

**As Part of the American *Big Read Project*
History and Literature of Cosmopolitan Alexandria in Seminars at the BA**

Alexandria— The BA is organizing two seminars, 7-8 April 2008, discussing the history and literature of Alexandria by Dr. Sahar Hamouda, Director of Alexandria & Mediterranean Research Center and Novelist Ibrahim Abdel Meguid, as part of the Big Read Project Delegation's visit to the BA on Monday, 7 April 2008.

"The Big Read Project" is one of the most important initiatives launched by the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington DC, USA, and the biggest program to promote reading in the history of the USA.

The Big Read answers a big need, as revealed in the landmark report: Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading on America. This 2004 report by the National Endowment for the Arts found that not only is literary reading in America declining rapidly among all groups, but that the rate of decline has accelerated, especially among the young. The Big Read aims to address this crisis; it provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities.

The seminars start at 10:00 hrs at the BA, 4th Floating Room.