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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

MAR 30 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request 16-20

As the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) official responsible for inquiries under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I am responding to your FOIA request, which NEH received on March 8, 2016. You requested “a copy of the meeting minutes from the open meeting portion of meetings of the National Council [on] the Humanities, during calendar years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.”

The information you requested, as maintained in our records, is attached. We have redacted certain portions of the information in accordance with Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). Exemption 5 protects, “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.”

If you wish to appeal this determination, please write to NEH Deputy Chairman Margaret F. Plympton, at 400 7th Street, SW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20506 or send an e-mail to mplympton@neh.gov. Your appeal must be in writing and received by NEH within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter (weekends and Federal holidays excluded). Your appeal rights are set out in the Code of Federal Regulations, at 45 C.F.R. § 1171.10. There is no fee for this information.

Sincerely,

Michael P. McDonald
General Counsel

Attachments

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 8-9, 2012

OLD POST OFFICE
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

James A. Leach, Chairman	Gary Glenn
Rolena Adorno	Mary Habeck
Adele Alexander	David Hertz
Albert Beveridge	Marvin Krislov
Allison Blakely	Robert Martin
Constance Carroll	Wilfred McClay
Jamsheed Choksy	Ricardo Quinones
Cathy Davidson	Carol Swain
Dawn Ho Delhanco	Martha Weinberg
Jane Marie Doggett	Ken Weinstein
Paula Duffy	Jay Winik

* Council members Jean Bethke Elshtain, Allen Guelzo, and Iris Love did not attend. Council members Cathy Davidson, Wilfred McClay, and Ricardo Quinones attended only on Thursday, March 8th.

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Thursday, March 8, 2012

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, March 9, 2012

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman Leach called the one hundred and seventy-sixth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and seventy-fifth meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Introductory Remarks

Chairman Leach welcomed attendees to the meeting of the National Council and provided an overview of recent activities and events at NEH. He began his remarks by reporting that the White House recently announced this year's recipients of the National Humanities Medals. He extended thanks to the members of the Council for help in shaping the list of candidates recommended to the President. Further, he noted that quite a few members of the Council were able to attend the White House ceremony and that the President's inspirational remarks were a testament to the contribution the humanities make to the intellectual and cultural life of the nation. Chairman Leach also

expressed gratitude to the President and First Lady for providing the opportunity to bring national attention to humanities scholarship.

Next, Chairman Leach reported that NEH had just announced the opening of the nomination period for the 2012 National Humanities Medals, and that the Council will consider the nominations at its next meeting in July 2012.

Chairman Leach then notified the Council of NEH's decision to initiate a new award involving the presentation of a certificate to individuals who contributed significantly to the humanities outside of the academy, in a state or regional context, for example. Chairman Leach reported that last month he traveled to Massachusetts, where he awarded the first Chairman's Commendation to Phillip Lampey for his lifetime of research in early American election records. The commendation certificate praised Mr. Lampey for a lifetime dedicated to collecting, collating, and preserving the most basic records of American democracy.

Chairman Leach then brought the Council's attention to the upcoming Jefferson Lecture, to be delivered by Wendell Berry, a noted poet, novelist, farmer and conservationist. Chairman Leach announced that Mr. Berry will discuss man's interaction with nature as depicted in history, philosophy and literature in a lecture entitled "It All Turns on Affection," to be delivered at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on Monday, April 23, 2012.

Next, Chairman Leach turned to a budget matter. He reported that the President's recently released budget request for fiscal year 2013 includes a modest increase in the amount requested for NEH. He remarked that each day he is reminded of the extraordinary work NEH grantees do with the financial resources provided by the agency. To illustrate his point, Chairman Leach cited five NEH-funded film projects, all

of which have or soon will be aired on HBO or PBS and have garnered considerable critical praise: *Freedom Riders*, an Emmy-award winning documentary that chronicles the experiences of over 400 Americans who risked their lives to challenge segregated transportation in the American south in 1961; *I Came to Testify*, one part of a documentary series that chronicles the civil war in the Balkans in the 1990s and the first international trial for crimes of sexual violence in war time; *The Loving Story*, a film that tells the moving story of an interracial couple whose marriage challenged the anti-miscegenation laws in Virginia in the 1950s and led to the landmark 1967 Supreme Court case that overturned all such laws throughout the country; *Slavery by Another Name*, a film that reveals how in the years following the Civil War new forms of forced labor emerged in the American south that kept hundreds of thousands of African-Americans essentially enslaved through a convict labor system and involuntary servitude; and *Charles & Ray Eames: The Architect and the Painter*, a documentary about a husband and wife design partnership, their relationship, and the ennobling of twentieth-century American design.

Chairman Leach concluded his remarks by introducing two invited speakers, Joan Houston Hall, Editor of the *Dictionary of American Regional English*, and Ben Zimmer, American linguist and Executive Producer of VisualThesaurus.com and Vocabulary.com, who made a presentation on DARE, a project NEH has supported for over forty years.

2. Presentation by Joan Houston Hall, Editor of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE), and Ben Zimmer, Executive Producer of VisualThesaurus.com and Vocabulary.com

Ms. Hall and Mr. Zimmer spoke about the recently completed *Dictionary of American Regional English*, a five-volume set that has recorded the words, phrases,

pronunciations, grammar and syntax that vary from one part of the country to another. NEH provided funding for the project through a series of grants over forty-two years. The resulting work consists of about 6,000 pages, 3,000 maps, 13,000 sources, and approximately 60,000 entries.

3. Staff Report

Deputy Chairman Carole Watson introduced the following new employees to the National Council: Caitlin Green, Special Assistant, Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Ted Kinnaman, Senior Program Officer, Division of Research Programs; and Virginia Nguyen, IT Specialist, Communications Office.

Ms. Watson next introduced four new interns working with the Director of White House and Congressional Affairs: Dina Ibrahim, Shannon O'Reilly, Britney Rashleigh, and Winfei Zhou.

Ms. Watson then noted the following staff departures: Jackie Abba, formerly Executive Assistant to the Chairman, accepted a new position with the Podesta Group in Washington, D.C. and Corinne Dagen, formerly a Program Analyst in the Division of Education Programs, returned to her previous home in Rochester, NY to work in the development office at the public radio and television station, WXXI.

Finally, Ms. Watson informed the National Council that Ethel Edwards, Human Resources Specialist, has officially retired from the Federal government after thirty-one years of service, but has agreed to return to NEH on a temporary basis to assist in her same role as Benefits Officer. Ms. Watson conveyed thanks to Ms. Abba, Ms. Dagen and Ms. Edwards for their service to NEH.

4. Congressional Report

Larry Myers, Director of the NEH Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with the Congressional report on behalf of Courtney Chapin, Director of White House and Congressional Affairs.

Mr. Myers began his report by noting that Ms. Chapin and her staff have been busy since the last Council meeting in November 2011 planning the successful National Humanities Medals event at the White House in early February 2012 and working to engage Congress and the humanities community in general through a number of events that demonstrate the reach and impact of NEH programs.

Mr. Myers explained that in December 2011, Ms. Chapin and her staff members, Claire Noble and Caitlin Green, held a workshop on Capitol Hill for more than forty congressional staffers to acquaint them with NEH activities. The workshop featured NEH staff from each division who presented overviews of their various programs and the impact and successes of their grantees. The goal of the workshop was to help congressional staffers understand NEH's groupings of programs and to help them learn how to direct their constituents to the appropriate NEH office or grant program. Mr. Myers noted that the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs often gets calls from Capitol Hill staff and elsewhere wondering where constituents can look for grant support. He further noted that anything NEH can do on Capitol Hill to tell the agency's story is a positive step.

Next, Mr. Myers reported that on February 22, 2012, NEH hosted the second installment of the NEH "Bridging Cultures through Law" film series at the White House for an audience of 160 D.C.-area law school students and faculty. The event featured a screening of the NEH-funded Ken Burns and Lynn Novick documentary film,

Prohibition, followed by a panel discussion with Lynn Novick, George Washington University Law School professor David Fontana, scholar and historian Daniel Okrent, and Judge Andre M. Davis of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The audience participated in the vibrant discussion, which was live streamed on the White House website, about the film, constitutional law, and the legal legacy of the rise and fall of the eighteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Myers next explained that Ms. Chapin and the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs also laid the groundwork for a number of upcoming events that will highlight NEH-funded projects, including the final two installments of the NEH “Bridging Cultures through Film” series with the White House, which will feature the NEH-funded films *I Came to Testify* and *The Loving Story*. He also explained that a second event at the White House will showcase the exhibition, “Chosen Food: Cuisine, Culture and American Jewish Identity,” which is currently on view at the Jewish Museum of Maryland and Baltimore, while a third event at the White House, which is still in the planning stages, will focus on architecture, design and sustainability, and will be held in coordination with the American Institute of Architects conference in July.

Mr. Myers concluded his report by mentioning a number of future events to be organized by the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs. For example, Ms. Chapin and her staff are currently planning additional congressional workshops that will focus on specific themes related to NEH grants and programs for constituent groups, such as workshops on disaster preparedness for cultural institutions and the NEH on the Road grant program. Also, they are working on a webinar for congressional district staffers on homeschooling and NEH educational resources, such as EDSITEment, that

reach the nation's rural areas. Finally, Ms. Chapin's office has begun planning a few events that focus on environmental history and National History Day in June 2012.

5. Budget Report

Larry Myers, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with a report on NEH's budget request for fiscal year 2013.

Mr. Myers began by noting that the Obama Administration had submitted, in February 2012, its budget request to Congress for fiscal year 2013. President Obama's request includes \$154,255,000 for NEH, which represents an increase of more than \$8.2 million over NEH's fiscal year 2012 funding.

Mr. Myers then mentioned some notable features of the fiscal year 2013 budget request. First, it includes a request of \$9 million for the *Bridging Cultures* Initiative, which is an increase of \$5 million over NEH's fiscal year 2012 request. This significant increase in funds would allow NEH to fully fund the special programs currently in place and to launch new programs, such as those building on recently successful forums on two important national themes: the role of civility in democracy, and the need for deeper understanding of the Muslim world. NEH plans to offer additional regional forums that synthesize cutting edge scholarship and lay the groundwork for subsequent public programs on new *Bridging Cultures* themes, such as "becoming an American," and "the history of trade, migration, and the movement of ideas."

Mr. Myers then explained that the fiscal year 2013 budget request also supports a special grant category aimed at strengthening the humanities at community colleges by encouraging the teaching of world cultures and the rich diversity of the United States, and an initiative to package existing NEH-supported documentary films that highlight cross cultural connections and distribute them broadly to libraries and communities

across the nation. The budget request also seeks funding for expansion of the National Digital Newspaper Program and support for the digitization of historic American newspapers printed in languages other than English.

Mr. Myers next identified another important aspect of the budget request: funding for collaborations with the state humanities councils to extend the reach of the *Bridging Cultures* programs and to identify the best ideas and practices for the work of the initiative in American communities.

Other features of the budget include modest funding increases for each of NEH's competitive grant divisions and offices, continued support for the agency's Documenting Endangered Languages initiative with the National Science Foundation (NSF), and a second round of awards for the new Digital Humanities Implementation Grants, which build on the many years of accomplishments of NEH's path-breaking Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants.

Finally, Mr. Myers mentioned that the fiscal year 2013 budget includes a special request of \$3 million in administrative funds to help defray the costs of relocating the agency as anticipated in 2014.

Turning to another matter, Mr. Myers reported that he and Ms. Chapin, together with two colleagues from NEA, recently met with key staff on the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies—the committee that has jurisdiction over the NEH budget. The purpose of the meeting was to brief congressional staff on the highlights of NEH and NEA plans for 2013 and to exchange information about the landscape for the upcoming congressional budget season. Mr. Myers reported that at the meeting the Chief Clerk of the House subcommittee confirmed that there will be no congressional budget hearings for NEH

and NEA because, with an election year and a compressed congressional calendar, Congress will concentrate its energies on the big agencies only.

Mr. Myers expressed hope that both the House and the Senate will have developed their respective bills by the summer months and enacted the appropriation legislation before the start of the 2013 fiscal year on October 1, 2012, but noted that it is more likely that NEH and other agencies will again start the new year operating on a stop-gap funding resolution that would keep the government running until after the fall elections and the 112th Congress reconvenes to wind down its business.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Jamsheed Choksy, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Brett Bobley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, provided a brief overview to the Committee about the work of the Office. Mr. Bobley noted that during the past year, there has been increasing interest from both the general public and scholarly communities in the digital humanities. Mr. Bobley also provided the Committee with a brief overview of all five of the Office of Digital Humanities grant programs, including the program goals.

Next, Mr. Bobley described to the Committee the annual Office of Digital Humanities project director's meeting held each September. At the meeting, which is open to the public, each project director provides a two-minute presentation about his or her team's work. Mr. Bobley explained that the meetings have been filmed for the

past two years, and made available to the public via NEH's YouTube channel. Mr. Bobley then showed two videos to the Committee.

Mr. Bobley concluded his presentation by demonstrating for the Committee the NEH funded projects query form—a web page that allows the public to search for NEH-funded grants and to learn about the resulting grant products, and that tracks media coverage of the grants. Mr. Bobley mentioned that he is leading an NEH effort to crowdsource this information by asking the grantees to provide citations to their published works or other media coverage that resulted from the NEH grant.

b. Education Programs

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Mary Habeck and Ricardo Quinones also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

William Craig Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, provided an overview to the Committee of the Division's activities during the past three months. Mr. Rice reported that the Division of Education Programs staff conducted a successful meeting for project directors of recently awarded Humanities Initiatives grants, led a number of workshops and information sessions, and staffed information tables at national and regional conferences.

Mr. Rice next noted that March 1, 2012 marked the deadline for teachers and faculty to apply to attend NEH's Summer Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops. He reported that NEH's electronic tabulation showed a strong uptick in applications, most likely due to increased publicity efforts of the Division and increased use of social media.

Next, Douglas Arnold, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, reported to the Committee on the fourth round of Enduring Questions course grants. He first explained that Enduring Questions grants support faculty in the development of a new undergraduate course that engages students in a deep, sustained program of reading and discussion centered on a question of timeless significance. Mr. Arnold noted that the competition was broadened in 2010 to allow up to four faculty members to collaborate on a course, and that a significant number of projects in the current cycle involve multiple faculty members.

Then, Julia Nguyen, also a Senior Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, provided an overview to the Committee on the inaugural competition for NEH's *Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges* (BCCC). The program, which intends to stimulate curricular and professional development, was initially created as a one-time opportunity for organizations to enter into a cooperative agreement with NEH to support large scale multi-year endeavors to improve the quality of humanities courses in community colleges.

Ms. Nguyen reported that the five BCCC projects supported in November 2011 have begun, and awardees are now in the process of selecting participants for opening conferences to start in June 2012. She concluded by mentioning that the Division has planned a second BCCC competition and that the new guidelines would place greater emphasis on involving community colleges as lead institutions or collaborators in project planning and implementation.

c. Federal/State Partnership

Jane Marie Doggett, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Adele Alexander and Robert Martin also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

The Committee first heard presentations from Julie Mulvihill and Gene Merry, Director and Chairman of the Board, respectively, of the Kansas Humanities Council and Matthew Brandt, Vice President of the Minnesota Humanities Center, about the various programs and activities conducted by their organizations. The Committee learned of several new initiatives being considered by the Kansas Humanities Council, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary year in 2012. The Committee also heard about programs being conducted in Native American communities in Minnesota.

Next, Senior Program Officer Patti Van Tuyl spoke to the Committee about NEH's history of programming surrounding major anniversaries, and highlighted the work of the past few years on NEH's programming related to the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Ms. Van Tuyl described the reading and discussion programs currently being conducted in libraries across the country, and the collaboration with thirty-seven of the state humanities councils to extend these reading and discussion programs into even more communities in the states and District of Columbia. Ms. Doggett mentioned that the Committee looks forward to learning more about how the reading and discussion programs worked when the final reports arrive in early 2013.

Finally, Edythe Manza, Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, provided some comments to the Committee on recent activities concerning the state humanities councils. She thanked the Federation of State Humanities Councils for including NEH staff members and National Council members in its reception earlier in

the week. She also commented on the great enthusiasm among the state humanities councils for the National Humanities Medal recently awarded by President Obama to National History Day, and noted the ways in which the Indiana Humanities Council took advantage of the 2012 Super Bowl game in Indianapolis to reach out to new audiences and partners. Ms. Manza concluded by reporting on recent leadership arrivals and departures at certain state humanities councils.

d. Preservation and Access

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Constance Carroll, Gary Glenn and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Nadina Gardner, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, announced to the Committee that the Division is currently evaluating applications for Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections, a grant program coordinated by Senior Program Officer Laura Word. She noted that the National Council will review these applications at the July 2012 meeting.

Ms. Gardner next drew the Committee's attention to the extraordinary press attention received by the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE) in both English and non-English language newspapers. Ms. Gardner noted that Helen Agüera, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Preservation and Access, was recently interviewed by an Associated Press reporter who works with Spanish language newspapers about the 300 years of impact that the Spanish language has had on American English.

To conclude the open session of the Committee meeting, Ms. Agüera gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Documenting Endangered Languages grant program

and circulated a recent publication by the Organization of American States that recognizes Documenting Endangered Languages, a joint NEH/NSF grant program, as one of eighteen cultural best practices in the hemisphere.

e. Research Programs

Ken Weinstein, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Carol Swain, Marvin Krislov and Wilfred McClay also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, directed the Committee's attention to a display of books recently received by the Division. She noted that in 2011, the Division received over 120 books from NEH grant recipients. To illustrate the type of grant products produced by grantees who won Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships, Fellowships at Independent Research Institutions, and Summer Stipends, Ms. Aikin showed three books in particular to the Committee: the first by Anton Treuer of Bemidji State University in Minnesota, a book resulting from a NEH/NSF Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowship to work with speakers of the Ojibwe language, historically the language of the fur trade along the U.S.-Canada border; the second by Susan Boynton, Associate Professor of Historical Musicology at Columbia University, titled *Silent Music: Medieval Song and the Construction of History in Eighteenth-Century Spain*, prepared during her fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies School of Historical Studies at Princeton University; and the third by Edith Clowes, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of Kansas, who used her Summer Stipend to write *Russia on the Edge: Imagined Geographies and Post-Soviet Identity*.

Next, Ms. Aikin informed the Committee that the Division of Research Programs staff members have been busy conducting spring application writing workshops. Noting that the wait list for these popular workshops is about two years, Ms. Aikin described a typical workshop as multi-institutional outreach, free to anyone interested in the work of NEH, and typically hosted by an institution of higher education. Division staff members have been traveling across the country to conduct these workshops, such as to California, Ohio, Colorado, North Carolina, Texas, New Jersey, Minnesota and Iowa.

Mr. Weinstein remarked to the Council that the Committee was pleased to learn that the Division of Research Programs had conducted the review of applications for the Library of Congress' John W. Kluge Fellowships program, and would be making recommendations to Chairman Leach and the Librarian of Congress, James Billington. Mr. Weinstein noted that while the applications for Library of Congress funding are not considered by the Council, it is gratifying to know that the Library values so highly NEH's peer review process.

