

April 20, 1977

Dear

I am writing today to advise you of a change in the administrative structure of the National Endowment for the Humanities as it affects the programs in the States. In response to the recent reauthorizing legislation and the interest of the Congressional authorizing committees, a separate Office of State Programs is being created within the Endowment and state programs will no longer be administered through the Division of Public Programs.

This change will be effective immediately, although I well realize that a transition period is inevitable: you may find yourself or your files momentarily caught between offices here, but we'll hope that no one will be inconvenienced for very long. I know you will welcome this elevation of the state program to independent status (its coming of age, as it were), with its own head now a peer of the Endowment's other Division Directors.

The change however, as I have mentioned, is purely administrative in nature. All policies of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the terms and conditions of your grants, and the nature of our relationship remain unchanged. The staff of the state program, too, will remain the same, and Geoffrey Marshall has agreed to serve as Acting Director of the Office of State Programs until such time as a new Chairman of the Endowment can establish criteria upon which to base the appointment of a permanent Director.

Simply in terms of the budget of the state program--\$17.5 million in the present fiscal year--and its probable growth over the next few years, an administrative arrangement of this sort within the Endowment seems natural and inevitable. Moreover, the change assures a staff structure that will underline the recent legislation's provision of additional options in the nature and extent of state programs. What we have tried to create is an Office which can be directly responsive to the States, and responsible to the Chairman, without being bound by the kinds of guidelines which are appropriate to the Endowment's other, complex, program divisions. Since the Endowment and the National Council have now completed their necessary tasks of informing committees of the eligibility requirements of the new law, and of providing advice on the enlarged programming opportunities which that law allows, this is an appropriate time for the change.

The Office of State Programs is thus a new name and a new arrangement for the familiar and fundamental purpose of providing support to local humanities projects serving the citizens broadly in every state. We all look forward to working as closely and as cooperatively as ever under this new arrangement.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Kingston  
Deputy Chairman and  
Acting Chairman

cc: Executive Director