Dominican friars and officially founded in 1612, La Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella, stands as one of the world's oldest pharmacies and perfumeries. Artisans will explain the unique process of making their famous potpourri, an aromatic mixture of flowers and herbs gathered from the hills surrounding Florence. <[www.santamarianovellausa.com](http://www.santamarianovellausa.com)>

### **Loretta Caponi**

Lauded as the foremost boutique for Florentine embroidery, Loretta Caponi's luxurious laces, linens and lingerie are known and coveted worldwide for their impeccable quality, intricate design, and exquisite detailing garnering them a clientele list that includes royalty and international celebrities. Founder and matriarch, Loretta Caponi, and her daughter Lucia, will demonstrate their celebrated craft. <[www.lorettacaponi.com](http://www.lorettacaponi.com)>

### **Bianco Bianchi**

Credited for having revived the forgotten art of *scagliola*, Bianco Bianchi, and his son, Alessandro, have kept the tradition alive in Florence, and have designed and crafted tables for Prince Charles, Gianni Versace and the King of Saudi Arabia. Developed in ancient Rome and popular throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, *scagliola* is the art of engraving intricate designs in marble or slate and filling them with colored natural paste. <[www.biancobianchi.com](http://www.biancobianchi.com)>

### **Locchi Crystal**

At the Locchi laboratory - internationally recognized for the quality of its restoration achievements on glass and precious crystal - the work is executed using a unique combination of ancient machinery, time-honored technique and rigorous technological research. The Locchi family has been restoring, grinding and carving crystal objects since the 19th century when it received its first commission from the Grand Duke of Tuscany.<[www.locchi.com](http://www.locchi.com)>

### **Giulio Giannini & Sons**

Founded in 1856, this six-generation family-run business has earned great acclaim for its beautiful bookbinding and gold leafing, as well as for its ancient technique of "marble-izing" paper as part of the binding tradition. Artisans from the family's studio will demonstrate the gold leafing process using tools that date back to the 1800's, and the fascinating paper process that produces *carta fiorentina*. <[www.giuliojiannini.it](http://www.giuliojiannini.it)>

### **Cassetti**

Handcrafted gold and silver products are as much a part of Florence as the Ponte Vecchio - the ancient bridge that houses several of the city's best retail shops. The most distinguished artisans for these beautiful hand crafted creations is the Cassetti family, known throughout Europe for their delicate patterns and innovative designs. <[www.cassetti.it](http://www.cassetti.it)>

### **Bartolozzi & Maioli**

Wood engraving is one of the oldest art forms in Florence and the studio of Bartolozzi e Maioli is famous for its restorations. Commissioned to work on priceless, historical pieces, some dating back to the Renaissance, the studio recently completed the restoration of the Kremlin in Moscow, and the Monastery of Montecassino, founded in 529 by St. Benedict in southern Italy, which was severely damaged during World War II. <[www.bartolozzi.net](http://www.bartolozzi.net)>

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

### **David Lees for Life: Triumph from Tragedy**

October 1 - October 10, 10am - 6pm, daily

October 11 - November 12, 11am - 6pm, weekdays only

World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery, 220 Vesey Street

The late David Lees was one of *Life* magazine's most prolific contributing photographers. Born and based in Florence during his career, Lees documented the most important events of the last century. One of the most emotionally chilling was the devastation from the great flood of 1966 that damaged and destroyed much of the city's precious works of art. This exhibit, from the archives of *Life* magazine and from the Lees Archives in London depicts not only the unparalleled devastation but also the magnificent restoration movement by the great artisans of that period.

Curated by Bobbi Baker Burrows of *Life* magazine and Lorenzo Lees.

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## MUSIC

### **PUCCHINI & FRIENDS**

featuring singers from **Maggio Musicale Fiorentino** and the **New York City Opera**  
Thursday, September 30, 7pm  
World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street

Bringing together singers from two of the world's most acclaimed opera companies, Florence's oldest and New York's finest, this program will feature arias from one of Tuscany's greatest composers, Giacomo Puccini. Founded in 1933 by Vittorio Gui, one of Maggio's tripartite goals has been the development of modern operatic dramaturgy by collaborating with *avant-garde* theatrical and cinematic producers, as well as famous painters and sculptors as costume and set designers. Similarly, City Opera has established itself as a harbinger of progress, with its innovative production of classic works, world premiers of new and American operas, and a long-standing commitment to developing the careers of young singers.