Finally, Ms. Aikin reminded the Committee that it would see the results of the Collaborative Research Grants program and the Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant program at the July 2012 National Council meeting. She mentioned also that Division staff members are currently conducting ten peer review panel sessions for these programs.

f. Public Programs

Dawn Ho Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, Cathy Davidson and Jay Winik also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Karen Mittelman, Deputy Director of the Division of Public Programs, reported to the Committee on recent projects funded by NEH through the Division, including several major museum exhibition openings and seven film screenings. Ms. Mittelman noted that there are currently 216 projects funded by the Division of Public Programs in forty-three states, including major traveling exhibitions, permanent site interpretations, historic sites or historic houses, and long-term exhibitions at museums.

Ms. Mittelman called the Committee's attention to two notable NEH-funded exhibitions: "Gifts of the Sultan," an international traveling exhibition to open in late November 2011 in Doha, Qatar, and "Children of the Plumed Serpent: The Legacy of Quetzalcoatl in Ancient Mexico," an exploration of the indigenous cultures and trading networks of Mezzo-America from the tenth to the sixteenth centuries to open at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in December 2011.

Ms. Mittelman also shared with the Committee a list of projects around the country offering public programs or interpretation during Black History Month. She commented that just during the last month, Division of Public Programs staff attended screenings for four new NEH-supported films. Ms. Mittelman detailed in particular one film, *Slavery by Another Name*, and noted that Chairman Leach introduced the film both when it was screened to a packed auditorium at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. and at the viewing for the Sundance Film Festival, where it received a standing ovation.

Ms. Mittelman next highlighted the reviews for several other newsworthy NEH-funded projects: Ken Burns' recent film *Prohibition*, which explores the passage and repeal of the eighteenth amendment; "Contested Visions," an exhibition, discussed in a *New York Review of Books* article, that examines the way indigenous people in Mexico and Peru were portrayed in art of the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries and how art

played a role in negotiating social and political identities in colonial Latin America; *The Loving Story*, an HBO film that presents the story of Mildred and Richard Loving, an interracial couple whose marriage challenged Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws in the 1950s; Thirteen WNET New York's *Mission U.S.*, a series of online animated games that immerse young students in historical moments that have shaped American ideals and institutions; and the NEH on the Road program, which circulates smaller versions of previously funded exhibitions to mid-size museums country-wide.

Ms. Mittelman concluded her presentation by reminding the Committee that the Division of Public Programs funds projects that range widely in subject matter—from the art of ancient Mexico, to photographs of twentieth-century Pittsburgh, from the history of prohibition, to the system of convict labor in the American South. She also noted that Division programs come in diverse formats and reach diverse audiences; four million PBS viewers may tune into a Ken Burns documentary, while a NEH on the Road exhibition may engage forty to fifty residents of a small town, while a *Mission U.S.* online game may reach a totally different demographic, young students in the classroom. She eloquently observed that the Division of Public Programs aims to build a diverse portfolio of funded projects, both in format and subject matter, and to bring high quality humanities programs to as many Americans as possible.

Michael Shirley, Acting Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Public Programs, concluded the open session by apprising the Committee of staff travel since November 2011, which took staff to seven different states and included attendance at various conferences, site visits, and outreach workshops.


FOIA 16-21 NOTE: NEH did not include pages 22-29 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item V)

Chairman Leach thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one-hundred and seventy-sixth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 12:10 p.m. on March 9, 2012.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: July 18, 2012

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
JULY 12-13, 2012

OLD POST OFFICE
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

James A. Leach, Chairman	Jane Marie Doggett
Rolena Adorno	Paula Duffy
Adele Alexander	Gary Glenn
Albert Beveridge	David Hertz
Allison Blakely	Marvin Krislov
Constance Carroll	Christopher Merrill
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Thursday, July 12, 2012

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Challenge Grants, Federal/State Partnership, Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, July 13, 2012

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman Leach called the one hundred and seventy-seventh meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item IIIA)

The minutes of the one hundred and seventy-sixth meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item IIIB)

1. Introductory Remarks

Chairman Leach began his remarks by welcoming the newest member of the National Council on the Humanities, Christopher Merrill, who was nominated by the President in 2011 and confirmed by the Senate in March 2012.

Next, Chairman Leach acknowledged a number of special guests who were in the audience: Robert Madrid, from the National Humanities Alliance, and Esther Mackintosh and Jeff Allen, from the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Chairman Leach continued by highlighting a number of noteworthy NEH events and activities. First, he reported that in April 2012 Wendell Berry, the noted poet, essayist, novelist, farmer and conservationist, delivered the 2012 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities at the Kennedy Center to a standing-room only crowd.

Chairman Leach also called the Council's attention to the newly-released Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, which is part of NEH's *Bridging Cultures* initiative and one of a series of Bookshelves the agency has developed. Chairman Leach explained that the Bookshelf is not intended to be a comprehensive study of Islam as a religion or the complexities of the Muslim world, rather it seeks to introduce readers to new and diverse perspectives on the people, places, histories, beliefs, practices and cultures of Muslims in the U.S. and around the world. He explained that public, academic and community college libraries across the country will apply online for the Bookshelf, and from those applications, 1,000 libraries will be chosen to receive the Bookshelf.

Chairman Leach concluded his remarks by turning to Jane Aikin, Director of NEH's Division of Research Programs, to introduce two invited speakers, Dr. Jeffrey Bolster, Associate Professor at the University of New Hampshire and author of *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail*, and Gregory White, a lifelong resident of Washington, D.C. and a marine engineer.

2. Panel Presentation with Dr. Jeffrey Bolster, Associate Professor at the University of New Hampshire, and Gregory White, Qualified Member of the Engine Department-Oiler, on "The Story of Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail and a Washington Prisoner"

Ms. Aikin began by introducing the two panel participants, Dr. Bolster and Mr. White. In the mid-1990s, after receiving a NEH fellowship from the Division of Research Programs, Dr. Bolster wrote a book titled *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail* about the experiences of African American seafarers during the time leading up to the Civil War when a leading sector of the economy was shipping, and most African Americans in the United States were enslaved. Dr. Bolster discussed the book and explained how he would often receive correspondence from readers of the book, including Mr. White. Mr. White, who formerly had been in the Navy, read the book while he was incarcerated and was able to identify with the

experiences described. Mr. White explained how the book touched his life and inspired him to achieve a successful career as Merchant Mariner upon his release from prison.

3. Presentation by Judith Havemann, Director of the NEH Office of Communications, on "Nine Things You Need to Know About the NEH Website"

Chairman Leach then introduced Judy Havemann, Director of NEH's Office of Communications, to talk about NEH's new website. Chairman Leach noted that the new website integrates various uncoordinated and separate websites created by NEH offices and divisions over the years, and takes full advantage of new social media formats.

Ms. Havemann spoke about the numerous advantages of the new NEH site, which was developed almost completely in-house and launched on April 9, 2012, and provided a demonstration of the site to the Council.

4. Staff Report

Deputy Chairman Carole Watson provided the staff report. She first introduced the following new employees: Marc Ruppel, Program Officer in the Division of Public Programs; Andrew Simon, Special Assistant to the Chairman; and Megan Young, Accountant.

Ms. Watson next introduced twelve summer interns working in the various divisions and offices at NEH: Jose Centeno-Melendez, Peter Fristedt, Kelly Granito, Stephen Horrocks, Emma Jekowsky, Ruth Li, Michael Mackay, Kevin Mahnken, Caitlin McCurdy, Ann Sneesby-Koch, Jingcai Ying, and Helen Yoshida.

Ms. Watson then drew the Council's attention to the following staffing changes: Karen Mittelman, formerly Deputy Director of the Division of Public Programs will now serve as Director in that Division, and Michael Shirley, formerly Acting Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Public Programs, will now serve as Deputy Director in that Division.

Ms. Watson then acknowledged one staff departure: Elizabeth Joffrion, Senior Program Officer in Division of Preservation and Access, will leave NEH in August to become Director of Heritage Resources at Western Washington University.

Next, Ms. Watson noted four recent staff retirements: Mary Jeffcoat, formerly a Paralegal Specialist in the Office of the General Counsel, retired after thirty-seven years of Federal service; Gary McGough, formerly an Auditor in the Office of the Inspector General, retired after sixteen years at NEH; Jackie Parker, formerly an Accountant in the Office of Accounting, retired after thirty years of Federal service, sixteen of which were at NEH; and Brenda Taylor, formerly a Secretary in the Office of the General Counsel, retired after thirty-four years of Federal service.

Finally, Ms. Watson acknowledged four staff members in attendance who would be retiring soon: David Martz, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Public Programs; John Meredith, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Public Programs; Kathy Toavs, Management and Program Analyst in the Chairman's Office; and Kitty Green, IT Specialist, who would be retiring after forty-four years of Federal service, forty of which were at NEH.

5. Congressional Report

Courtney Chapin, Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional report. She first reported that the President's 2013 budget request for NEH recommends \$154.3 million, which is an increase over NEH's FY 2012 budget. However, she also reported that the House Appropriations Committee released the FY 2013 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill, which provided only \$132 million in funding for NEH—a decrease of \$14 million from the FY 2012 level of \$146 million and a decrease of \$22.3 million from the President's budget request.

Ms. Chapin then informed the Council that the individual FY 2013 appropriation bills—including the bill for the Department of the Interior and related agencies, where NEH's funding is determined—will not be enacted before elections and that next year's spending levels will be heavily influenced by the outcome of the presidential election and the ensuing fiscal cliff debate.

Next, Ms. Chapin informed the Council that NEH's Office of White House and Congressional Affairs has been making frequent trips to the Hill to build relationships in

Congressional offices and to work with colleagues on the House Humanities Caucus. She highlighted a few notable events, including a NEH Congressional Staff Workshops on the Hill hosted in partnership with the Smithsonian, and two webinars for Congressional staff and district offices.

Turning to matters of White House affairs, Ms. Chapin highlighted a number of NEH-hosted events recently held at the White House, including two film screenings and panel discussions for the NEH-funded films *I Came To Testify* and *The Loving Story*, as part of the *Bridging Cultures through Law* film series, a cooking presentation and lesson with White House pastry chef Bill Yosses and celebrity chef Joe Nathan to showcase the NEH-funded exhibition, *Chosen Food*, and a panel presentation with two NEH grantees, Afsaneh Najmabadi and Azizah al-Hibri, on the history of women in the Muslim world. She also mentioned that NEH hosted a lecture by Morris Vogel, the director of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, at the Old Post Office Building.

Next, Ms. Chapin mentioned two upcoming White House events, both which are film screenings and panel discussions of NEH-funded documentaries—the first for the film *Charles and Ray Eames: The Architect and the Painter*, and the second for a special director's cut of *Dust Bowl* followed by a reception at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Ms. Chapin concluded her remarks by encouraging Council members to review the materials on upcoming events she provided, and to give their feedback and suggestions.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Challenge Grants

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Jamie Doggett also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Brandon Johnson, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Challenge Grants, reported to the Committee about the progress of two Challenge grants. First, he explained that one, which

had been awarded last year to Lewis and Clark Community College in Illinois, had attracted a \$500,000 matching gift from Mannie Jackson, owner of the world famous Harlem Globetrotters, to endow a variety of humanities programs at the college. Mr. Johnson also described a publishing subvention endowment created through the American Musicological Society's 2007 Challenge grant: NEH offered \$240,000, which donors matched with a \$1.2 million gift.

Next, Andrea Anderson, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Challenge Grants, reported to the Committee about two very different Challenge grants: one of \$500,000 to the University of Delaware in 2008 to support graduate education and scholarship in material culture and preserving America's heritage, and the other of \$70,000 to the South Dakota Humanities Council to endow its Center for the Book activities.

Council members and office staff agreed that future Challenge grants to states such as North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana will be likely easier to match because of the newfound wealth from oil and gas extraction in the area.

Finally, Ms. Carroll reported that Committee members expressed strong support for the Special Initiative for Two-Year Colleges grant program and discussed some ways to encourage more of the nation's 1,200 community colleges to take advantage of this funding opportunity, possibly in closer collaboration with the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

b. Federal/State Partnership

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Federal/ State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Jamie Doggett also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Edythe Manza, Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, began her remarks by discussing the Office of Federal/State Partnership's presence on the new NEH website. She also reported on the participation of about a dozen state humanities councils in the 2012 National History Day competition, and on NEH's participation in the 2012 National Book Festival, which will be held in late September in Washington, D.C. Ms. Manza then informed the Committee of

some recent and upcoming changes in directors at the state humanities councils in Alabama, Maine, Alaska, Rhode Island, and the Virgin Islands, and noted that another orientation meeting for new directors will take place in early 2013.

Ms. Manza concluded her remarks by giving the Committee a few examples of programs developed by the state humanities councils in Georgia and South Dakota to complement the traveling exhibit titled *New Harmonies: American Routes Music*.

Next, Meg Ferris, Program Analyst in the Office of Federal/State Partnership, described the annual compliance plan required of all state humanities councils as a condition of ongoing yearly funding from NEH, and offered a few observations about the plans, including the increasing use of social media by state councils. She also shared with the Committee a list of local, regional and national awards won by state councils in 2011.

Then, Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, updated the Committee on plans for the Federation's 2012 annual conference to be held in November in Chicago, as well as the preliminary planning for the 2013 conference to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. She also reported on a series of regional forums being planned by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in response to a Congressional request for a report on the state of humanities in public life. Ms. Mackintosh noted that the first of these forums will be held during the following week in Massachusetts on the topic of humanities and civil society, and commented that the state humanities councils in New England have been instrumental in shaping the content of the forum.

c. Digital Humanities

Cathy Davidson, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Carol Swain also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Brett Bobley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, reported to the Committee on the office's recent activities. Mr. Bobley began his remarks by highlighting a recent NEH-funded

publication, *One Culture: Computationally Intensive Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences*. The result of a research study conducted by the Council on Library and Information Resources, the report discusses lessons learned from the first round of NEH Digging into Data Challenge grant recipients, and includes recommendations to university administrators, funders, libraries, and scholarly societies on how to best support computationally intensive research in the humanities and social sciences.

Mr. Bobley then continued to tell the Committee about two interdisciplinary workshops the Office of Digital Humanities is sponsoring: the first, in August 2012 at the University of California-Santa Cruz, will bring together scholars from the humanities, arts, design and computer science to discuss the media systems that are being used to consume traditional cultural heritage materials like books, music or film; and the second, to be held in April 2013 at the University of Maryland, will bring together scholars from the digital humanities with researchers from bioinformatics and related fields in biomedicine to see how these groups might fruitfully collaborate and learn from one another's increasingly digital research methods. Concluding the staff presentations, Jennifer Serventi, Program Officer in the Office of Digital Humanities, provided a rich overview of the many digital humanities summer institutes taking place in 2012, which cover a wide range of areas from the classics to geospatial technologies.

d. Education Programs

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Gary Glenn also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

William Craig Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, reported to the Committee on the division's recent activities. Mr. Rice reported that staff members made site visits during June and July to various Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops around the country, and that these programs have been received enthusiastically by the participants. He also mentioned that staff visits provide an opportunity to

recruit panelists and new directors, a step that contributes to the well-being and future success of the division's programs.

Mr. Rice reported to the Committee that the division recently posted a request for proposals for a cooperative agreement with NEH to support *Bridging Cultures* at Community Colleges. He explained that this second iteration of the competition, with a deadline of September 13, 2012, focuses on projects that advance the humanities at community colleges through faculty development on *Bridging Cultures* topics.

In addition, Mr. Rice reported that the Division of Education Programs received a robust number of applications for the Humanities Initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities grant program at the June 30, 2012 deadline. He informed the Committee that recommendations from both this grant program and the *Bridging Cultures* at Community Colleges competition will be reviewed at the November National Council meeting.

Next, Deborah Hurtt, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, reported to the Committee on the competition for Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops. She reported that these programs bring groups of teachers together for intensive one-week residence based summer study of topics in American history, civilization, and culture at key sites important in the nation's development. She noted that twenty-one projects are being conducted during the summer of 2012.

Then, Jinlei Augst, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, reported to the Committee on the Seminars and Institutes competition, which provide intellectual enrichment for school teachers and deepen their commitment to teaching. She explained that the programs enable college teachers to conduct research projects and engage intensely with colleagues, while focusing on topics relevant to classroom teaching.

e. Preservation and Access

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the

Committee's report. National Council members Martha Weinberg and Christopher Merrill also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Nadina Gardner, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, reported to the Committee on the current activities in the division, including the review of applications in the following grant programs: Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions, Research and Development, and Education and Training. Ms. Gardner also reported on staff travel, ranging from outreach to tribal archives, visits to libraries and museums, to a conference on digitization of collections.

Next, Laura Word, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Preservation and Access, delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee on Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections, a grant program focusing on preventive conservation measures that help museums, libraries, historical societies, and other archives to preserve their humanities collections in cost-effective and energy-efficient ways.

Then, Helen Agüera, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Preservation and Access, gave the Committee a demonstration of the sophisticated search capabilities of *Chronicling America*, the digital repository of historic U.S. newspapers created through the National Digital Newspaper Program. Committee members vowed to try using *Chronicling America* on their own, and Mr. Krislov urged fellow Council members to try it as well.

f. Public Programs

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Jamsheed Choksy also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Karen Mittelman, Director of the Division of Public Programs, reported to the Committee about exceptional NEH-funded films over the past year. She noted that three NEH-funded documentaries were recognized with the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award in May: American Experience's *Freedom Riders*, about the hundreds of civil rights activists who

challenged segregation in interstate transportation in the American South during the spring and summer of 1961; American Masters' *Charles and Ray Eames: The Architect and the Painter*, on the husband and wife design team; and POV's *My Perestroika*, a documentary that examines the social, political, and economic changes that accompanied the fall of Communism.

Next, Ms. Mittelman called the Committee's attention to a list of recent and upcoming broadcasts, including the latest Ken Burns film, *Dust Bowl*, which is a two-part, four-hour film that was co-produced with Dayton Duncan and Julie Dunfey, and will premiere on PBS on November 18 and 19, 2012. The film chronicles the monumental dust storms and lethal drought that devastated the Great Plains throughout the 1930s. Ms. Duffy reported that the Committee was treated to a sneak preview of the introduction and a brief excerpt of one episode, and recommended that fellow Council members and others in attendance view the film.

Michael Shirley, Deputy Director of the Division of Public Programs, then reported to the Committee on the Dust Bowl National Youth Summit, a partnership between NEH and the Smithsonian that will bring together middle and high school students from across the country to consider the issues raised by the film. He explained that the summit, scheduled for October 17, 2012 at the National Museum of American History, will include a screening of film excerpts and a discussion with filmmakers Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, scholars, and eyewitnesses. Mr. Shirley also noted that the event will be webcast and accompanied by ten regional youth town halls at Smithsonian affiliate museums across the country.

Next, Ms. Mittelman turned to a discussion of recent museum exhibitions and programs funded by the Division of Public Programs. She noted that nearly 200 such projects are currently on view in forty-three U.S. states and Mexico, including major traveling exhibits, permanent site interpretations at historic sites or houses, long-term exhibits at museums, as well as reading and discussion programs at libraries and community venues. Ms. Mittelman also directed the Committee's attention to two reviews of recent NEH-funded museum exhibitions: *House and Home*, at the National Building Museum, and *Maya 2012: Lords of*

Time, at the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Ms. Mittelman continued her presentation by describing the NEH On the Road program, which circulates smaller versions of previously funded exhibitions to mid-sized museums throughout the country. She also shared materials with the Committee about two recent NEH On the Road exhibits of note. She noted that the first NEH On the Road exhibition rolled out in 2005, and by the end of 2012, the total number of bookings will be over 200.

