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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



August 11, 1970

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the National Council on the Humanities

Subject: State-Based Public Humanities Programs

Background and Summary

During authorization and appropriation hearings, many of the strongest Congressional supporters of the National Endowment for the Humanities urged that the Endowment establish a state program in the humanities similar to the program operated by the Arts Endowment. (The FY 1971 National Endowment for the Arts appropriation sets aside \$75,000 per state for a total of \$4,125,000. Each state which has established an Arts or Arts and Humanities Council receives this sum provided it is matched by state or private funds.)

In response, NEH committed itself to conduct serious and substantial exploration in fiscal 1971 and succeeding years of the way or ways in which a state-based program in the humanities could be established.

This paper proposes that the Endowment undertake a program which has two levels of activity--one aimed at creating operational models of how a state-based humanities program can work (in selected states where existing public activity in the humanities is already relatively strong), and one aimed at supporting planning for state-based humanities programs (in states where it is apparent that there is relatively little existing public activity in the humanities). Such a program would be similar in concept to the institutional grants in the Education Program, where it is apparent that some institutions are ready to develop improved humanities education, while others need to plan such improvements.

It is proposed that the level of funding in FY 1971 be approximately \$750,000 -- \$600,000 for six operational models and \$150,000 for 10 grants to plan state programs in the humanities.

The operational model grants, amounting to an initial \$100,000 apiece, would cover start-up expenses and at least six-months program operations. An additional \$50,000 would be granted to each of the six participating

state organizations in early FY 1972. (This two-stage grant process is dictated by the limited amount of funding available in FY 1971.) Out of this total \$150,000 each state receives, at least half (\$75,000) would have to be matched through gifts, cost-sharing, or matching-in-kind (as is presently permitted in the State Arts Council program).

Total funding for 1972 is projected at \$3 million. This covers the six continuations mentioned above, \$150,000 grants for full-year operation for this first group of six plus ten "new" state organizations (drawn primarily from those receiving planning grants the previous year), and approximately 20 new planning grants.

Funding in FY 1973 would be contingent upon thorough staff, Council, and outside evaluation of whether the plans and operating models justified increased levels of funding, and expansion to additional states, or whether a leveling or reduction was indicated.

Should the program prove successful, the Endowment would seek legislation in 1973 to make state activity a permanent part of the NEH program.

Objectives of a State-Based Program

The following objectives are proposed for the program:

1. To test various organizational relationships at the state level with an eye to learning which "structural" methods of providing state support seem most fruitful;
2. To support existing public activity in the humanities within the states;
3. To create new human and financial resources for public activity in the humanities at the state level;
4. To create increased public interest in the humanities through increased public participation in the planning of such activity.

NEH Requirements for Such a Program

1. It should give us experience in dealing with state-based organizations;
2. It should test the capacity of such organizations to conduct what would be essentially a "re-granting" program;
3. It should have a matching requirement (in order to be analogous to the NEA program, and also on grounds of making Federal dollars go further);

4. It should permit NEH to exercise some leadership in suggesting what a "good" program in public activity in the humanities at the state level might be (e.g., through the creation of "operational models" by grant support);

5. It should protect the NEH education, research and fellowship program, and the "national" portion of the public program, by restricting itself to public program areas at the state (and local) level;

6. It should leave NEH options, both in terms of methods used to implement a state program in the future, and in terms of the degree of funding (as a percent of total NEH funds) required;

7. Insofar as possible, it should create clear public and Congressional understanding of the valid distinctions--held to at the Federal level--between the arts, the sciences, and the humanities.

Possible Grantees in 1971

For the six grants to begin operating state-based public programs, it should be possible to identify two states where there is a relatively strong arts and humanities council, two states where there are from four to six very strong humanistic institutions with a public focus (state library, state historical society, educational TV station, major humanities-related museum, university extension program), and one or two states where there is a strong university extension (i.e., adult education) program based at both public and private institutions.

Except in the case of the arts and humanities councils, the Endowment would request the agencies to form themselves into a consortium ("committee") for the humanities on the state level. In all cases, the organizations would then develop proposals for NEH support with the stipulation that a matching provision and a re-granting provision be built into the proposal.

For the maximum of 10 planning grants, state arts and humanities councils would be the major obvious initial recipients, but NEH would remain open to receive, and if necessary to solicit, requests for planning grants from groups of institutions within a state who were strong in the humanities and wished to seek planning funds for a state-based public program in the humanities.

Tentative 12-month Schedule: For FY 1971

August, 1970	Begin identifying possible sites for <u>operating</u> demonstration based upon
September, 1970	Consultation with relevant state and local health councils, other health planning agencies, and others for developing proposals.
October, 1970	Begin identifying possible sites for a state-based planning demonstration.
November 15, 1970	Preliminary proposals received for state-based planning demonstration.
November-December, 1970	Staff consultation with relevant state health councils, expand, and clarify preliminary proposals.
December, 1970	Initial proposals for planning grants.
February, 1971	Recommend to National Council grants for state-based planning, and for the planning proposals which do not require state health councils.
March-April, 1971	Invite planning proposals for funding from FY 1972 funds; complete the identification of a second group of possible operating grant opportunities for state-based planning on basis of first set of planning grant proposals.
May, 1971	Tentative National Council action on second group of <u>operating</u> grant proposals (to be funded from FY-1972 appropriations), and (if possible) final Council action on a second group of planning proposals.

Wallace B. Edgerton
Acting Chairman