### **AN EVENING OF STRINGS**

Featuring **Lorenza Borrani** from the **Scuola di Musica di Fiesole** and the **Stuyvesant Strings Orchestra**  
Friday, October 1, 7pm  
Stuyvesant High School, 345 Chambers Street

Born in 1983, Lorenza Borrani started playing the violin at the age of five. Her debut performance at the Teatro Della Pergola in Florence in 1995 was the first step to a career that would take the violinist around the world to perform under the baton of important conductors in acclaimed venues. Since then Borrani has won several awards and scholarships, including First Prize at the 1995 National Violin Festival in Vittorio Veneto and at the National Violin Competition in Capri in 1997. Joining the Stuyvesant Strings Orchestra, they will perform a special program of music by Bach and Schubert.

### **A ROMANTIC INTERLUDE**

featuring **Lorenza Borrani** from the **Scuola Di Musica Di Fiesole** and singers from **Maggio Musicale Fiorentino**  
Saturday, October 2, 7pm  
Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts at Pace University, 3 Spruce Street\*

Sharing the stage for the first time, two of Florence's most prestigious institutions of music, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and La Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, will come together for a special performance of some of the most recognized and romantic classical works. Violinist Lorenza Borrani will play a selection of music by Beethoven, Petrassi and Prokofiev, followed by the immaculate singing of Alex Esposito, bass, Cataldo Caputo, tenor, and Katia Pellegrino, soprano. This performance is presented by Pace University.

### **CONCERTO CLASSICO**

featuring **Lorenza Borrani** and the **Savinio Quartet** from the **Scuola di Musica di Fiesole**  
Monday, October 4, 7pm  
World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street

Lorenza Borrani, joined by her fellow musicians, the Savinio Quartet, featuring Rossella Bertucci, violin, Lorenzo Ceriani, cello, Alberto Maria Ruta, violin, and Francesco Solombrino, viola, from the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, will perform an all-strings program of music by Beethoven, Schostakovich and Petrassi. Founded in February 2000, the Savinio Quartet has carved a niche for itself amongst Europe's leading quartets due to their attention to interpretation and the quartet technique. This working methodology has proven successful, as seen by the myriad prizes and awards the young quartet has won over the past four years.

### **THE SOUND OF MODERN ITALY**

Music for *Cimbalom* & Percussion  
Friday, October 8, 7pm  
Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts, Pace University, 3 Spruce Street\*

For his United States debut, percussionist Luigi Gaggero will astound audiences with an evening of world and US premieres. Employing the unique combination of *cimbalom*, *marimba* and vibraphone, Mr. Gaggero's musical prowess has earned him international acclaim throughout his concert career. Performing with numerous leading orchestras, under several of the greatest conductors, including Pierre Boulez, Kent Nagano and Sir Simon Rattle, the percussionist's talent and knowledge connects the great Italian musical past with our modern era. This performance is presented by Pace University.

Sujatri Reisinger, Tanja Dorn, and Klavierhaus, Inc., Artistic Advisors

**SACRED SERVICE FOR THE SABBATH EVE, Op. 122**

featuring Riverside Choral Society, conductor Patrick Gardner, baritone Cantor Raphael Frieder, Tenor Cantor Shimon Craimer, organist Justin Bishoff and the **Diwan of Moses Ibn Ezra** with soprano Ariane Slack, guitarist Rene Izquierdo  
Sunday, October 10, 2:30pm

Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, 36 Battery Place

*Advanced reservations are strongly recommended. To reserve tickets call (646) 432 - 4202, visit the Museum website at [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org), or visit the Museum's admission desk in Lower Manhattan. Tickets reserved in advance will be held at will call.*

This is the first live performance of the *Sacred Service* since its premiere at New York City's Park Avenue Synagogue in 1950 and is presented by the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust and the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music. When it was originally performed, composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco said that he wished he might hear it once in the Florentine synagogue where his family had worshiped. Born in 1895, Castelnuovo-Tedesco was a major composer of opera and symphony, perhaps best known for his classical guitar music. In 1939, sensing a surge in anti-Semitism, he emigrated from his native Florence, taking refuge in the United States. In 1940, resettled in Southern California, he launched a fifteen-year career as a major film composer, during which time he continued to compose classical music.