Michael Shirley, Deputy Director in the Division of Public Programs, apprised the Committee of staff travel, which took NEH staff to thirteen states and included staff attendance at ten national conferences and film festivals, nine film screenings, exhibitions and public programs, as well as six site visits and five outreach workshops.

The Committee meeting concluded with a presentation from Eva Caldera, Assistant Chairman for Partnership and Strategic Initiatives, on the *Bridging Cultures* Muslim Journeys Bookshelf. Ms. Caldera explained that the Bookshelf collection includes twenty-five books, three films with public performance rights, a one-year subscription to Oxford Islamic Studies Online, and a DVD with a series of seven commissioned short videos on Islamic art. Before concluding her remarks, Ms. Caldera was joined by Patti Van Tuyl, Senior Program Officer for the *Bridging Cultures* initiative, and they presented a sample of screen shots from the project website.

g. Research Programs

Alhson Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Adele Alexander and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, reported to the division's work leading to the November meeting of the National Council. Ms. Aikin called the Committee's attention to an impressive display of recently published books funded by the division's Collaborative Research and Scholarly Editions and Translations grant programs. She highlighted the following Scholarly Editions and Translations projects: the final volume of the

papers of Ulysses S. Grant, published in time for the anniversary of the Civil War by Southern Illinois University Press and prepared by John Marszalek at Mississippi State University; the second volume of the Samuel Beckett project, published by Cambridge University Press and prepared by Lois Overbeck at Emory University; and the first volume of the Ernest Hemingway letters, published by Cambridge University Press and edited by a team of scholars led by Sandra Spanier at Pennsylvania State University. Ms. Aikin also highlighted a noteworthy Collaborative Research grant awarded to Casey Due and Mary Ebbott of the University of Houston and the College of Holy Cross, respectively, which had resulted in a volume of essays, titled *Iliad Ten and the Poetics of Ambush* and published by Harvard University Press, that address the intense debate surrounding the authenticity of Book Ten of Homer's *Iliad*.

Ms. Aikin concluded her report by briefly outlining the division's outreach efforts through regional application writing workshops and noting that participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Committee member Adele Alexander encouraged the staff to continue to reach out to faculty members at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges and universities.

h. Jefferson Lecture / National Humanities Medals

David Hertz, Chair of the Jefferson Lecture / National Humanities Medals Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Constance Carroll, Cathy Davidson, Dawn Delbanco, Paula Duffy, Gary Glenn and Martha Weinberg also served on the Jefferson Lecture / National Humanities Medals Committee.

Mr. Hertz reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2013 Jefferson Lecture and the 2012 National Humanities Medals. Mr. Hertz noted that the annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities "recognizes an individual who has made significant scholarly contributions to the humanities and who has the ability to communicate the knowledge and wisdom of the humanities in a broadly appealing way."

Mr. Hertz reported that NEH staff sent the Committee a booklet containing brief

biographical sketches of each of the ninety-five candidates to be considered for the 2013 Jefferson Lectureship. Mr. Hertz reported that this set of candidates included people who were nominated as a result of a nationwide solicitation of nominations, plus nominees carried over from 2011 and 2012.

Mr. Hertz reported that the Committee also considered candidates for the 2012 National Humanities Medals. Mr. Hertz noted that the National Humanities Medals honor scholars, educators, documentary filmmakers, and other individuals, as well as organizations and institutions "whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens' engagement with the humanities." Mr. Hertz explained that recipients are selected by the President of the United States in consultation with the Chairman of NEH. Mr. Hertz reported that the Committee's task was to consider the list of the 175 candidates for the 2012 awards, and that the Committee will present for the Council's consideration a list of the most highly recommended nominees.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item IV)

Chairman Leach called the closed session of the one hundred and seventy-seventh meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 11:10 a.m.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item IV.A)

ACTIONS ON REQUESTS FOR CHAIRMAN'S GRANTS AND PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED
APPLICATIONS
(Agenda Items IV.A.1 & A.2)

Carole Watson, Deputy Chairman, called the National Council Members' attention to the Actions on Requests for Chairman's Grants and Previously Considered Applications contained in Tab A and Tab B of the Council Agenda Book.

FOIA 16-21 NOTE: NEH did not include pages 19-31 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item VI)

Chairman Leach thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one-hundred and seventy-seventh meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 1:30 p.m. on July 13, 2012.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:

Michael P. McDonald

Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: 11-16-2012

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
NOVEMBER 15-16, 2012

OLD POST OFFICE
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

James A. Leach, Chairman	Allen Guelzo
Rolena Adorno	David Hertz
Adele Alexander	Marvin Krislov
Albert Beveridge	Robert Martin
Allison Blakely	Christopher Merrill
Jamsheed Choksy	Ricardo Quinones
Cathy Davidson	Carol Swain
Dawn Ho Delbanco	Martha Weinberg
Paula Duffy	Kenneth Weinstein
Gary Glenn	

* Council members Constance Carroll, Jane Marie Doggett, Jean Bethke Elshtain, Mary Habeck, Wilfred McClay, and Jay Winik did not attend. Council member Kenneth Weinstein attended only on Thursday, November 15, 2012, and Council member Allen Guelzo attended only on Friday, November 16, 2012.

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V. Adjournment 178:30

Thursday, November 15, 2012

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Challenge Grants, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, November 16, 2012

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman Leach called the one hundred and seventy-eighth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and seventy-seventh meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Introductory Remarks

Chairman Leach began his introductory remarks by welcoming Stephen Kidd, the new Executive Director of the National Humanities Alliance.

Chairman Leach next briefly discussed the “fiscal cliff,” defined as the lapse of certain tax cuts coupled with the prospect of sequestration. He noted that if sequestration were to occur, NEH and other agencies with discretionary spending authority would see their appropriation reduced by approximately eight percent. For NEH, such a reduction would amount to approximately \$12 million and would cause cutbacks in NEH programs and operations.

Chairman Leach then provided the National Council with an overview of recent activities and events at NEH. He began by highlighting a recent grant in support of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

Chairman Leach explained that NEH staff members attended the DPLA Midwest meeting in Chicago, where the Knight Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced that they would be contributing funds--\$1 million from the Knight Foundation and \$250,000 from IMLS--to the DPLA project that NEH agreed to fund in July 2012. Leaders of several pilot projects described the rich local collections of cultural heritage materials that they would bring to the DPLA via the on-ramps developed with NEH support, and a representative of the Kentucky Digital Library gave a talk that drew heavily on expertise developed through participation in NEH's National Digital Newspaper Project. Chairman Leach noted that the DPLA project is building upon previous digitization infrastructures and that DPLA will enable people around the world to learn about American culture.

Chairman Leach next announced that the *Bridging Cultures* Muslim Journeys Bookshelf project had grown in popularity with libraries across the country. He noted that NEH's partner in the project, the American Library Association, received over 850 applications from libraries, library systems and state humanities councils for the first round of the grant program, which was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

Chairman Leach then introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Barbara Oberg, Professor at Princeton University and Editor of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*.

2. Presentation by Dr. Barbara Oberg, Professor at Princeton University and Editor of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*

Dr. Oberg spoke about her work with one of NEH's flagship programs, the Scholarly Editions grant program, which supports the professional editing and publication of the papers of the founders of the United States, American Presidents and other renowned political, scientific, literary and cultural figures.

3. Staff Report

Deputy Chairman Carole Watson provided the staff report. She first introduced the following new employees: Chrissy Cortina, Senior Program Officer, Division of Public Programs; Victoria Sams, Program Officer, Division of Education Programs; and Leah Weinryb Grohsgal, Program Officer, Division of Preservation and Access.

Ms. Watson next introduced six fall interns: Beth Butler-Ingram in the EDSITEment program; Katherine Dunham in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Madelyn Jolson, also in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Jessica Kim in the Research Division; Kirsten Weiss, in the Division of Public Programs; and Annie Winters in the Division of Education Programs.

Ms. Watson then drew the National Council's attention to the following staffing changes at NEH, both in the Division of Research Programs: Jennifer Untalan, formerly Administrative Officer, will now serve as Program Analyst; and Gwendolyn Yates, formerly Program Assistant, will now serve as Administrative Officer.

Ms. Watson then announced the nine 2012 Educational Opportunities for Career Development awardees: Roland Chicoye, Office of Human Resources; Sarah Kaska, Division of Education Programs; Shemsa Mohamedi, Accounting Office; Steve Moyer, Office of Publications; Jason Rhody, Office of Digital Humanities; Robert Straughter,

Office of Grant Management; Jorge Vasquez, Office of Human Resources; Luisanna Willis, EDSITEment; and Gwendolyn Yates, Division of Research Programs.

Ms. Watson next announced the four 2012 Independent Study, Research and Development awardees: Jinlei Augst, Division of Education Programs; Daniel Sack, Division of Research Programs; Joshua Sternfeld, Division of Preservation and Access; and David Weinstein, Division of Public Programs.

Finally, Ms. Watson acknowledged two staff departures and one retirement: Roland Chicoye, Deputy Director of the Human Resources Office, will leave NEH for a post at the Comptroller of the Currency; Kathleen Mulvaney, former Senior Program Officer in the Division of Public Programs, left NEH in October to move to Boston with her family; and Stephen Veneziani, Deputy Director of the Office of Grant Management, will retire in late November after thirty-five years of service at NEH. Ms. Watson conveyed her thanks to all three departing employees for their service to NEH.

4. Congressional Report

Courtney Chapin, Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional report. Ms. Chapin first reported that President Obama was currently hosting bipartisan Congressional leadership to discuss the lame-duck session, and that he had recently hosted both labor and business leaders to discuss issues around raising revenues and debt reduction. Regarding the fiscal cliff, Ms. Chapin explained in detail that the White House and Congressional staff have embarked on developing a two-step process that would strike a short-term deal to turn off the sequester for a defined period of time to allow Congress to work out a long-term \$4 trillion agreement that includes spending cuts, entitlement reform and revenue increases, and results in broad-reaching tax reform.

Ms. Chapin next announced that the President's recommended fiscal year 2013 budget increase was a clear sign that President Obama is committed to continued and expanded promotion of the arts and the humanities. She also conveyed a message from the White House that the Obama Administration looks forward to tapping deeper into Council members' expertise, vision, and energy in the next term.

Next, Ms. Chapin reported on the work the NEH Office of White House and Congressional Affairs has been undertaking to raise the profile of NEH to members of Congress and to advance the mission of NEH by showcasing the work of the agency to the American public. For instance, during the summer, NEH hosted two film screenings at the White House: one for architecture students to view the NEH-funded film, *Charles and Ray Eames: The Architect and the Painter*; and another for local farmers, students of agricultural and public health policy, Department of Agriculture officials, and environmental policy experts to view the NEH-funded documentary, *The Dust Bowl*. Ms. Chapin's office, with the help of NEH's Division of Preservation and Access, also hosted a Congressional workshop on Capitol Hill on the subject of disaster preparedness at NEH.

Ms. Chapin then described to the National Council an NEH-sponsored forum and panel discussion, held at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in September on Constitution Day, which focused on the Emancipation Proclamation. The event brought together 260 students from the mid-Atlantic region and was live-streamed to 147 locations across the U.S. and in Thailand. Ms. Chapin also explained that the event was followed by a public ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial presided over by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, and featuring remarks by Congressman John Lewis and readings by the actress Alfre Woodard.

Next, Ms. Chapin reported that her office, with the help of the fall interns and NEH staff in the Office of Communications, organized four coordinated screenings of the NEH-funded film, *Death and the Civil War* at Georgetown University, West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado College.

Ms. Chapin concluded her remarks by explaining that such outreach events have engaged over 7,000 individuals over the last four months, and have successfully illustrated the power and relevance of NEH-funded humanities scholarship.

5. Bndget Report

Larry Myers, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with the budget report.

First, Mr. Myers drew the National Council's attention to some budget figures for fiscal year 2013 that are in play for NEH as it waits to see what decisions Congress makes during the lame-duck session. He explained that NEH is currently operating under a continuing resolution at the equivalent of the 2012 appropriated level of \$146,021,000, but that the House Appropriations Subcommittee had approved only \$132 million for NEH. Mr. Myers noted that the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee has recommended a budget of \$154,255,000, the same amount as the Obama Administration's FY 2013 request for NEH.

Next, Mr. Myers provided the National Council with a report on NEH's 2012 budget year, which concluded on September 30, 2012. He drew the Council's attention to a folder containing three memoranda prepared by Frank Shaw, Program Analyst in the Office of Planning and Budget, that summarize and analyze data on NEH's and the National Council's fiscal year 2012 activities, including volume of applications, total

obligations, and the amount of federal matching funds (exclusive of NEH Challenge Grants) that were released to individual projects to match donations from third parties.

Mr. Myers reported that the Council considered 5,008 applications during fiscal year 2012, which marks a twelve percent decline over last year's volume, which was at the highest level in more than fifteen years. He concluded, however, that the number of NEH grant applications has increased by seventeen percent since 2008, which signifies a healthy interest in NEH funds.

Mr. Myers further noted that in fiscal year 2012, the Council recommended 738 applications to Chairman Leach for funding, resulting in an award ratio of about 14.7 percent which is the lowest award ratio in the history of the agency.

Finally, Mr. Myers reported that NEH recently submitted to Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget its fiscal year 2012 Performance and Accountability Report (PAR), an annual report required of all agencies that reviews the performance of programs, and financial systems and operations. As part of the PAR, NEH was required to undergo an audit of its books by an independent auditing firm, and for the eighth year in a row NEH received a clean bill of health from the auditors. Mr. Myers attributed this success to the work of NEH offices that allocate, record, expend, and monitor the agency's financial resources, and to the excellent management of funds within the program offices and divisions.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Challenge Grants

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Paula Duffy also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Stephen Ross, Director of the Office of Challenge Grants, reported to the Committee that in fiscal year 2012, Challenge grantees as whole proved exceptionally successful in raising the required non-Federal gifts and donations certified in advance of the required matching amounts were almost double the amount of unmatched funds. Office of Challenge Grants staff members then described a sampling of grants that were successfully completed during fiscal year 2012.

b. Federal/State Partnership

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Paula Duffy also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Edythe Manza, Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, reported to the Committee on NEH's participation in the 2012 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. She then explained various ways that state humanities councils will participate in the *Bridging Cultures* Muslim Journeys Bookshelf project, and informed the Committee that the Office of Federal/State Partnership awarded an emergency grant to the New York Council for the Humanities to assist with recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy.

Ms. Manza concluded her remarks by informing the Committee about NEH's participation in the annual conference of state humanities councils, presently being held in Chicago, Illinois.

Next, Kathleen Mitchell, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Federal/State Partnership, spoke to the Committee about the importance of stories and provided examples of different programs focused on stories that were organized by the Illinois, Washington, D.C., and New Hampshire state humanities councils.

c. Education Programs

Albert Beveridge, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Carole Swain and Gary Glenn also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

William Craig Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, reported to the Committee on the extensive work in the division for the past three months, including various meetings of project directors and NEH staff around the U.S.

Next, Robert Sayers, Senior Academic Adviser/Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, provided the Committee with details about NEH's Humanities Initiatives program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Mr. Sayers also reported that in 2012, the Division was particularly interested in proposals on foreign languages and those involving connections between the humanities and professional training in fields such as medicine, nursing, technology, business, law, and economics.

Julia Nguyen, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, concluded the meeting with a report to the Committee on a second *Bridging Cultures* at Community Colleges program Request for Proposals for a Cooperative Agreement competition, which supports large scale multi-year endeavors to improve the quality of humanities courses in community colleges.

d. Preservation and Access

Robert Martin, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members David Hertz, Adele Alexander and Ricardo Quinones also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Nadina Gardner, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, reported to the Committee that the Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant program now contains a new subcategory called “Foundations,” which supports planning activities for future projects in this area.

Ms. Gardner next acknowledged that NEH and the Library of Congress announced a milestone in the National Digital Newspaper Program by posting the five millionth page in Chronicling America, the program’s free, searchable database of historic U.S. newspapers. She also noted that Division staff was pleased to assist the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs in informing Congressional staff of NEH’s grant programs in support of emergency preparedness and response.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mary Downs, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Preservation and Access, gave a report and PowerPoint presentation to the Committee on Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions.

e. Public Programs

Martha Weinberg, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Cathy Davidson, Christopher Merrill and Ken Weinstein also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Karen Mittelman, Director of the Division of Public Programs, began by giving a brief overview of the Division’s programs, and reminding Committee members of the Division’s unique mission within the agency to convey humanities scholarship to the general public. To illustrate her point, Ms. Mittelman called the Committee’s attention to several upcoming projects that deliver humanities ideas to a wide public:

Shakespeare Uncovered, a film series from WNET in association with the BBC and Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and “American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition,”

an exhibit at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Ms. Mittelman next offered an overview of the NEH on the Road program, which circulates exhibitions to smaller museums throughout the country at an affordable cost.

Michael Shirley, Deputy Director in the Division of Public Programs, then apprised the Committee of recent staff travel, which took staff to eight different states and included attendance at various conferences, exhibition openings, film screenings, site visits and outreach workshops.

Ms. Mittelman concluded her presentation by introducing Digital Projects for the Humanities, a new grant category that will launch in June 2013. At this point, Ms. Mittelman turned to Mr. Shirley and Jeff Hardwick, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Public Programs, who reported on the new application guidelines for the Digital Projects for the Humanities grant program. Mr. Shirley also gave a brief overview of the evolution of the Division's support for interactive digital projects dating back to the 1990s. The new guidelines for digital projects respond to changing needs in the field and take advantage of the opportunities offered by new media formats to reach broad audiences with substantive humanities content.

Mr. Hardwick next explained three proposed grant categories within the new program: Discovery Grants of up to \$25,000, to fund the early exploratory stages of a digital project; Prototype Grants of up to \$100,000, to support the creation of a proof of concept prototype; and Production Grants of up to \$400,000, intended for the production and distribution of the digital product. Mr. Hardwick noted that the Division is seeking comments from traditional humanities constituencies, and encourages Council members to review and comment on the proposed grant categories.

f. Research Programs

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, Jamsheed Choksy and Dawn Delbanco also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, reported to the Committee on the current activities in the Division, including recent deadlines for three grant programs: Summer Stipends, Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions, and Documenting Endangered Languages. Ms. Aikin also reported that the Division is conducting the review of fellowship applications for the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, and then concluded by calling the Committee's attention to an impressive display of books recently published with NEH support.

Russell Wyland, Deputy Director of the Division of Research Programs, and Senior Program Officers, Claudia Kinkela and Mark Silver, next reported on the recently published evaluation of NEH's Fellowship Program, which Division staff undertook at the request of the Chairman's office and NEH's Office of Planning and Budget. The evaluation revealed that 357, or nearly seventy percent, of the 520 NEH fellowships awarded in fiscal years 2002 through 2004 resulted in published books; that a higher percentage of "junior scholars," rather than "senior scholars," published from their awards; and that fellowship recipients overall completed their books in 4.4 years on average. Ms. Kinkela emphasized that although most recipients published full books, an impressive ninety-six percent completed some publication—a book, an article, or other work—while Mr. Silver addressed non-tangible results of Fellowship funding.

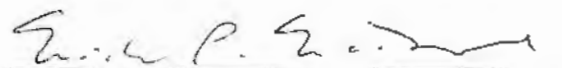
FOIA 16-20 NOTE: NEH did not include pages 17-29 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item V)

Chairman Leach thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one hundred and seventy-eighth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 11:55 a.m. on November 16, 2012.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: 3-11-2013

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 8, 2013

OLD POST OFFICE
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

James A. Leach, Chairman	Dawn Ho Delbanco
Rolena Adorno	Jane Marie Doggett
Adele Alexander	Paula Duffy
Camila Alire	Jean Bethke Elshtain
Albert Beveridge	Mary Habeck
Allison Blakely	Christopher Merrill
Coustance Carroll	Ricardo Quinones
Cathy Davidson	Martha Weinberg

* Council members Jamsheed Choksy, Gary Glenn, David Hertz, Marvin Krislov, Robert Martin, Ramon Saldivar, Bruce Sievers, Carol Swain, and Jay Wiuik did not attend. Council member Mary Habeck attended the Committee meetings only.

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Friday, March 8, 2013

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Federal/State Partnership, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, March 8, 2013

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman Leach called the one hundred and seventy-ninth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and seventy-eighth meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Introductory Remarks

Chairman Leach welcomed two colleagues to the meeting of the National Council on the Humanities: Stephen Kidd, Executive Director of the National Humanities Alliance, and Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Chairman Leach began his remarks with an overview of noteworthy happenings since the Council last met in November 2012. He first commented on the federal government sequestration, imposed one week prior to the meeting, which reduced appropriations for nearly all federal departments and agencies.

Next, Chairman Leach turned to new agency initiatives that NEH hopes to introduce in the upcoming fiscal year. First, he discussed a program proposed by the Office of Digital Humanities, tentatively called “Humanities Open Book.” Under this program, NEH would award competitive grants to academic publishers so that they can obtain copyright permissions to electronically publish high-quality, peer-reviewed humanities texts that are currently available only in a small number of elite libraries. Chairman Leach then discussed a new grant program proposed by the Division of Public Programs, which involves funding humanities projects that will utilize digital formats in innovative ways, such as through websites, mobile applications, games, social media, and virtual environments.

Chairman Leach then reported on the success of a recent NEH initiative, the *Muslim Journeys* Bookshelf. He noted that more than 840 libraries from across the nation applied to receive the Bookshelf, and that numerous scholar-led programs will be offered to engage library patrons in discussions about the subject matter.

Chairman Leach next called the Council’s attention to the work of EDSITEment, NEH’s award-winning website that offers students, teachers, and lifelong learners humanities lessons using primary source documents.

Chairman Leach then acknowledged that several National Council members had expressed interest in the agency’s support of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which NEH funded in 2012. He announced that George Mason University professor, Dan Cohen, will be the founding Executive Director of DPLA, which has recently been incorporated and filed for non-profit status. He also reported that DPLA began work on the creation of a group of state and regional service hubs, which will

serve an array of libraries, museums, and content hubs. Harvard University will be the first “content hub.”

Chairman Leach then commented on a recent policy set forth by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) concerning open access to scientific research. Although NEH is not covered by the policy, Chairman Leach remarked that NEH supports the spirit of the mandate.

Next, Chairman Leach highlighted a few notable NEH-sponsored public events designed to showcase the results of NEH grants, and held since the last meeting of the National Council. He first complimented the popular special broadcast of the NEH-funded radio history show, *Back Story with the American History Guys*, at the National Museum of American History. He next reported on a series of *Bridging Cultures* events designed to call attention to NEH’s international scholarship projects.

Chairman Leach then announced that NEH successfully launched another new *Bridging Cultures* program, *Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle*, at an event co-hosted by Justice Stephen Breyer at the U.S. Supreme Court. Chairman Leach then explained that for the *Created Equal* program, NEH’s Division of Public Programs has packaged four NEH-funded documentary films on the history of civil rights, and is preparing to make them available to numerous libraries and community venues across the country.

Chairman Leach then invited all Council members to attend the Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities, to be delivered by the filmmaker and film preservationist, Martin Scorsese on April 1, 2013, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Chairman Leach concluded his remarks by reporting the very sad news that one of NEH's beloved and long-time staff members, Willie McGhee, Assistant Director of the Office of Administrative Services, had unexpectedly passed away in the previous week.

2. Presentation by Karen Mittelman, Director of NEH's Division of Public Programs on *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*

Ms. Mittelman spoke about NEH's *Created Equal* project, which involves packaging four NEH-funded civil rights films—*The Abolitionist*, *Slavery By Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story*—into a boxed set. Beginning in August 2013, NEH, and its project partner, the Gilder Lehrman Institute, will offer the set to 500 communities across the country, and hopefully also provide small grants to support public programming at each venue.

3. Staff Report

Deputy Chairman Carole Watson introduced the following new employees to the National Council: Derika Ferdinand, Deputy Director of the Office of Human Resources; Jason Hammond, Systems Operations Specialist in the Office of Information Resources Management; Mark Katkov, Videographer in the Office of Communications; Mary Macklem, Senior Academic Advisor/Program Officer in the Division of Research Programs; Adriana Martinez, Legal Assistant in the Office of the General Counsel; Rachel Poor, Staff Assistant in the Office of Communications; and Ann Sneesby-Koch, Humanities Administrator in the Office of Digital Humanities.

Ms. Watson next introduced the following interns: Alicia Blackwell, Kevin Donnelly, and Katherine Kipp, in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Brittany Fiocca, Evangeline Furton, and Kendall Jones, in the Division of Education Programs; and Dawn Leung, in the Office of the General Counsel.

Ms. Watson then noted the following recent staff promotions: Andrea Anderson, Acting Director of the Office of Challenge Grants; Lanra Davis, Inspector General; and Robert Straughter, Acting Director of the Office of Grant Management.

Ms. Watson next acknowledged the following staff departures: Kyle Charles, Office of Communications; Michelle Heller, Division of Public Programs; Oumou Samb, Division of Preservation and Access; and Luisanna Willis, EDSITEment.

Finally, Ms. Watson acknowledged and thanked the following retirees: Susan Daisey, Director of the Office of Grant Management; Candace Katz, Deputy Director, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities; Charlie Kolb, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Preservation and Access; Judy Regelman, Office of We the People/Bridging Cultures; and Steve Ross, Director of the Office of Challenge Grants.

4. Congressional Report

Courtney Chapin, Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional report. Ms. Chapin began her report with news from Capitol Hill. She reported that House and Senate legislators were working on a continuing resolution that would avert the impending government shutdown in April, and would likely leave NEH operating at or near the agency's current budget level through the end of September 2013, minus the sequester reduction.

Next, Ms. Chapin reported on the activities of the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs. She informed the Council that spring interns had created a blog for outreach to junior-level Congressional staff, prepared reports for Congress on the impact of NEH on certain constituencies, and developed a strategic schedule of outreach and meetings with Congressional offices in April and May 2013. Ms. Chapin also noted

that her office had completed two White House policy briefings: one for the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the other for members of the National Council.

Ms. Chapin then announced that NEH will be presenting the “Clemente Course in the Humanities” at the National Humanities Alliance annual meeting on March 18, 2013, where Senators Dick Durbin and Elizabeth Warren would speak about the development and success of the Clemente Course in Illinois and Massachusetts, respectively. She also announced that her office, together with NEH’s Division of Public Programs, New York University’s new Washington, D.C. campus, and the White House Council on Women and Girls, will soon be hosting a screening and panel discussion of the NEH-funded documentary film, *No Job for a Woman*. Finally, Ms. Chapin concluded her report by noting that Senator Tim Kaine recently worked with NEH to film a brief video to introduce a screening of the films featured in NEH’s *Created Equal* project.

5. Budget Report

Larry Myers, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with the budget report. Mr. Myers began by setting forth specific budgetary figures. He reported that NEH’s 2013 sequester-reduced budget is approximately \$139,600,000—a reduction from last year’s appropriation of \$146 million. He noted that this figure results from Congress adding 0.6% to every agency’s budget in the first continuing resolution, and then taking away 5% for the sequester. Mr. Myers further noted, however, that NEH will have to wait until the end of March 2013 to see if the sequester holds and to learn what the final 2013 agency budget will be.

Next, Mr. Myers explained to the Council that due to the peculiarities of the 2013 budget situation, the administration has held off submitting its budget to Capitol Hill until early April 2013, instead of submitting it in February as usual. Mr. Myers

concluded his report by mentioning that he hopes to present details of NEH's 2014 budget at the July 2013 Council meeting.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Adele Alexander, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Paula Duffy and Christopher Merrill also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Brett Bobley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, provided a brief overview to the Committee about the grant programs offered through his Office, which fall into three broad categories: international research programs, domestic research programs, and an educational program that funds summer institutes. He also mentioned several new reports that his Office had funded. Council members noted that these programs bring together a range of communities—including scholars, librarians, and technologists—each with various important perspectives.

b. Education Programs

Cathy Davidson, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Camila Alire also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

William Craig Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, provided an overview to the Committee of the Division's activities during the past three months. Mr. Rice reported that Division staff have received proposals for the Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshop programs, and have already started preparations for panel review.

Next, Senior Program Officer Douglas Arnold reported on the fourth round of Enduring Questions grants, which support faculty in the development undergraduate courses that engage students in a sustained program of reading and discussion centered on a question of timeless significance.

c. Preservation and Access

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Allison Blakely, Mary Habeck, and Ricardo Quinones also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Nadina Gardner, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, discussed the new subcategory of grants within the Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program, called "Foundations," which offers support for planning, assessment, and pilot activities in preparation for larger preservation and access projects. She also noted the work of Senior Program Officer Joel Wurl in developing this program.

Next, staff members Joshua Sternfeld, Cathleen Tefft, and Adriana Cutler provided a demonstration of the Division's website, which is useful for humanities scholars and the general public.

d. Public Programs

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Jaime Doggett also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Karen Mittelman, Director of the Division of Public Programs, called the Committee's attention to several upcoming projects that used particularly engaging formats to deliver humanities ideas to a wide public audience. In addition, Senior

Program Officer Jeff Hardwick reported on the Division's involvement in the public interpretation of slavery at important historic sites, such as Monticello.

e. Federal/State Partnership

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Jaime Doggett also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Edie Manza, Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, reported briefly on a recent program at the White House, organized by NEH's Office of White House and Congressional Affairs, for members of the state humanities councils who had traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Federation of State Humanities Councils' annual "Humanities on the Hill" activities. State council board and staff members heard from President Obama's domestic policy staff about the administration's priorities in education, veterans' affairs, immigrant populations, and economic development, and from three state council directors, who spoke about humanities programs in their states.

Ms. Manza then informed the Council that NEH would be holding an orientation session on May 2, 2013 for the newest group of Executive Directors of state humanities councils, and that NEH's *Muslim Journeys Bookshelf* had been awarded to thirty-four state humanities councils. She concluded with brief comments about the current government funding situation and its effect on state councils.

f. Research Programs

Martha Weinberg, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Jean Bethke Elshstain also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, introduced the Committee to the Division's newest Senior Program Officer, Mary Macklem, a musicologist interested in the history of Italian opera.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

Chairman Leach called the closed session of the one hundred and seventy-ninth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 11:35 a.m.

REPORTS

(Agenda Item IV.A)

ACTIONS ON REQUESTS FOR CHAIRMAN'S GRANTS AND PREVIOUSLY
CONSIDERED APPLICATIONS

(Agenda Items IV.A.1 & A.2)

Carole Watson, Deputy Chairman, called the National Council members' attention to the Actions on Requests for Chairman's Grants and Previously Considered Applications contained in Tab A and Tab B of the Council Agenda Book.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

(Agenda Item IV.B)

(b) (5)



FOIA 16-20 NOTE: NEH did not include pages 15-20 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)



ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item V)

Chairman Leach thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one-hundred and seventy-ninth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 12:10 p.m. on March 8, 2013.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: July 15, 2013

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
JULY 11-12, 2013

OLD POST OFFICE
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

Carole Watson, Acting Chairman	Paula Duffy
Rolena Adorno	Gary Glenn
Adele Alexander	Mary Habeck
Camila Alire	David Hertz
Albert Beveridge	Marvin Krislov
Allison Blakely	Christopher Merrill
Constance Carroll	Ricardo Quinones
Jamsheed Choksy	Bruce Sievers
Cathy Davidson	Carol Swain
Dawn Ho Delbanco	Martha Wagner Weinberg
Jane Marie Doggett	

* Council members Jean Bethke Elshtain, Robert Martin, Ramón Saldivar, and Jay Winik did not attend.

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Thursday, July 11, 2013

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Challenge Grants, Federal/State Partnership, Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, July 12, 2013

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Acting Chairman Carole Watson called the one hundred and eightieth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item IIIA)

The minutes of the one hundred and seventy-ninth meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Introductory Remarks & Recognition of Departing Council Members

Acting Chairman Watson began her remarks by acknowledging two special guests who were in the audience: Esther Mackintosh, from the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and Stephen Kidd, from the National Humanities Alliance.

Acting Chairman Watson then noted the departure of three members of the National Council on the Humanities: Allen Guelzo, Bill McClay, and Ken Weinstein, while welcoming the newest member of the Council, Bruce Sievers. Acting Chairman Watson acknowledged Mr. Sievers' distinguished career in scholarship and philanthropy, before thanking and commending the three departing Council members for their service to NEH. Ken Weinstein then briefly addressed the National Council and NEH staff to reflect on his experience and express gratitude

for the work of NEH. Following Mr. Weinstein's remarks, Acting Chairman Watson presented him with a commemorative plaque and book in recognition of his service.

Next, Acting Chairman Watson remarked on former Chairman Jim Leach's accomplishments at the agency, including the *Bridging Cultures* initiative and his national civility tour, before inviting Council member Martha Weinberg to offer a resolution of appreciation for former Chairman Leach, for consideration and approval by the Council. The text of the resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, Chairman Jim Leach has led the National Endowment for the Humanities for the last four years, and has personified the founding principle of the Endowment that democracy demands wisdom;

WHEREAS, Chairman Leach has brought to this work a clear vision for the future of the humanities, a vision consistently characterized by a spirit of optimism, thoughtfulness, and inspiration;

WHEREAS, Chairman Leach has led the National Endowment to perform effectively while being a generous colleague to all who worked for and with the National Endowment;

WHEREAS, Chairman Leach worked diligently to recognize and honor the great traditions of the humanities, ensuring both their preservation and their reach into the future;

WHEREAS, Chairman Leach has been the consummate public servant in Iowa, in Washington, in the United States, and in the world, modeling civility, overcoming obstacles, and bridging cultures;

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the members of the National Endowment for the Humanities thank Chairman Leach for his devotion to the mission of the National Endowment, for his determination and energy, and for leading and inspiring all of us to seek a more humane and peaceful world, the ideal that has animated his entire career, and that will live on with us long after the end of his service as Chair.

The National Council voted unanimously in favor of the resolution as provided above.

Acting Chairman Watson then commented that while the agency is experiencing a period of transition, it remains committed to ensuring that programs in the humanities are available to all citizens, especially where such programs would otherwise be unavailable due to economic or

geographic constraints. She also observed that the agency's enabling legislation makes clear the vital connection of the humanities and sustaining a democratic society.

Acting Chairman Watson further reported that the agency has been bolstered by the recent report, *The Heart of the Matter*, prepared by a commission operating under the auspices of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The report calls for the revitalization of the humanities and, at the request of certain members of Congress, the Federation of State Humanities Councils will be coordinating a number of public discussions based on the findings in this report.

Acting Chairman Watson next informed the Council that NEH plans to extend the agency's reach, by seizing every opportunity to create synergy between the program offices at NEH and the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs, and by maximizing the use of NEH's public-facing website. She also noted that agency staff members have started to think about how NEH will celebrate its fifty-year anniversary in 2015, and ways to further extend the reach of NEH-sponsored programs to veterans. Acting Chairman Watson also reminded Council members that NEH will soon say farewell to its current office location at the Old Post Office Building when the agency is relocated to the Constitution Center, another office site in Washington, D.C.

Next, Acting Chairman Watson turned to the matter of the agency's reduced budget and reported to the Council that, due to careful management and planning, NEH was able to avoid layoffs and furloughs while holding fast to the agency's core mission.

Acting Chairman Watson then drew the Council's attention to several noteworthy NEH activities—a recent NEH report on the Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program, administered by NEH's Division of Preservation and Access; an important initiative called *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*, based on four acclaimed NEH-funded documentary films; and the continued progress made on the *Muslim Journey* Bookshelf project, which was launched last year under the *Bridging Cultures* initiative.

In concluding her remarks, Acting Chairman Watson shared with the Council a short video clip about mosques and religious architecture, as a sample of the interesting *Muslim Journeys* Bookshelf content available online.

2. Staff Report

Jeff Thomas, Assistant Chairman of Planning and Operations, provided the National Council with the staff report. He first introduced the following new employees: Marlo Blue, Human Resources Specialist in the Office of Human Resources; Tricia Brooks, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Public Programs; Beatrice Gurwitz, Volunteer Research Consultant in the Division of Public Programs; Jesse Johnston, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Preservation and Access; and Ruey En Tang, Auditor in the Office of the Inspector General.

Mr. Thomas then drew the Council's attention to the following staffing changes: Adriana Martinez, formerly Legal Administrative Specialist in the Office of the General Counsel is now serving as Administrative Officer in the Office of the Inspector General; Anne Lopez-Buitrago, formerly Grants Administrator in the Office of Grant Management is now serving as Acting Deputy Director in that office; Robert Straughter, formerly Acting Director of the Office of Grant Management is now serving as Director in that office.

Mr. Thomas next introduced nineteen summer interns working in the various divisions and offices at NEH: Laura Buchanan, Emma Eisenberg, Molly Harris, Bryan Hum, Micah Khater, Katherine Konietzko, Mark Mottola, Kyle O'Donnell, Julie Rooney, Mattea Sanders, Rachel Smilan-Goldstein, Karen Stewart, Jessica Burnell, Victoria Cooney, Aline Matias, Grace McNamee, Olivia Savage, Samantha Suplee, and Elizabeth You.

Mr. Thomas then acknowledged three recent and one upcoming staff departures: Michelle Ghim left the Office of the General Counsel for a position at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Sarah Kaska will leave the Division of Education Programs for a foreign service position with the State Department; Alice Parks left the Office of Human Resources; and Andrew Simon left the Chairman's Office to begin law school.

Finally, Mr. Thomas recognized and thanked Patti Van Tuyl, Senior Program Officer in the Chairman's Office handling NEH's special initiatives, who is retiring from Federal service after working in various capacities at NEH since 1991.