*\* Admission is free to all festival events at Pace University, although tickets are required to guarantee admission. Order in advance at [www.pace.edu/culture](http://www.pace.edu/culture) or within 7 days of the event by calling (212) 346-1715, 12-4pm, Monday-Friday only. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door.*

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## FILM AT PACE UNIVERSITY

A celebration of some of the most important and best-loved films with the city of Florence as the lead character.

At Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts, Pace University, 3 Spruce Street

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***A ROOM WITH A VIEW*** (1985)

Directed by James Ivory, starring Maggie Smith and Helen Bonham Carter  
Sunday, October 3, 1pm

Lucy Honeychurch, a young Englishwoman, makes her first visit to Florence, Italy in the early 1900's. There, she meets a quiet yet eccentric young man named George Emerson. Upon her return to England, Lucy must decide whether to follow through with her marriage to her stoic fiancé, Cecil, or follow her heart and her growing attraction to George.

***PER FIRENZE*** (1966)

Directed by Franco Zeffirelli, Narrated by Richard Burton  
Sunday, October 3, 4pm

This rarely seen documentary was made in the days immediately following Florence's great flood in 1966, like the David Lees photos, it depicts the destruction wrought upon the great city and its art.

***PAISAN*** (1946)

Directed by Roberto Rossellini  
Sunday, October 3, 7pm

Six vignettes follow the Allied invasion of Italy from Sicily to Venice. This cinematic indictment of WWII illustrates the horrendous impact the war had on the country and the heroic effort to move forward.

US Premiere!

**PONTORMO** (2004)

Directed by Giovanni Fago, Starring Joe Mantegna

Sunday, October 10, 7pm

The last few months of the life of Jacopo Carrucci, better known as Pontormo, were filled with an intense agony and obsession over the completion of his last great work. This fresco, *Coro of San Lorenzo*, was commissioned by the Medici for their Chapel at San Lorenzo, but destroyed years later during a political and social backlash against the family. Fortunately, the work was recreated for this film using modern technologies and Pontormo's original drawings that are now housed in the Uffizi Gallery.

Curated in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in New York.

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## LECTURES AT PACE UNIVERSITY

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### ***The Contributions of Florence to World Culture: The Arts and Beyond***

Since the "Age of the Medici," Florence has functioned as an international capital. Similarly, New York City has reigned as an international capital since the "Age of the Skyscraper." New York has much to learn from the history and leadership of Florence as a center of banking and commerce, science, politics, literature, art, architecture, philanthropy and preservation.

#### **Global Trade: "Made in Florence"**

Thursday, September 30, 11am

Multi-purpose Room, Pace University, One Pace Plaza

Luca Mantellassi, President, Florence Chamber of Commerce

During the Renaissance, the Medici family and Florence were emblematic of international banking. Today, Wall Street is the fulcrum of finance and commerce. This presentation will highlight the financial contributions of Florentine bankers -- the gold florin, a banking empire with more than 200 European branches, the invention of credit banking and double-entry bookkeeping.

#### **Four Hundred Years of the Uffizi**

Thursday, September 30, 2pm

Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts, Pace University, 3 Spruce Street

Annamaria Petrioli Tofani, Director, Uffizi Gallery

During the nearly three centuries that the Medici dynasty ruled Florence, they commissioned and collected an immense amount of art works and built magnificent residences and edifices. In 1737 Anna Maria Lodovica, the last of the Medici, bequeathed the entire collection of the Medici family to the people of Florence, much of which now resides in the Uffizi Gallery.