3. Congressional Report

Courtney Chapin, Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional report. Ms. Chapin informed the Council that NEH's Office of White House and Congressional Affairs has been undertaking a number of outreach activities. Working together with New York University students and members of NEH's Division of Public Programs, Ms. Chapin's office organized a special Women's History Month film screening and panel discussion event on the subject of women in war zone conflicts. Held in March 2013, the event included a film screening of the NEH-funded documentary, *No Job for a Woman*, followed by a panel discussion featuring prominent women in journalism and the military who discussed the way women shift and enhance the experience of war when they participate in armed conflicts at close range.

Next, Ms. Chapin spoke briefly about the National Humanities Alliance annual meeting in April 2013. She noted that representatives from the Illinois and Massachusetts state humanities councils and the Clemente Course in the Humanities, participated in the meeting. She also reported that Senators Dick Durbin and Elizabeth Warren made a special trip to the event, at NEH's request, to deliver remarks about how the collaboration of state humanities councils, colleges, universities, and social service organizations have sparked miracles in the lives of their most disadvantaged constituents.

Ms. Chapin then informed the Council that Steven Knapp, President of the George Washington University, provided very eloquent and moving testimony on behalf of NEH at a public witness hearing this spring before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

Next, Ms. Chapin reported that she and her staff members met with over thirty freshman Congressional offices during May and June to encourage understanding about the impact of NEH-funded projects on ordinary Americans. Ms. Chapin also drew the Council's attention to four informational reports, which were prepared for Congressional staff by the NEH Office of White House and Congressional Affairs staff members and summer interns, in cooperation with NEH program staff, and the student practicum at Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts.

Ms. Chapin then informed the Council about an upcoming reception on Capitol Hill, hosted by House Humanities Caucus co-chairs, Representatives David Price and Tom Petri, to raise awareness about the reports and to encourage dialogue about how NEH grants build American communities.

Ms. Chapin concluded her report by notifying Council members that she and her core staff and summer interns will spend the remainder of the summer interacting with members of Congress, district office staff, appropriations staff, and committee and caucus staff, to make them aware of four specific groups that are positively affected by the work of NEH: youth, rural communities, veterans, and Native Americans.

4. Budget Report

Larry Myers, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with the budget report. Mr. Myers began his report by reminding Council members that at the last meeting he reported that NEH had been waiting for Congress to set final funding amounts for the remainder of fiscal year 2013. Congress and the President finalized the 2013 budget in late March 2013, which kept the 2013 budget sequester in place and included across-the-board rescissions for many agencies, including NEH.

Mr. Myers further explained that NEH's 2013 budget was reduced to \$138,383,000—a reduction of 5.2 percent (\$7.2 million less than last year). Mr. Myers also noted that NEH's funding has decreased by 17 percent since 2010 (about \$29 million). As a result, NEH will likely

fund fifty to seventy-five fewer projects than it funded last year. Mr. Myers concluded by advising Council members that he will present the 2013 final funding numbers at the November 2013 Council meeting.

Next, Mr. Myers turned to the fiscal year 2014 budget. Mr. Myers reported that the President submitted his 2014 budget to Congress in April 2013, which included a substantial increase for NEH: \$154,465,000. Unlike in previous years, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies did not hold an agency-specific hearing on the 2014 budget. Instead, Mr. Myers and Ms. Chapin together met informally with House and Senate staff about NEH's 2014 budget. They discussed the major features in NEH's budget request, the agency's recent notable achievements, and its impending office move to the Constitution Center. Mr. Myers reported that the House Subcommittee will likely mark up the various 2014 appropriations bills at a level that is substantially lower than the reduced funding levels for 2013, while the Senate's mark-ups should be closer to the President's proposed funding levels.

Mr. Myers concluded his report by noting that NEH has started to plan for the fiscal year 2015 budget and will submit its request to the Office of Management and Budget in September.

5. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Challenge Grants

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge, Jamie Doggett, and Martin Krislov also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Andrea Anderson, Acting Director of the Office of Challenge Grants, reminded the Committee that Steve Ross, who retired from his position as Director of the Office of Challenge Grants in January 2013, continues to work in the office several days per week as an expert consultant to assist with the transition from his long-time leadership. Ms. Anderson also reported to the Committee on recent staff travel.

b. Federal/State Partnership

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Federal/ State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge, Jamie Doggett, and Martin Krislov also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Edie Manza, Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, reported on the participation of state humanities councils in the 2013 National History Day competition, and on the planned participation of NEH and eleven state humanities councils in the 2013 National Book Festival, to be held in late September in Washington, D.C. Ms. Manza then discussed details of the recent orientation meeting for new executive directors of state humanities councils, which took place in May 2013. Ms. Manza concluded by explaining how the state humanities councils participated in programming for NEH's *Muslim Journeys* Bookshelf, and the plans for the councils' possible participation in the *Created Equal* film discussion series.

Next, Program Analyst Meg Ferris described the annual compliance plan required of all state humanities councils as a condition of ongoing yearly funding from NEH, and offered a few observations about the plans, including the increasing use of social media by state councils. She also shared with the Committee a list of local, regional, and national awards won by state councils in 2012. Then, Phoebe Stein, Executive Director of the Maryland Humanities Council, provided some brief remarks about the changing demographics and general characteristics of the state of Maryland, all of which shaped the various programs offered by her organization.

Finally, Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, updated the Committee on plans for the Federation's 2013 annual conference to be held in November in Birmingham, Alabama. She also reported on the collaborative efforts of state humanities councils and state libraries to plan events following the recent release of *The Heart of the Matter*, a report on the importance of the humanities.

c. Digital Humanities

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member David Hertz also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Brett Bobley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, reported to the Committee about a recent event at the White House called "The Open Science Champions of Change," where thirteen scientists and scholars were honored for making their research data available to the public and research community. He noted that two NEH grant recipients were among those honored: archaeologist Eric Consa, and rare book and manuscript expert William Noel.

Next, Humanities Administrator Ann Sneesby-Koch gave the Committee a presentation on NEH's efforts to digitize early grant records from the 1960s and 1970s through transcription of paper punch card records. She also described some noteworthy grant projects from these early years and drew the Committee's attention to an article in the current *Humanities* magazine on the same subject.

Finally, Program Officer Perry Collins provided the Committee with an update on the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), an initiative NEH funded in 2013. She reported that the DPLA public website launched in April 2013 and now provides access to over 2.5 million digitized images, documents, works of art, and other cultural heritage materials. Ms. Collins further noted that the DPLA received significant press coverage and was named one of the top fifty websites of 2013 by *Time* magazine. She concluded her remarks by mentioning that DPLA will soon provide access to over 3.5 million digital books currently in the public domain, and that it has appointed Dan Cohen, from George Mason University, as its new executive director.

d. Education Programs

Carol Swain, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Adele Alexander, Christopher Merrill, and Ricardo Quinones also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

William Craig Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, reported to the Committee on the division's recent activities. Mr. Rice reported that division staff members made site visits during June and July to various Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops around the country.

Next, Senior Program Officer Deborah Hurtt reported to the Committee on the competition for Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops. She reported that these programs bring groups of teachers together for intensive, one-week residence-based summer study of topics in American history, civilization, and culture at key sites important in the nation's development. She noted that twenty-one projects are being conducted during the summer of 2013.

Lastly, Senior Program Officer Jinlei Augst reported to the Committee on the Seminars and Institutes competition. These programs provide intellectual enrichment for school teachers and deepen their commitment to teaching. She further explained that the programs enable college teachers to conduct research projects and engage intensely with colleagues, while focusing on topics relevant to classroom teaching.

e. Preservation and Access

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire and Jamsheed Choksy also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Nadina Gardner, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, spoke to Committee members about some new features on the NEH website, which help illuminate the significant work supported by NEH awards. She noted the website's first use of video and audio clips, which engage the public more directly with NEH-funded projects. She also noted a collaborative feature that highlights NEH's agency-wide support for projects concerning Native American history and culture.

Ms. Gardner continued her report by mentioning that Acting Chairman Carole Watson

had recently presented awards at the National History Day competition, held at the University of Maryland in College Park, to young students who best utilized the historic newspaper collections supported by NEH and the Library of Congress.

Finally, Ms. Gardner, along with Deputy Director Ralph Canevali and Senior Program Officer Joel Wurl, offered the Committee a PowerPoint presentation on a newly-published NEH report that was previously sent to all Council members concerning the division's largest grant program, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources.

f. Public Programs

Cathy Davidson, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Mary Habeck, Bruce Sievers, and Martha Wagner Weinberg also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Karen Mittelman, Director of the Division of Public Programs, reported to the Committee on several upcoming projects supported by the division that make complex scholarship accessible to non-academic audiences. She also shared with the Committee a clip of the recent NEH-funded PBS special, *Constitution USA*, about the role of the Constitution in constitutional debates in American life.

Ms. Mittelman next called the Committee's attention to an interagency agreement with the U.S. State Department, which makes NEH-funded films available to international audiences. In light of this agreement, NEH now requests America's Media Makers grant recipients to provide their films free of any license fees for public diplomacy purposes. Screening these films at embassies and consulates overseas expands the reach of NEH-funded documentaries and promotes broader understanding of American history and culture.

Next, Eva Caldera, Assistant for Partnership and Strategic Initiatives, and Senior Program Officer Jeff Hardwick updated the Committee on the status of the *Muslim Journeys* Bookshelf. They explained that during the first phase NEH distributed the Bookshelf and accompanying programming resources to 953 libraries and state humanities councils across the

country to help public audiences better understand many facets of the Muslim world. NEH then followed up with small grants to 125 of the original recipients, for the purpose of conducting in-depth reading and discussion programs led by humanities scholars.

Ms. Mittelman then drew the Committee's attention to the *Created Equal* film set—a collection of four NEH-funded films on the theme of American civil rights. She remarked that the films, taken together, present a remarkable story about the importance of race in the making of American democracy, the power of individuals to effect change, and the historical context in which Americans have considered the ideas of freedom and equality. Ms. Mittelman reminded the Committee that the National Council voted in November 2012 to approve a cooperative agreement with the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History to administer the *Created Equal* project and to distribute the film set to 474 cultural organizations nationwide.

g. Research Programs

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Gary Glenn also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, reported on the work of the division since the National Council last met in March 2013. She stated that the division received its usual large number of applications for the Awards for Faculty and NEH Fellowships, and then discussed the division's outreach efforts. She noted that division staff members had presented a significant number of regional outreach workshops in such places as Washington State, Florida, Idaho, Connecticut, Southern Virginia and Wisconsin, and had recently conducted several NEH information sessions at various professional conferences.

Next, Ms. Akin informed the Committee about the launch of a web resource called *Founders Online*, through the National Archives and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. She noted that transcriptions of the papers of six founding fathers—George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and

Benjamin Franklin—are available free online and have benefited from NEH support. Finally, Ms. Aikin called the Committee’s attention to a collection of recently published books funded by the division’s Collaborative Research and Scholarly Editions and Translations grant programs.

h. Jefferson Lecture / National Humanities Medals

Rolena Adorno, Chair of the Jefferson Lecture / National Humanities Medals Committee, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Allison Blakely, Jamsheed Choksy, Dawn Delbanco, Paula Duffy, and Christopher Merrill also served on the Jefferson Lecture / National Humanities Medals Committee.

Ms. Adorno reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2014 Jefferson Lecture and the 2013 National Humanities Medals. Ms. Adorno noted that the annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities “recognizes an individual who has made significant scholarly contributions to the humanities and who has the ability to communicate the knowledge and wisdom of the humanities in a broadly appealing way.”

Ms. Adorno reported that NEH staff sent the Committee a booklet containing brief biographical sketches of each of the eighty-nine candidates to be considered for the 2014 Jefferson Lectureship. Ms. Adorno explained that this set of candidates included people who were nominated as a result of a nationwide solicitation of nominations, plus nominees carried over from 2012 and 2013.

Ms. Adorno reported that the Committee also considered candidates for the 2013 National Humanities Medals. She noted that the National Humanities Medals honor scholars, educators, documentary filmmakers, and other individuals, as well as organizations and institutions “whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens’ engagement with the humanities.” Ms. Adorno explained that recipients are selected by the President of the United States in consultation with the Chairman of NEH.

Ms. Adorno reported that the Committee's task was to consider the list of the 152 candidates for the 2013 awards.

Finally, Ms. Adorno reported that at the executive plenary session of today's meeting the Committee will present for the Council's consideration lists of the most highly recommended nominees for the 2014 Lectureship and the 2013 Medals.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item IV)

Acting Chairman Watson called the closed session of the one hundred and eightieth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 10:55 a.m.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item IV.A)

ACTIONS ON REQUESTS FOR CHAIRMAN'S GRANTS AND PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED
APPLICATIONS
(Agenda Items IV.A.1 & A.2)

Adam Wolfson, Assistant Chairman for Programs, called the National Council Members' attention to the Actions on Requests for Chairman's Grants and Previously Considered Applications contained in Tab A and Tab B of the Council Agenda Book.

CHALLENGE GRANTS
(Agenda Item IV.B)

(b) (5)

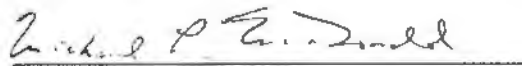


(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item VI)

Acting Chairman Watson thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one-hundred and eightieth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 12:50 p.m. on July 12, 2013.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: 27 November 2013

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SECOND
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 13-14, 2014

OLD POST OFFICE
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

Carole Watson, Deputy Chairman	Gary Glenn
Rolena Adorno	David Hertz
Adele Alexander	Dorothy Kosinski
Albert Beveridge	Marvin Krislov
Allison Blakely	Christopher Merrill
Constance Carroll	Daniel Okimoto
Jamsheed Choksy	Ramón Saldívar
Cathy Davidson	Bruce Sievers
Dawn Ho Delbanco	Katherine Tachau
Jane Marie Doggett	John Unsworth
Paula Duffy	Martha Wagner Weinberg
Gerald Early	

* Council members Camila Alire, Robert Martin, and Carol Swain did not attend. Council member John Unsworth attended only on Thursday, March 13, 2014.

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Thursday, March 13, 2014

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues. The Jefferson Lecture Committee met to discuss selecting a speaker for the 2015 Jefferson Lecture.

Friday, March 14, 2014

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Deputy Chairman Carole Watson called the one hundred and eighty-second meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and eighty-first meeting of the National Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Introductory Remarks

Deputy Chairman Watson began her remarks by acknowledging two guests at the meeting: Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and Stephen Kidd, Executive Director of the National Humanities Alliance. Deputy Chairman Watson then welcomed the newest member of the National Council on the Humanities, Daniel Okimoto, and briefly noted his accomplishments.

Deputy Chairman Watson next introduced a new NEH initiative called *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*, an agency-wide effort designed to serve veterans and to support projects that explore war and its aftermath, and promote discussion and a deeper understanding of the experience of service members.

Deputy Chairman Watson then announced to Council members that NEH's annual Jefferson Lecture will take place May 12, 2014 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and that Walter Isaacson will be the lecturer. She noted that the lecture will be live streamed.

Deputy Chairman Watson concluded her remarks by introducing a video presentation.

2. NEH Film Presentation

Deputy Chairman Watson introduced a film presentation of three short video excerpts highlighting various NEH-funded projects and other agency activities. The first clip was from a film titled *The Scholar and the Sailor*, about the impact NEH-funded projects had on one man, who turned to books and literature while serving a twenty-two-year prison sentence. The second was a trailer of an NEH-funded documentary, *Freedom Summer*, which will air in the summer of 2014. The final film clip was an excerpt of an interview with upcoming Jefferson Lecturer Walter Isaacson.

3. Staff Report

Jeff Thomas, Assistant Chairman for Planning and Operations, provided the National Council with the staff report.

He first introduced the following new employees: Tarsha Johnson, Grant Management Officer, in the Office of Grant Management and Mara Quintero Campbell, Attorney-Advisor, in the Office of the General Counsel.

Mr. Thomas next introduced four summer interns working in the various divisions and offices at NEH: Adam Gang, Sophia Peaslee and Joel Vazquez in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs, and Elisa Jina Moon, in the Division of Education Programs.

Next, Mr. Thomas drew the Council's attention to three recent staff promotions: Courtney Chapin was named Chief of Staff for NEH and will also continue in her role as the Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, Anne Lopez-Buitrago was named as the new

Deputy Director of the Office of Grant Management, and Ann Sneesby-Koch was promoted to Program Analyst in the Office of Digital Humanities.

Mr. Thomas then noted two staff departures: Claire Noble left her job in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs for a position in the private sector, and Rhiannon Roberts left her position in the Division of Preservation and Access for an opportunity at the Department of Energy.

4. Chief of Staff/White House and Congressional Affairs Report

Courtney Chapin, Chief of Staff and the Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the White House and Congressional report.

Ms. Chapin first noted that the previous week President Obama sent his proposed 2015 budget to Congress, and that since then she had met with staff from both the House and Senate Interior subcommittees, who seem confident of a smooth budget process for fiscal year 2015.

Turning to news from the White House, Ms. Chapin reported that the candidate vetting process for the next NEH Chairman was progressing and that a candidate could be nominated within the next two months. She also reported that the White House has expressed great enthusiasm about NEH's new veterans' initiative, *Standing Together*, and that NEH is looking forward to building collaborations with the State Department, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to promote *Standing Together*.

Next, Ms. Chapin gave Council members a summary of recent internal collaborations at NEH. These included a series of Google+ "Hangouts," that NEH staff and the staff of National History Day developed for National History Day students, educators and parents. The series totaled more than 1,300 viewers, with each individual Hangout designed for a specific audience of students: exhibition designers, website designers and documentary filmmakers.

Ms. Chapin also noted that staff from across NEH divisions have begun planning for a series of virtual meetings to highlight NEH's long history of work in the intersection of medicine, science and the humanities.

Ms. Chapin then recounted a series of events held in celebration of Black History month. The NEH Special Observances Committee hosted a portion of the elite “125 Voices,” a choir comprised of one student from every historically black college or university in the nation. In addition, New York University’s D.C. campus built its Black History month programming around NEH’s *Created Equal* series. Ms. Chapin explained that NEH helped host public screenings and panel discussions around the series, and thanked Council member Gerald Early for the discussion he lead on the Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Chapin concluded her remarks by telling the Council about her office’s congressional outreach efforts. She reported that NEH is working with the Congressional Arts Caucus, and that in the coming weeks NEH staff will do grants workshops with various members of Congress in their home districts. Ms. Chapin noted that her office is also planning a National History Day breakfast in June for members of Congress and their staff to connect with students and teachers from their congressional districts.

5. Budget Report

Larry Myers, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with the budget report.

Mr. Myers began his report by informing the Council that in January NEH received its fiscal year 2014 appropriation from Congress, which provided the agency funding totaling \$146 million. This budget is an increase of \$7.6 million over FY 2013 funding, which restores the agency to its 2012 level after a decrease in 2013, which was due to sequestration. The FY 2014 budget includes increases to all of NEH’s grant programs, and also to the administrative budget. Mr. Myers commented that NEH’s former *We the People* initiative received no funding in the new budget.

Next, Mr. Myers turned to the upcoming 2015 budget, stating that the Obama Administration had submitted its budget request to Congress the week before. Mr. Myers

reported that the budget request includes \$146 million for NEH, the same funding level as in FY 2014.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Adele Alexander, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, Albert Beveridge, John Unsworth and Martha Wagner Weinberg also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Ms. Alexander reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day the following presentations occurred: Office Director Brett Bobley provided the Committee with an overview of the various grant programs in the Office of Digital Humanities, which fall into three general categories: international research programs, domestic research programs, and an educational program that funds professional development institutes.

Mr. Bobley described one grant program in detail: Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants, which are designed to give teams an opportunity to be innovative and explore the best approaches for their research. He explained that once the start-up grant is completed some grantees will come back to apply for larger implementation grants from the Office of Digital Humanities or other NEH divisions.

Mr. Bobley concluded his talk by highlighting several examples of NEH-funded projects that appeared in the news, including the upcoming documentary *The Lost Diary of Dr. Livingstone*, which will air on PBS.

Jennifer Serventi, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Digital Humanities, then gave the Committee a report on workshops funded by the Office of Digital Humanities, which typically bring together people from different backgrounds to brainstorm and help address a multi-disciplinary issue.

Finally, Perry Collins, Program Officer in the Office of Digital Humanities, gave the Committee a report on the progress of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Ms.

Collins reported that since the website launch in April 2013, the DPLA has more than doubled the number of digital books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and other resources available online, to over six million items.

b. Education Programs

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Jamsheed Choksy, Ramón Saldivar and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Mr. Blakely reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day the following presentations occurred: Division Director William Craig Rice reported to the Committee on the division's recent activities. Mr. Rice reported that division staff have received proposals for the Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshop programs, and have already started preparations for panel review.

Senior Program Officer Julia Nguyen reported on the third cycle of the *Bridging Cultures* at Community Colleges program. She explained that projects in this grant category – which must focus on the themes of the agency-wide *Bridging Cultures* initiative – are intended to create opportunities for community college faculty members to study together, while improving their capacity to teach the humanities.

Lastly, Senior Program Officer Robert Sayers reported on the sixth round of Enduring Questions grants, which support faculty in the development of undergraduate courses that engage students in a sustained program of reading and discussion centered on a question of timeless significance, such as the nature of freedom or the role of art.

c. Preservation and Access

Cathy Davidson, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Gary Glenn and Katherine Tachau also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Ms. Davidson reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day the following presentations occurred: Division Director Nadina Gardner reported to the Committee on two grant programs, the National Digital Newspaper Program, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress to digitize and provide online access to American newspapers published between 1836 and 1922, and the Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program, a program that encourages museums, libraries, archives and historical societies to impose sustainable strategies for the preservation of their humanities collections. Applications to these two programs are currently under review and will be presented at the July 2014 meeting of the National Council.

Senior Program Officers Mary Downs and Joel Wurl gave the Committee a demonstration of several recent preservation and access projects on collections significant to the history of science, technology and medicine.

d. Public Programs

Dawn Ho Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Jamie Doggett, Paula Duffy and Christopher Merrill also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Ms. Delbanco reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day the following presentations occurred: Division Director Karen Mittelman began by describing several recent museum exhibitions supported by the division. She also announced the national launch of the traveling exhibition *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963*, which NEH developed in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution as part of the *Created Equal* project.

Next, Eva Caldera, Assistant Chairman for Partnership and Strategic Initiatives, updated the Committee on the status of the *Muslim Journeys* Bookshelf. Ms. Caldera commented that host sites of the Bookshelf have creatively adapted the *Muslim Journeys* resources to the needs and experiences of their communities, and shared several examples of programming. Ms.

Caldera also explained that Bookshelf sites share program information through a listserv set up by the American Library Association.

Michael Shirley, Deputy Director of the Division of Public Programs, then reported to the Committee on staff travel to national conferences and site visits over the past four months. He informed the Committee that division staff also hosted two Google+ “Hangout” sessions and several webinars.

Finally, the Committee watched a preview clip of a documentary film titled, *Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home*, a film supported at the development stage by NEH. Ms. Delbanco pointed to this project as an example of compelling programming for and about veterans, supported by NEH.

e. Federal/State Partnership

Dawn Ho Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Jamie Doggett, Paula Duffy and Christopher Merrill also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Ms. Delbanco reported that at the Committee’s meeting the previous day the following presentations occurred: Office Director Edythe Manza began the meeting by commenting on the many connections between state humanities councils and projects funded by the Division of Public Programs. Ms. Manza commented specifically that work being done with the *Muslim Journeys* Bookshelf is opening up new audiences and partners for state humanities councils.

Ms. Manza then reported that the annual orientation meeting is being planned for the five newest executive directors of state humanities councils. She also commented that there are plans to involve the state humanities councils in NEH’s new veterans’ initiative.

Next, Senior Program Officer Kathleen Mitchell spoke to the Committee about state humanities councils and how they use technology.

Finally, Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, spoke to the Committee, discussing the Federation's interest in working with NEH on the veterans' initiative, as well as current state council projects devoted to veterans.

f. Research Programs

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Gerald Early, David Hertz, Dorothy Kosinski and Daniel Okimoto also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Ms. Carroll reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day the following presentations occurred: Division Director Jane Aikin reported to the Committee on the division's activities since the last meeting. She noted that the division conducted three panels in January for the Library of Congress's John W. Kluge Center Fellowships. Ms. Aikin explained that recommendations for awards were made to Deputy Chairman Carole Watson and then transmitted to the Librarian of Congress, James Billington who makes final funding decisions.

Ms. Aikin then reported on the division's outreach efforts, describing workshops conducted by NEH staff, held around the country. She concluded by calling the Committee's attention to an impressive display of books recently published with NEH support.

g. Jefferson Lecture

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Jefferson Lecture Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Adele Alexander, Constance Carroll, Marvin Krislov, Christopher Merrill, Bruce Sievers and Martha Wagner Weinberg also served on the Committee.

Ms. Duffy reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2015 Jefferson Lecture. Ms. Duffy noted that the annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities recognizes distinguished achievement in the humanities and provides an occasion for the lecturer to communicate the wisdom of the humanities before a broad general audience.

Ms. Duffy explained that NEH staff sent the Committee a list of the nominations and brief biographical sketches of each of the 115 candidates. She stated that this set of candidates

included people who were nominated as a result of a nationwide solicitation of nominations, plus nominees carried over from 2013 and 2014.

Finally, Ms. Duffy reported that at the executive plenary session of today's meeting the Committee will present for the Council's consideration a list of the most highly recommended nominees for the 2015 Jefferson Lecture.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item IV)

Deputy Chairman Watson called the closed session of the one hundred and eighty-second meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 10:45 a.m.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item IV.A)

ACTIONS ON REQUESTS FOR CHAIRMAN'S GRANTS AND
PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED APPLICATIONS
(Agenda Items IV.A.1 & A.2)

Adam Wolfson, Assistant Chairman for Programs, called the National Council Members' attention to the Actions on Requests for Chairman's Grants and Previously Considered Applications contained in Tab A and Tab B of the Council Agenda Book, and to the copies found in their Council folders.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES
(Agenda Item IV.B)

(b) (5)


FOIA 16-20 NOTE: NEH has not included pages 15-23 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item VI)

Deputy Chairman Watson thanked the National Council members for their service to NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one hundred and eighty-second meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 12:35 p.m. on March 14, 2014.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: 15 July 2014

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THIRD
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
JULY 10-11, 2014

CONSTITUTION CENTER
400 7TH STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

Carole Watson, Acting Chairman	Gary Glenn
Adele Alexander	David Hertz
Camila Alire	Dorothy Kosinski
Albert Beveridge	Marvin Krislov
Allison Blakely	Christopher Merrill
Constance Carroll	Daniel Okimoto
Jamsheed Choksy	Bruce Sievers
Cathy Davidson	Katherine Tachau
Dawn Ho Delbanco	John Unsworth
Paula Duffy	Martha Wagner Weinberg
Gerald Early	

* Council members Rolena Adorno, Jane Marie Doggett, Robert Martin, Ramón Saldivar, and Carol Swain did not attend.

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VI. Adjournment	183:25

Thursday, July 10, 2014

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues. The National Humanities Medals Committee met to discuss candidates for the 2014 National Humanities Medals.

Friday, July 11, 2014

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item III)

Acting Chairman Carole Watson called the one hundred and eighty-third meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and eighty-second meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS

(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Introductory Remarks

Acting Chairman Watson began her remarks by acknowledging four special guests in the audience: Esther Mackintosh, from the Federation of State Humanities Councils, Stephen Kidd, from the National Humanities Alliance, Jim Grossman, from the American Historical Association, and Dan Cohen, from the Digital Public Library of America.

Acting Chairman Watson announced that earlier in the week the Senate confirmed William “Bro” Adams as the tenth Chairman of NEH. Acting Chairman Watson then thanked Jeff Thomas, Assistant Chairman for Planning and Operations, and Barry Maynes, Director of the Administrative Services Office, for their work in planning and executing NEH’s move from the Old Post Office to the agency’s new space in the Constitution Center building.

Next, Acting Chairman Watson discussed NEH's *Created Equal* initiative, which was launched in February 2013 and brought four films on civil rights to communities across the United States. In the fall of 2013, NEH made the four-film *Created Equal* DVD set available to museums, state humanities councils, libraries and other civic groups across the country for community discussions. Acting Chairman Watson noted that NEH has so far supported 253 *Created Equal* programs in forty-three states, attended by roughly 40,000 people.

Acting Chairman Watson then turned to NEH's newest initiative, *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. She noted that a wide array of veterans' service groups attended the initiative's launch, and encouraged Council members to read the article on *Standing Together* that appeared in *Perspectives*, the news magazine of the American Historical Association. Acting Chairman Watson commented that *Standing Together* will continue to build on work already being done by the state humanities councils. She cited a traveling exhibition funding by the Guam Humanities Council on Guam's Chamorro veterans, who have one of the highest rate of military service of any American group.

Acting Chairman Watson concluded her remarks by saying how honored she was to have served as Acting Chairman and thanked her NEH colleagues for their advice. She then called on Brett Boley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, to introduce a presentation by Dan Cohen, Executive Director of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

2. Presentation by Dan Cohen, Executive Director, Digital Public Library of America

Mr. Cohen gave an overview of the DPLA and spoke about the progress the project has made in the past year. He then demonstrated the DPLA website for the Council, showing the search function that accesses over seven million items from over 100,000 U.S. institutions. Mr. Cohen explained that the DPLA offers a variety of ways to explore its collections, including map-based interfaces, timelines, and items which have been curated into thematic exhibitions. Mr. Cohen then responded to several questions from NEH Council members, discussing how the

DPLA works with international counterparts, how it uses works in the public-domain, and the DPLA's relationship with the Library of Congress and Google.

3. Staff Report

Jeff Thomas, Assistant Chairman of Planning and Operations, provided the National Council with the staff report. He first introduced two new employees: Lindsay Forcade, Confidential Assistant to the Chief of Staff, and Shonda Johns, Administrative Operations Technician in the Division of Preservation and Access.

Mr. Thomas next introduced fifteen new interns working at NEH: Alex Black, in the Division of Public Programs; Josh Blecher-Cohen, in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Alaina Bompiedi, in the Division of Research Programs; Phoebe Coleman, in the Division of Public Programs; Alexis Dennis, in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Julia Falkowski, in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Caitlin Gemma, in EDSITEment; Morgan Harwood, in the Division of Education Programs; Zoe Jackson in the Division of Research Programs; Grace McNamee, in the Division of Education Programs; Jaime Mears, in the Division of Preservation and Access; Karolyne Ridgill, in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs; Susannah Stern in the Division of Education Programs; Yanli Wang, in the Office of Communications; and Julie Ye, in the Office of Publications.

Mr. Thomas then drew the Council's attention to the recent promotion of Meg Ferris McReynolds to the position of Program Officer in the Federal-State Partnership Office.

Mr. Thomas then noted two staff departures: Danielle Shapiro left her job in the Division of Public Program after becoming a mother in May 2014, and John Gleason, NEH's Director of Accounting, retired after a long and distinguished career in Federal service.

Finally, Mr. Thomas called the Council's attention to the printed program from NEH's Employee Recognition Ceremony.

4. Chief of Staff/White House and Congressional Affairs Report

Courtney Chapin, Chief of Staff and the Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the White House and Congressional report.

Ms. Chapin began her report by thanking Jeff Thomas, Assistant Chairman of Planning and Operations; Gina Bono, Executive Assistant; Barry Maynes, Director of the Administrative Services Office; the staff of the Administrative Services Office; Tanya Peltz, Director of the Office of Information Resources Management; and the staff of the Office of Information Resources Management, for their hard work on the move from the Old Post Office.

Moving to White House business, Ms. Chapin explained that Dr. William “Bro” Adams, whom the Senate had recently confirmed, would be sworn in and appointed by the White House within the coming weeks and shortly thereafter begin work leading NEH.

Ms. Chapin next reported that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies recently approved the FY 2015 appropriations bill, putting NEH’s appropriation at \$138 million, and that the bill will be next considered in the Senate.

Ms. Chapin then informed the Council that since the last Council meeting her office has been conducting a number of outreach activities, such as a Congressional grants training workshop in Representative Steny Hoyer’s district (D-Maryland), and several other grants workshops and trainings. Ms. Chapin’s office also hosted a series of webinars for small museums interested in NEH and state council grants.

Ms. Chapin told the Council that at a recent public witness hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, NEH’s humanities impact was highlighted by Jesse Reising of the Warrior-Scholars Project, Waddell Stillman of Historic Hudson Valley, Peter Meineck of Aquila Theater, who represented the National Humanities Alliance, and Trent Clark, an Idaho Humanities Council board member who spoke on behalf of the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Ms. Chapin also discussed the official launch of the *Standing Together* initiative, and gave Council members a summary of recent internal collaborations at NEH, including work with the Office of Digital Humanities, which helped the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs plan and host an open house on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Chapin concluded her remarks by discussing the work of the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs summer interns on a recent Congressional breakfast for National History Day students together with over thirty members of Congress.

5. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Before beginning the report for the Committee on Digital Humanities, Committee Chair Marvin Krislov deferred to Council member Dawn Delbanco to offer a resolution of appreciation for Acting Chairman Carole Watson, for consideration and approval by the Council. The text of the resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, Acting Chairman Carole Watson has led the National Endowment for the Humanities for the last fourteen months as Acting Chairman;

WHEREAS, Acting Chairman Watson has for the second time stepped into the critical role of guiding the Endowment through a time of transition;

WHEREAS, Acting Chairman Watson has brought to this delicate task exceptional qualities of tact, calm, patience, humor, sharp and wise judgment, and a good will and open ear that are extended to all;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the members of the National Council on the Humanities thank Acting Chairman Carole Watson for her selfless devotion and uncountable contributions to the National Endowment, to public service, and to the cause of the humanities. We are all deeply in her debt for her sage guidance and we are immensely grateful to know that we will continue to benefit from her indispensable institutional memory, as well as her quietly passionate commitment to the future of the humanities.

The National Council voted unanimously in favor of the resolution as provided above.

Mr. Krislov then delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Gary Glenn and Daniel Okimoto also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Mr. Krislov reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Brett Bobley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, provided the Committee with a history of NEH's support for digital humanities projects and then explained the process by which NEH asked the field for advice in creating what is now the Office of Digital Humanities. In response to a question from Mr. Okimoto about whether NEH had been engaged with the private sector, Mr. Bobley detailed the ways in which NEH has worked with both Google and Microsoft Research.

Also during the Committee meeting, Jennifer Serventi, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Digital Humanities, gave the Committee an overview of the Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, a professional development program that offers training in the field. Mr. Krislov suggested that funding might be made available to circulate the curriculum materials to a wider audience.

Mr. Glenn then stated, during the Committee meeting, that he struggled to understand the humanities aims of many of the programs, and expressed concern that the digital humanities were presenting technologies to scholars in hopes they might find a use for them. Mr. Krislov reported that the Committee then had a long and rich discussion on this topic. Mr. Glenn wondered if efforts would be better spent solving pressing problems in the humanities, such as the preservation of the Internet for future generations. Mr. Okimoto disagreed that the digital humanities was a solution in search of a problem, stating that he believes faculty members are searching for digital tools to help with their research.

b. Education Programs

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Constance Carroll, Katherine Tachau and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Ms. Delbanco reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day William Craig

Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, updated the Committee on the division's recent activities. Mr. Rice reported that division staff members made site visits during June and July to various Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops around the country. Next, Senior Program Officer Rebecca Boggs reported to the Committee on the competition for Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops; lastly, Senior Program Officer Douglas Arnold reported to the Committee on the Seminars and Institutes competition.

c. Federal/State Partnership

David Hertz, Chair of the Committee on Federal/ State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Adele Alexander also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Mr. Hertz reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day staff made several presentations. Edie Manza, Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, reported on the recent participation of state humanities councils in the 2014 National History Day competition, and in the 2014 National Book Festival, to be held in late August in Washington, D.C. Ms. Manza then discussed details of the recent orientation meeting for the five newest executive directors of state humanities councils, which took place in May 2014. Ms. Manza mentioned two particular projects of state humanities councils and concluded her remarks by thanking the Federation of State Humanities Councils for providing NEH many opportunities to participate in the upcoming Annual Conference of the State Humanities Councils.

Next, Program Analyst Meg Ferris McReynolds described the annual compliance plan required of all state humanities councils as a condition of ongoing yearly funding from NEH, and shared with the Committee a list of local, regional, and national awards won by state councils in 2013.

Ms. McReynolds then reported on the Office's activities with the *Standing Together* initiative, including an offer of funding to each of the humanities councils and a series of

conference calls and webinars to share programming ideas.

Then, Hayden Anderson, Executive Director of the Maine Humanities Council, provided some brief remarks about the evolution of literature and medicine for veterans, one of the five national projects funded by NEH as a part of *Standing Together*.

Finally, Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, described the Federation's work to create an online library of documents related to *Standing Together* and the work of state councils on veterans programming. Ms. Mackintosh then updated the Committee on plans for the Federation's 2014 annual conference. She also reported on plans for the Federation to work with the Pulitzer Prize organization to recognize its one-hundredth anniversary in 2016 through a nationwide grassroots effort focused on reading and the literary arts.

d. Preservation and Access

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Ms. Duffy reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day staff made several presentations. Nadina Gardner, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, informed the Committee that the division is presently carrying out review of applications for Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions. In the months to come, panels will meet to evaluate applications in the Research and Development, Education and Training, and Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant programs.

Ms. Gardner then reported on her office's efforts to provide guidance to Native American organizations interested in applying to NEH. She noted that Program Officer Jesse Johnston had recently attended the annual meeting of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums and chaired a session at the conference.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Leah Weinryb Grohsgal gave a presentation on the non-

English language newspapers represented in *Chronicling America*, the online repository of historic American newspapers supported by NEH and the Library of Congress through the National Digital Newspaper Program.

e. Public Programs

Camila Alire, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Jamsheed Choksy, Gerald Early and Dorothy Kosinski also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Ms. Alire reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day staff made several presentations. Karen Mittelman, Director of the Division of Public Programs, reported to the Committee on several recent museum exhibitions supported by the Division, including a project at the Mystic Seaport Museum to interpret the far-reaching economic and cultural impact of whaling in the nineteenth century. The Committee also watched a preview of *James McNeill Whistler: The Case for Beauty*, a one-hour NEH-funded documentary film exploring the life and art of the American artist, which will air on PBS in September.