#### **Cultural Conservation: Restoring and Preserving Florentine Artworks**

Friday, October 1, 11am

Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts at Pace University, 3 Spruce Street

Simonetta Brandolini, President, Friends of Florence

So that future generations may enjoy and learn from the cultural and artistic legacy of the past, Florentines have become experts in the fields of art preservation, conservation and restoration. This lecture's focus is a review of the restoration projects completed by the Friends of Florence Foundation during the last five years, including the statues of the Loggia dei Lanzi in the Piazza della Signoria, paintings in the Accademia Gallery, and Michelangelo's *David*.

#### **Florence and the Origins of Western Political Thought and Practice**

Tuesday, October 5, 11am  
Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts, Pace University, 3 Spruce Street

Dr. Beverly Kahn, Associate Provost, Pace University

Besides having a rich cultural history, Florence has also had a fascinating political history - Guelphs versus Ghibellines, the reign of Girolamo Savonarola, royal marriages of international import, and a family dynasty that lasted nearly three-hundred years. One participant and serious observer of practical politics was Niccolo Machiavelli, who is hailed as the father of modern political science.

**Dante's *Divine Comedy***

Tuesday, October 5, 2pm  
Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts, Pace University, 3 Spruce Street

Dr. Lawrence Hundersmarck, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Pace University

Florence was home to several of the most prodigious writers of the Renaissance. Among them are the Humanist poet Petrarch, whose verse left an indelible imprint on the evolution of literature, the historical writer Francesco Guicciardini, and the tales of Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron*. Above all else, there is Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*. This lecture will delve into the philosophical and religious assumptions that underlie this great novel.

**Florentine Architecture**

Tuesday, October 5, 4pm  
Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts, Pace University, 3 Spruce Street

Dr. Janetta Rebold Benton, Professor of Art History, Pace University

Florence's opulent beauty is defined as much by its visual arts as it is by its architecture. Reigning examples of the city's structural magnificence include the Baptistery, Giotto's Tower, the Duomo, the Palazzo Vecchio, and the Palazzo Medici. This discussion, fully illustrated with slides, examines the history, design and decoration of these religious and secular monuments.

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## DISCOVER FLORENCE FAMILY DAY

Saturday, October 9, noon - 5pm  
World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street

Free events for kids (and their parents) include watching the completion of a giant chalk drawing, enjoying the antics of a *commedia d'ell arte* troupe, learning Italian, meeting the Medici, assisting artists in the creation of a giant mosaic map of Florence, and hands-on activities.

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## TUSCAN FOOD & WINE

**Trattoria at the Grill Room**

Thursday, September 30 - Sunday, October 10  
The Grill Room, Winter Garden Mezzanine, 225 Liberty Street  
Menu prices

Guest chefs from Convivium, the extraordinary Florentine restaurateurs/caterers, will partner with food impresario Vittorio Ansuini of Mezzogiorno Restaurant in Soho, and the Grill Room's head chef Armando Cortes to create a truly exceptional dining experience. Special lunch and dinner menus will be available throughout the festival.

For reservations and information, call (212) 945-9400.

## Special Wine Dinners

Presented by one of the first names in Tuscan wine, Castello Banfi, this three-dinner series focuses on the great wines of the region as well as its marvelous cuisine.

### Tuscan Treats

Monday, October 4, 7pm

For this first dinner, classic wines, such as Rosso and Brunello di Montalcino, will be paired with traditional dishes.

### Super Tuscany

Innovation and Tradition Hand-in-Hand

Wednesday, October 6, 7pm

This second culinary offering features creative dishes that are internationally recognizable but have definitive Tuscan souls, with wines like Cum Laude and SummuS.

### A Tuscan Harvest

Bounty from the Rolling Hills

Friday, October 8, 7pm

This final dinner features dishes that focus on the bounty that autumn brings with a special selection of wines ranging in age and style.

For more information about Splendor of Florence click <[www.splendorofflorence.com](http://www.splendorofflorence.com)> or call (212) 945-0505

The Splendor of Florence NYC 2004 Festival is made possible by a grant from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, which is funded through Community Development Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



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Uffizi Gallery

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