Senior Program Officer Jeff Hardwick described the division's support for public radio programs, noting that radio is an increasingly popular medium and that it offers a very accessible way for NEH to reach wide audiences with engaging humanities content. Deputy Director Michael Shirley then reported on staff travel and outreach efforts this year.

f. Research Programs

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Cathy Davidson, Christopher Merrill and John Unsworth also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Mr. Blakely reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, provided an overview of the division's current work. She reported that in the coming week the Division will convene the first of thirty-eight peer review panels to consider new applications in its three fellowship programs.

Ms. Aikin summarized the staff's spring application writing workshops and presentations, and then reported that James Billington, the Librarian of Congress, had approved the twelve applicants recommended by NEH staff for Kluge fellowships. Ms. Aikin explained that the Division reviews the awards and the Librarian makes the final decision.

Next, Ms. Aikin called the Committee's attention to a display of books recently published with NEH support and highlighted four of them: Ari Kelman's *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek*; James Turner's *Philology*; the fortieth volume of the papers of Thomas Jefferson; and a product arising from an NEH-supported conference called *Print Culture Histories Beyond the Metropolis*.

g. National Humanities Medals

Constance Carroll, Chair of the National Humanities Medals Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Adele Alexander, Jamsheed Choksy, Gerald Early, Dorothy Kosinski, Christopher Merrill, Bruce Sievers and Martha Weinberg also served on the National Humanities Medals Committee.

Ms. Carroll reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2014 National Humanities Medals. She noted that the National Humanities Medals honor scholars, educators, public programmers, and other individuals, as well as organizations and groups "whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens' engagement with the humanities." Ms. Carroll explained that the role of the National Council is to advise the Chairman on the relative merits of the candidates who have been nominated for the award. Honorees are selected by the President of the United States in consultation with the Chairman of NEH, and up to twelve awards are conferred annually.

Ms. Carroll explained that NEH staff sent the Committee a list of the nominations and brief biographical sketches of each of the 147 candidates. She stated that this set of candidates included people who were nominated as a result of a nationwide solicitation of nominations, plus eligible candidates who were carried over from the previous two years solicitations.

Finally, Ms. Carroll reported that at the executive plenary session of today's meeting the Committee would present for the Council's consideration a list of the most highly recommended nominees for the 2014 Medals.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item IV)

Acting Chairman Watson called the closed session of the one hundred and eighty-third meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 10:58 a.m.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item IV.A)

ACTIONS ON REQUESTS FOR CHAIRMAN'S GRANTS AND
PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED APPLICATIONS
(Agenda Items IV.A.1 & A.2)

Adam Wolfson, Assistant Chairman for Programs, informed the Council that there were no Chairman's grants and no actions on previously considered applications to report.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES
(Agenda Item IV.B)

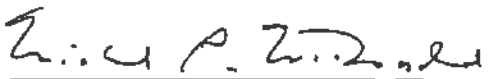
(b) (5)



ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item VI)

Acting Chairman Watson thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one-hundred and eighty-third meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 12:40 p.m. on July 11, 2014.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: November 14, 2014

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOURTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014

CONSTITUTION CENTER
400 7TH STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

William Adams, Chairman
Adele Alexander
Camila Alire
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Jamsheed Choksy
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Ho Delbanco
Jane Marie Doggett,
Paula Duffy

Gary Glenn
David Hertz
Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Christopher Merrill
Daniel Okimoto
Ramón Saldivar
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg

* Council members Rolena Adorno, Gerald Early, Robert Martin, and Carol Swain did not attend.

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Thursday, November 13, 2014

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Challenge Grants, Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, November 14, 2014

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman William “Bro” Adams called the one hundred and eighty-fourth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and eighty-third meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Introductory Remarks

Chairman Adams began his remarks by thanking the Council for the work they do for NEH at the National Council meetings. He then spoke about the special initiative that NEH will launch in the coming months, called *The Common Good*. *The Common Good* is an agency-wide initiative that aims to increase public understanding of humanities scholarship and public interaction with the humanities. He also noted that NEH is in the process of planning for the celebration of the agency’s upcoming 50th anniversary.

Chairman Adams then provided the National Council with an overview of recent activities and events at NEH. He explained that earlier in November NEH convened a group of community college presidents for an informal conversation about how NEH might collaborate further with that sector of higher education. He noted that NEH was considering sponsoring a

community college gathering, centered around the humanities, in the fall of 2015. Chairman Adams also highlighted a number of other agency programs including a recent workshop on military history held by the Office of Digital Humanities as part of the *Standing Together* initiative and several NEH-funded documentaries that aired during the 2014 fall on PBS. He then called on Karen Mittelman, Director of the Division of Public Programs, to introduce a presentation by Beth Hoppe, Chief Programming Officer at PBS.

2. Presentation by Beth Hoppe, Chief Programming Officer, PBS

Ms. Hoppe gave the Council an overview of the mission of PBS, the projects PBS is currently working on, and how NEH has partnered with PBS over the years. She also discussed some of PBS' NEH-funded projects and showed a clip from the NEH-supported documentary, *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*. Ms. Hoppe then discussed the impact that PBS programming has on communities. Finally, Ms. Hoppe turned to upcoming PBS programming, closing her presentation with a clip from *The Italian Americans*, another NEH-supported documentary that will air on PBS in February 2015. Following the video clip, Ms. Hoppe responded to questions from Council members about how PBS reaches different demographics and PBS' interactions with local stations.

3. Staff Report

Deputy Chairman Carole Watson provided the National Council with the staff report. She first introduced four new employees: Leondra Burchall, Program Officer, Federal/State Partnership; Sean Doss, Director, Accounting Office; Alice Renee Exton, Human Resources Specialist, Office of Human Resources; and Sarah Lepinski, Program Officer, Division of Preservation and Access.

Ms. Watson then introduced three new interns in the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs: Max Kiser, Eric Lu and Noel Ortiz.

Ms. Watson then noted one recent staff departure: Adriana Martinez left her administrative support position in the Office of the Inspector General for a position at the Marine Corps base at Quantico.

Ms. Watson then announced the three 2014 Educational Opportunity for Career Development awardees: Margaret Ferris McReynolds, Office of Federal/State Partnership; Steve Moyer, Office of Publications; and Jorge Vasquez, Office of Human Resources.

Ms. Watson next announced the seven 2014 Independent Study, Research and Development awardees: Caroline Cortina, Division of Public Programs; Leah Weinryb Grohsgal, Division of Preservation and Access; Deborah Hurtt, Division of Education Programs; Brandon Johnson, Office of Challenge Grants; Richard Pettit, Division of Education Programs; Daniel Sack, Division of Research Programs; and David Weinstein, Division of Public Programs.

Ms. Watson then announced the retirement of Laura Word, who will leave NEH at the end of 2014 after more than twenty years at the agency. Ms. Watson thanked Ms. Word for her many years of dedicated service.

Finally, Ms. Watson announced her own plan to retire from NEH at the beginning of 2015. She thanked her colleagues and the Council for their advice and support during her years at NEH.

4. Chief of Staff/White House and Congressional Affairs Report

Courtney Chapin, Chief of Staff and Director of White House and Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the White House and Congressional report.

Ms. Chapin began by discussing NEH's fiscal year 2015 budget. Ms. Chapin explained that the current continuing resolution for funding will end on December 12, 2014, and that there is uncertainty about whether Congress will enact another continuing resolution or pass a FY 2015 omnibus spending bill before December 12th. Ms. Chapin noted that NEH would have a clearer sense of how the new 114th Congress plans to legislate after the members are sworn in in

January and the committee assignments are announced. She commented that several National Council nominees have been awaiting Senate confirmation for over a year.

Ms. Chapin then commented on the retirement of two members of Congress who often work with NEH: Congressman Tom Petri (R-Wisconsin), who serves as the Republican co-chair of the Congressional Humanities Caucus, and Congressman Jim Moran (D-Virginia), who had served as the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

Next, Ms. Chapin reported on the activities of the Office of White House and Congressional Affairs. She explained that her office has been very busy introducing Chairman Adams to members of Congress and congressional staff, and that the Chairman had already met with sixteen members of Congress.

Ms. Chapin also reported that her office has been holding 'back-to-basics' briefings for congressional staff. These briefings showcase NEH as a resource for congressional offices and explain what NEH does and the constituents NEH engages. Ms. Chapin said that her office would host another session on December 5, 2014, which will be live-streamed by the House Democratic Caucus to district staffers across the country.

Ms. Chapin also reported that the following week her office will put on an event for more than forty congressional staff members highlighting NEH's history of supporting American Indian communities. Finally, Ms. Chapin informed the Council that since the last Council meeting her office has conducted a number of grant workshops, in conjunction with various congressional offices.

5. Budget Report

Larry Myers, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with the budget report. Mr. Myers began his report by echoing Ms. Chapin's report about the current uncertainty surrounding budget negotiations in Congress, and whether the fiscal year 2015 budget would be determined by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Myers then turned to reporting on NEH's 2014 fiscal year. He drew the Council's attention to a folder containing three memoranda prepared by Frank Shaw, Senior Program Analyst in the Office of Planning and Budget, that summarize and analyze data on NEH's and the National Council's fiscal year 2014 activities: the first, a summary of the number of projects and the amount of grants and awards that received funding in 2014; the second, a review of the number of applications submitted in 2014, and the number the Council recommended for funding; and third, the amount of federal matching funds (exclusive of NEH Challenge Grants) that were released in 2014 to individual projects to match donations those projects received from third parties.

Mr. Myers reported that the Council considered a total of 4,231 applications during fiscal year 2014, which represents a decline of approximately ten percent over last year's volume, and marks the third consecutive year of reductions in the number of applications to NEH. He noted, however, that applications in 2011 were at the highest level in more than twenty years.

Mr. Myers also stated that during fiscal year 2014 the Council recommended 650 of the applications to the Chairman for funding, or approximately fifteen percent of the total. Mr. Myers explained that this number is comparable to the past several years.

Next, Mr. Myers explained that every year all federal agencies undergo a review of their finances and operations by independent auditors. The results of this audit are submitted to the Office of Management and Budget and to members of different congressional committees. Mr. Myers reported that for the tenth year in a row NEH received a clean bill of fiduciary health from the auditors. Mr. Myers attributed this success to the work of the NEH offices that allocate, record, expend, and monitor the agency's financial resources, and to the excellent management of funds within the program offices and divisions. He commented that in recent years budgeting has been complicated by the government shutdown, NEH's move to its new location, and the uncertainty surrounding NEH's appropriations.

Finally, Mr. Myers reported that as part of the annual audit NEH and all other agencies are required to publish a Performance and Accountability Report (PAR), which reviews the performance of programs, and financial systems and operations. Mr. Myers told Council members that his office will post NEH's fiscal year 2014 PAR report on the agency website the following week and then submit it to Congress.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Challenge Grants

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Marvin Krislov and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Mr. Blakely reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Andrea Anderson, Acting Director of the Office of Challenge Grants, updated the Committee on the office's recent activities including certifications of matching grant gifts and staff travel. Following Ms. Anderson's report, Senior Program Officer Brandon Johnson gave a presentation about his recent site visits to Illinois College, Lewis and Clark Community College, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

b. Digital Humanities

John Unsworth, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Cathy Davidson, Dawn Delbanco and Ramón Saldivar also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Mr. Unsworth reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Brett Bobley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, discussed some of the partnerships his office is involved in. Mr. Bobley explained that the Office of Digital Humanities has actively pursued partnerships with other funding organizations, both domestic and international. Mr. Bobley spoke specifically about the Transatlantic Platform, which is a group of humanities and social science funders from Europe, North America and South America. Mr. Bobley also reported that

he recently met with the National Research Foundation of Korea and Senior Program Officer Jason Rhody met with FAPESP, a major funder of humanities and science in San Paulo, Brazil.

Next, Mr. Bobley discussed an NEH workshop that Northeastern University and the Society for Military History, hosted in October. The workshop was a part of NEH's *Standing Together* initiative and it brought together military historians from across the country to learn how they could use the latest digital humanities techniques for their research.

c. Public Programs

John Unsworth, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Cathy Davidson, Dawn Delbanco and Ramón Saldivar also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Mr. Unsworth reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Division Director Karen Mittelman began by describing several recent and upcoming projects supported by NEH. One project she highlighted was "Native Voices: New England Tribal Families," an exhibition at the Long Island Children's Museum. Ms. Mittelman explained that the exhibit introduces children to four tribal communities, and emphasizes how contemporary families balance cultural traditions with modern life.

Ms. Mittelman then discussed the Division's new grant program, Digital Projects for the Public and how the program was designed in response to the rapid changes in how public audiences are engaging with humanities ideas.

Next, Ms. Mittelman updated the Committee on the Division's small grant programs. She noted that from October to December, 2014 there are forty-six museums, libraries and historical societies around the country hosting eleven different small traveling exhibitions funded by the NEH. She also told the Committee that since July, seventy-two *Created Equal* programs have been held at thirty-five institutions in twenty-two states and one U.S. territory.

Senior Program Officer Chrissy Cortina then presented a report about the NEH On the Road program. Ms. Cortina attended a recent training workshop for museums that will host the

NEH exhibit. Both Ms. Mittelman and Ms. Cortina noted that the small grant programs allow museums and libraries to reach an audience that may not otherwise be exposed to NEH programs.

d. Education Programs

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Adele Alexander and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Ms. Duffy reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day William Craig Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, reported to the Committee on the Division's recent activities. Mr. Rice also provided the Committee with a listing of the Division's 2015 summer Seminars and Institutes programs and a booklet on the recipients of the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards.

Next, Senior Program Officer Deborah Hurtt provided the Committee with details about NEH's Humanities Initiatives programs for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Ms. Hurtt reported that with award limits at \$100,000 each, these programs enable faculty within an institution, or from cooperating schools, to engage in study and strengthen their capacity to teach humanities.

Finally, Ms. Hurtt informed the Committee that in 2014, in addition to its *Bridging Cultures* initiative, the Division was particularly interested in proposals on foreign languages, those involving connections between the humanities and professional training in fields such as medicine, nursing, technology, business, law, and economics, or those on areas of interest to American military veterans.

e. Federal/State Partnership

Jamie Doggett, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Dorothy Kosinski and Daniel Okimoto also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Ms. Doggett reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, reported on the Federation's 2014 annual conference. Ms. Mackintosh specifically discussed a presentation at the conference on American demographics by Paul Taylor, a senior fellow at the Pew Research Center. Edythe Manza, Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, then reported to the Committee about the Chairman's remarks at the annual Federation conference.

Next, Program Analyst Margaret Ferris McReynolds described to the Committee the Office's activities with the *Standing Together* initiative, including a session at the recent Federation conference. Ms. McReynolds concluded her remarks by updating the Committee on NEH's long-term project to update its own historical records in digital form.

f. Preservation and Access

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire, Albert Beveridge, and Christopher Merrill also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Ms. Carroll reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day staff made several presentations. Division Director Nadina Gardner reported on the Division's efforts to coordinate with several other Federal agencies to promote funding opportunities for organizations that oversee the cultural legacy of Native Americans. The multi-agency group will prepare sessions for the 2015 annual conference of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums.

Ms. Gardner also reported that the Division was briefed by staff of the Getty Museum on its new initiative, Managing Collection Environments. This initiative will focus on research and education in sustainable preservation practices. Ms. Gardner remarked that the Division has funded sustainable preservation for the past six years and was pleased to see that the Getty's new efforts in this area complement those of NEH.

Next, Ms. Gardner reported on the results of the Division's third round of strategic planning. The Division considered priorities and identified two topics deserving special emphasis: open access to grant products and how to respond to the problems associated with the rapid deterioration of film, video and recorded sound.

Finally, Senior Program Officers Jesse Johnston and Joshua Sternfeld gave a PowerPoint presentation on audiovisual preservation and identified some of the ways in which NEH is helping address this problem.

g. Research Programs

Katherine Tachau, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Jamsheed Choksy, Gary Glenn and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Ms. Tachau reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, reported to the Committee on the current activities in the Division, including recent deadlines for three grant programs: Summer Stipends, Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions, and Documenting Endangered Languages. Ms. Aikin also reported that the Division is preparing for the review of fellowship applications for the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress.

Ms. Aikin concluded by calling the Committee's attention to an impressive display of books recently published with NEH support. Ms. Aikin singled out *The American Vice-Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power* by Jules Witcover, *Homer on the Gods and Human Virtue* by Peter J. Ahrensdorf and Ellen T. Harris' *George Frideric Handel: A Life with Friends*, all of which were supported by NEH, to the Committee.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

Chairman Adams called the closed session of the one hundred and eighty-fourth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 10:50 a.m.

FOIA 16-20 NOTE: NEH has not included pages 15-25 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item V)

Chairman Adams thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one-hundred and eighty-fourth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 12:30 p.m. on November 14, 2014.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: 6 March 2015

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIFTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 5, 2015

CONSTITUTION CENTER
400 7TH STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

William Adams, Chairman
Rolena Adorno
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Ho Delbanco
Jane Marie Doggett
Paula Duffy

Gerald Early
Gary Glenn
David Hertz
Marvin Krislov
Christopher Merrill
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg

* Council members, Adele Alexander, Camila Alire, Jamsheed Choksy, Dorothy Kosinski, Robert Martin, Daniel Okimoto, and Ramón Saldívar did not attend.

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Thursday, March 5, 2015

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman William “Bro” Adams called the one hundred and eighty-fifth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at noon for a condensed meeting due to severe winter weather conditions in the Washington, D.C. area. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The Council voted to adopt the minutes of the one hundred and eighty-fourth meeting of the National Council without amendment.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item IV)

Due to weather and time constraints, Chairman Adams moved directly into the closed session of the one hundred and eighty-fifth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities.

ACTIONS ON REQUESTS FOR CHAIRMAN’S GRANTS AND
PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED APPLICATIONS
(Agenda Items IV.A & B)

Deputy Chairman Margaret Plympton called the National Council Members’ attention to the Actions on Requests for Chairman’s Grants and Previously Considered Applications contained in Tab A and Tab B of the Council Agenda Book, and to the copies found in their Council folders.

FOIA 16-20 NOTE: NEH has not included pages 1-11 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item VI)

Chairman Adams thanked the National Council members for their service to NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one hundred and eighty-fifth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: 13 July 2015

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIXTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
JULY 9-10, 2015

CONSTITUTION CENTER
400 7TH STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Members Present*

William D. Adams, Chairman	Paula Duffy
Rolena Adorno	Gary Glenn
Adele Alexander	David Hertz
Camila Alire	Dorothy Kosinski
Albert Beveridge	Marvin Krislov
Allison Blakely	Christopher Merrill
Constance Carroll	Bruce Sievers
Jamsheed Choksy	John Unsworth
Dawn Ho Delbanco	Martha Wagner Weinberg
Jamie Doggett	

* Council members Cathy Davidson, Gerald Early, Robert Martin, Daniel Okimoto, Ramón Saldívar, and Katherine Tachau did not attend.

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Thursday, July 9, 2015

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Federal/State Partnership, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, July 10, 2015

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman William Adams called the one hundred and eighty-sixth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and eighty-fifth meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Adams began his remarks by acknowledging the hard work of Council members and NEH staff in preparing for and attending NEH Council meetings. Chairman Adams then discussed the importance of history, and major political and cultural milestones in our country's history, in providing the foundation for public memory. He noted the fundamental role cultural symbols play in public and cultural life and how these ideas create a powerful argument for the humanities and the work of NEH. Chairman Adams ended his remarks by informing the National Council that NEH had recently received an impressive report about its *Created Equal* film series, a program NEH launched in February 2013 to bring four films on civil rights to communities across the United States.

2. Deputy Chairman's Remarks

Deputy Chairman Margaret Plympton began her remarks by welcoming Scott Krawczyk, the new Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership as of August 2015, to NEH. She also welcomed Federation of State Humanities Councils President Esther Mackintosh and National Humanities Alliance Executive Director Stephen Kidd, to the Council meeting.

Deputy Chairman Plympton then updated the National Council about recent activities at NEH. She drew Council members' attention to the printed staff report, which details new NEH staff hires and departures, and NEH interns. She also spoke about progress in NEH's strategic planning initiatives, and various implementation goals such as reaffirming NEH's mission statement and identifying a set of strategies and tactics to ensure future progress. NEH's strategic planning process will inform NEH's budget discussions for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Next, Deputy Chairman Plympton discussed several of NEH's ongoing initiatives including the *Common Good* initiative and *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. She noted that within the rubric of the *Standing Together* initiative, NEH embarked on a partnership with the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress to encourage veterans to record their own oral histories. She also noted the Summer Reading List, a non-fiction focus list for young readers, which NEH has been distributing in cooperation with the American Library Association.

Deputy Chairman Plympton concluded her remarks by giving the National Council an overview of NEH plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the agency's founding; these plans include a range of events and initiatives that will start in early September 2015 and run through the fall of 2016. NEH will work with the three entities that were part of the original formation of NEH: the American Council of Learned Societies, Phi Beta Kappa, and the Council of Graduate Schools, along with other partners across the country. Highlight events include presentations at the fall 2015 Chicago Humanities Festival, the 2016 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities, and a convening in 2016 at the University of Virginia to discuss the next fifty years of the humanities.

Deputy Chairman Plympton then introduced Kim Fortney, Deputy Director of National History Day, to speak about National History Day and NEH support of its accomplishments.

3. Presentation by Kim Fortney, Deputy Director, National History Day

Ms. Fortney gave an overview of National History Day and spoke about the progress the project has made since NEH provided seed funding in 1978. She then showed portions of a video NEH created at the National History Day contest two years ago. Ms. Fortney explained that with NEH support National History Day has grown from a program in fewer than ten states into a national student contest and organization that offers an array of professional development opportunities for teachers. Ms. Fortney detailed for the National Council the various ways in which NEH has supported National History Day, not just by providing funding but also by sending staff to participate as judges during the final competitions, as well as the Chairman and Deputy Chairman participating in the annual medals ceremony; by organizing the 'Breakfast on the Hill' event to honor medalists at the U.S. Capitol, and by instituting a special prize to honor students who use *Chronicling America*, the historic newspaper database compiled by NEH and the Library of Congress.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

Tim Aiken, Director of Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional Affairs report.

Mr. Aiken reported that although the possibility of a government shutdown exists if Congress can't pass a federal budget for fiscal year 2016, encouraging signs suggest this won't happen. He also reported that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies recently approved the FY 2016 appropriations bill, with level funding of \$146 million for NEH, and that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the same level funding.

Mr. Aiken concluded his report by informing the National Council about upcoming Congressional activities: Ed Ayers, a pending National Council nominee, will host a briefing on

Capitol Hill along with his colleagues from the *American History Guys* radio program, and later this summer the NEH Chairman will travel to a number of states and meet with various members of Congress in their districts, to discuss the important role of NEH across the nation.

5. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Bruce Sievers and Martha Wagner Weinberg also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Ms. Carroll reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Brett Bobley, Director of the Office of Digital Humanities, provided the Committee with an update on the various grant programs and initiatives in the Office of Digital Humanities. Mr. Bobley briefed the Committee on NEH's participation in the Transatlantic Platform for Humanities and Social Sciences, a group of North American, South American, and European funding organizations working together to leverage additional support for international humanities efforts. He reported that he is working with the Transatlantic Platform to expand the Office of Digital Humanities' longstanding Digging Into Data grant program from four nations to twelve.

Mr. Bobley then discussed the new Humanities Open Book grant program, introduced by NEH in January 2015 as part of the Common Good initiative, jointly funded by the Mellon Foundation, and intended to support university presses, libraries, and other scholarly publishing efforts to digitize important out-of-print humanities books and make them available as high-quality e-books. Digitized books supported by this program would also be made

available through the Digital Public Library of America, which NEH has funded in the past, and the Hathi Trust.

Also during the Committee meeting, Senior Program Officer, Jennifer Serventi, gave the Committee an overview of the Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, a professional development program that offers training in the digital humanities field.

b. Education Programs

Christopher Merrill, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Gary Glenn, Dorothy Kosinski, and John Unsworth also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Mr. Merrill reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day William Craig Rice, Director of the Division of Education Programs, updated the Committee on the division's recent activities. Mr. Rice reported that division staff members made site visits during June and July to various Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops around the country.

Next, Mr. Rice reported to the Committee about the launch of two new grant programs in the Division of Education. The first, Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges, provides grants of up to \$100,000 each to enable faculty within community colleges to engage in study and improve their capacity to teach the humanities. The second new category, Dialogues on the Experience of War, is a *Standing Together* program and supports NEH's *Common Good* initiative. This program will engage military veterans in dialogs about wartime experience from the perspective of the humanities; awards of up to \$100,000 will support the recruitment and training of discussion leaders and the convening of discussion groups which will address questions such as the nature of duty, heroism, and patriotism. Mr. Rice reminded the Committee that the Dialogues on the Experience of War program extends NEH's commitment to veterans and is an outgrowth of two veteran-related Chairman's grants previously awarded: for the Talking Service reading and discussion program and the Warrior-Scholar Project.

Senior Program Officer Rebecca Boggs reported to the Committee on the competition for Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops; lastly, Senior Program Officer Douglas Arnold reported to the Committee on the Seminars and Institutes competition.

c. Preservation and Access

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Jamsheed Choksy and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Mr. Blakely reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Division Director Nadina Gardner updated the Committee about recent changes the Division has made in its Research and Development grant program. For the first time, the Division is offering two levels of Research and Development funding, to accommodate projects of varying sizes and in support of both planning and implementation phases. NEH will also host an annual project director's meeting to showcase Research and Development projects.

Ms. Gardner then reported to the Committee on the work of the recently-formed NEH Records Management Committee, which she co-chairs with Office of Digital Humanities Director and NEH Chief Information Officer Brett Bobley. The Records Management Committee is charged with improving the archiving of NEH's records and increasing their accessibility on-line.

Finally, Ms. Gardner described a new grant program, Common Heritage, which supports the *Common Good* initiative. This new grant opportunity invites community cultural organizations to organize day-long events to digitize treasured historical materials brought in by members of the public, and to offer related programming.

d. Public Programs

Camila Alire, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, Adele Alexander, Albert Beveridge, and Jamie Doggett also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Ms. Alire reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day staff made several presentations. Karen Mittelman, Director of the Division of Public Programs, reported to the Committee that two NEH-funded projects – the documentary *Freedom Summer* by Stanley Nelson, and the radio series *Afro Pop Worldwide* – were recently recognized with George Foster Peabody awards.

Senior Program Officer David Weinstein provided the Committee with an update on the *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* project, which NEH funded in 2014 through a cooperative agreement with the American Library Association to support programming in Latino-American History at a variety of venues across the country. Mr. Weinstein reported that 203 sites will receive grants and that the American Library Association hosted a successful training workshop for venues, which will produce film screenings, oral history projects, museum exhibits, and cultural events.

Finally, Division of Public Programs Research Intern George Lazopolous reported to the Committee about the impact of NEH's *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle* program, which brings four films on the civil rights movements to communities across the United States. Programs around the *Created Equal* films will continue until the end of 2016; to date nearly 1,000 public programs and screenings have been held, engaging approximately 35,000 individuals.

e. Federal/State Partnership

Camila Alire, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, Adele Alexander, Albert Beveridge, and Jamie Doggett also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Ms. Alire reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day staff made several presentations. Office of Federal/State Partnership Program Officer Meg McReynolds reported on the recent participation of state humanities councils in the 2015 National History Day competition, and in the 2015 National Book Festival, to be held in early September in

Washington, D.C. Ms. McReynolds also reported about NEH participation in the upcoming National Humanities Conference organized by the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Next, Ms. McReynolds reported on the Office's activities with the *Standing Together* initiative, including an offer of \$10,000 to each of the humanities councils to conduct programs such as writing workshops, discussion groups, documentaries, and radio programs. Office of Federal/State Partnership Program Officer Leondra Burchall described the annual compliance plan required of all state humanities councils as a condition of ongoing yearly funding from NEH, and concluded by telling the Committee about her work with a data task force, a volunteer group of state humanities council staff members and the Federation of State Humanities Councils, who are working to improve data collection and analysis for state councils.

Finally, Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, reported on the Federation's work with the Pulitzer Prize organization to recognize its one-hundredth anniversary in 2016 through a nationwide grassroots effort focused on the impact of journalism in the humanities, and she updated the Committee on plans for the Federation's 2015 and 2016 annual conferences.

f. Research Programs

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Dawn Delbanco and Paula Duffy also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Mr. Krislov reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, provided an overview of the Division's current work. She reported that in the coming week the Division will convene the first of thirty peer review panels to consider new applications in its three fellowship programs.

Ms. Aikin summarized the staff's spring application writing workshops and presentations which Division staff conducted in Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi,

Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia. She then called the Committee's attention to a display of books recently published with NEH support.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

Chairman Adams called the closed session of the one hundred and eighty-sixth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 10:33 a.m.

REPORTS

(Agenda Item IV.A)

ACTIONS ON REQUESTS FOR CHAIRMAN'S GRANTS AND
PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED APPLICATIONS

(Agenda Items IV.A.1 & A.2)

Deputy Chairman Margaret Plympton drew the Council's attention to the Chairman's grants at Tab A of the Agenda Book, and the Actions on Previously Considered Applications at Tab B of the Agenda Book, and to the copies of both Tabs in their Council folders.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

(Agenda Item IV.B)

(b) (5)



ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item IV)

Chairman Adams thanked the National Council members for their service to the NEH and the American people, and adjourned the one-hundred and eighty-sixth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 11:35 p.m. on July 10, 2015.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: November 25, 2015

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVENTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
NOVEMBER 19-20, 2015

CONSTITUTION CENTER
400 7th STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, DC

Members Present*

William Adams, Chairman
Camila Alire
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Ho Delbanco
Paula Duffy
Gerald Early
Gary Glenn

David Hertz
Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Christopher Merrill
Ramón Saldívar
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg

* Council members Rolena Adorno, Adele Alexander, Jamsheed Choksy, Jane Marie Doggett, Robert Martin, and Daniel Okimoto did not attend. Council member Dawn Ho Delbanco attended via webcast only on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

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Thursday, November 19, 2015

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Challenge Grants, Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues.

Friday, November 20, 2015

PLENARY SESSION – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item III)

Chairman William D. Adams called the one hundred and eighty-seventh meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item III.A)

The minutes of the one hundred and eighty-sixth meeting of the Council were adopted without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Adams began his remarks by announcing that on Thursday, November 19, 2015, the U.S. Senate confirmed three new members to serve on the National Council: Shelly Lowe, Patricia Limerick, and Francine Berman. Outgoing Council member Gary Glenn made a brief statement about his experience on the Council, and Chairman Adams presented him with a copy of the collected writings of Thomas Jefferson in recognition of his service.

Chairman Adams then recognized Council members for their work the previous day reviewing grants and providing advice and insight on various topics. Next, he thanked NEH staff for their help in planning the celebration of NEH's fiftieth anniversary, including the fiftieth anniversary event at George Washington University's Textile Museum on November 18, 2015.

Chairman Adams concluded his remarks by providing the National Council with the impressions and experiences that he gained while traveling. Chairman Adams noted that his trips reaffirmed his impressions of the real and perceived impact of NEH and its extraordinary reputation, which could be attributed to NEH's extraordinary staff and thoughtful grant-making throughout the years. In particular, Chairman Adams discussed his experience attending a class in American history at the Prison University Project at San Quentin. He explained that the inmates' dialogue on the civil rights movement reinforced his understanding that the humanities that are deeply meaningful to people. Chairman Adams concluded his remarks by stating that he looked forward to continuing making the humanities relevant to all populations throughout the country.

2. Deputy Chairman's Remarks

Deputy Chairman Margaret Plympton began her remarks by welcoming Stephen Kidd and Bea Gurwitz from the National Humanities Alliance, and Esther Mackintosh and Jeff Allen from the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Ms. Plympton then updated the National Council about recent activities at NEH. She drew Council members' attention to the printed staff report that detailed new staff hires and departures, listed NEH interns, and included information about the retirements of Program Analyst Paulette Gillian and Senior Analyst and International Coordinator Christine Kalke, both who had been with NEH for over thirty years.

Ms. Plympton then highlighted upcoming events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of NEH, including an evening at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library on December 7, 2015, featuring a conversation with the Chairs of both NEA and NEH; PBS's upcoming January 8, 2016, broadcast of *A Celebration of American Creativity: In Performance at the White House*; the Jefferson Lecture on May 9, 2016; and the University of Virginia symposium occurring September 14-17, 2016.

Ms. Plympton concluded her remarks by giving a brief overview of the projects underway in support of NEH's strategic planning initiatives and the four agency goals she outlined at the last Council meeting. She noted that NEH staff have been working on reformatting grant application guidelines to make them more helpful to first-time applicants, refining travel planning to accomplish as many different high-priority items as possible, enhancing computerized systems, and introducing a system for generating electronic panelist contracts.

3. Presentation by G. Calvin Mackenzie, Goldfarb Family Distinguished Professor of Government, Colby College, on the legacy of President Lyndon B. Johnson and the historical context of NEH's founding

Chairman Adams introduced G. Calvin "Cal" Mackenzie, the Goldfarb Family Distinguished Professor of Government at Colby College.

Mr. Mackenzie began his speech by explaining how President John F. Kennedy laid the foundation for the creation of NEH, and how his successor, President Lyndon B. Johnson, together with the eighty-ninth Congress enacted a total of 810 public laws, one of which was Public Law 89-209, which established the National Foundation of the Arts and the Humanities. Following his presentation, Mr. Mackenzie took questions from the audience.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

Tim Aiken, Director of Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional Affairs report.

Mr. Aiken reported that the President had requested \$147.9 million for NEH's 2016 fiscal year budget, and although the first two months of the current fiscal year had already passed, Congress had yet to finalize NEH's budget.

Mr. Aiken reported that on September 30, 2015, Congress avoided a looming government shutdown by passing a continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government on a temporary basis through December 11, 2015. Mr. Aiken explained that Congress would have to agree on what policy riders would be included in the year-end omnibus spending bill by December 11 to keep the government open.

In conclusion, Mr. Aiken predicted that there was a slim chance that Congress would be able to grant the President's request of \$147.9 million for NEH's 2016 fiscal year budget.

5. Budget Report

Larry Myers, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, provided the National Council with the budget report.

Mr. Myers first reported on NEH's 2015 fiscal year. He drew the Council's attention to a folder containing three memoranda prepared by Frank Shaw, Senior Program Analyst in the Office of Planning and Budget, that summarized and analyzed data on NEH's and the National Council's fiscal year 2015 activities: the first, a chart showing the number of projects that received funding in 2015 in each of NEH's grant programs and offices; the second, an analysis of the number of applications submitted in 2015 and the number the Council recommended for funding; and third, an analysis of NEH's Treasury matching funds that were released in 2015 to individual projects to match donations those projects received from third parties.

Mr. Myers reported that the Council considered a total of 4,928 applications during fiscal year 2015, which represents an increase of more than fifteen percent over last year's volume, and reverses three years of decreases in the number of applications to NEH. He noted that most of this increase was associated with the introduction of NEH's Public Scholar Program, the first grant opportunity launched under the Chairman's initiative, *The Common Good: Humanities in the Public Square*.

Mr. Myers also stated that during the latter part of 2015, many other divisions also experienced significant increase in applications as a result of *Common Good* programs, and that these increases will be reflected in the 2016 budget report.

Mr. Myers noted that the Council recommended 761, or approximately 15.4%, of the 4,928 total applications to the Chairman for funding. Mr. Myers explained that this number is comparable to the past several years.

Next, Mr. Myers reported that the total amount of Treasury matching funds that NEH released to individual projects increased slightly over the previous year. Also, NEH began the 2016 fiscal year with marginally higher numbers of match offers and offers still open than the beginning of fiscal year 2015.

Finally, Mr. Myers explained that every year all federal agencies undergo a review of their finances and operations by independent auditors. The results of this audit are submitted to the Office of Management and Budget and to a number of congressional committees. Mr. Myers reported that for the eleventh year in a row, NEH received a clean bill of fiduciary health from the auditors.

Finally, Mr. Myers reported that NEH, like all other agencies, is required to publish results of its annual audit in a Performance and Accountability Report (PAR), which reviews the agency's programs, financial systems, and operations. Mr. Myers told Council members that his office recently posted NEH's fiscal year 2015 PAR report on the agency website.

1. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

- a. Challenge Grants

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Gerald Early and Ramón Saldivar also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Ms. Duffy reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Katja Zelljadt, the new Director of the Office of Challenge Grants, and Brandon Johnson, a Senior Program Officer, began the meeting by delivering a joint report focusing on their recent "listening tours" in Alabama, Mississippi, Idaho, and Oklahoma.

Following the joint report, Ms. Zelljadt discussed the Office's newest grant offerings: Next Generation Humanities PhD Planning Grants, which support efforts by institutions to bring together faculty, graduate students, administrators and other important constituencies to strategize and produce plans that will transform scholarly preparation in the humanities at the

doctoral level, and Next Generation Humanities PhD Implementation Grants, which support institutions in enacting wide-ranging changes in humanities doctoral programs.

b. Education Programs

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Gerald Early and Ramón Saldivar also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Ms. Duffy reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director William Craig Rice reported to the Committee on the Division's recent activities. Mr. Rice also provided the Committee with two promotional postcards listing the Division's 2016 summer programs for schoolteachers and college and university faculty.

Next, Program Officer Victoria Sams provided the Committee with an update on the 2015 Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP), a NEH-funded program which consists of immersive one to two week-long academic boot camps at various universities designed to address veterans' misperceptions about college and to build their confidence through an intense academic reorientation. In January 2015, NEH signed a cooperative agreement with WSP that provided WSP with \$350,000 to expand its program to eight additional campuses across the country. NEH received a quarterly report from WSP on the project in October and will receive full assessments of the project in the upcoming year.

Senior Program Officer Deborah Hurtt then reported to the Committee on three of the Division's grant programs: Humanities Initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Humanities Initiatives at Tribal Colleges and Universities. For 2015, NEH encouraged grantees in these programs to use awards of \$100,000 each to create projects in line with the *Common Good* initiative.

Finally, Assistant Division Director Barbara Ashbrook reported on the Division's special projects and cooperative agreements. She explained how the Division may recommend funding for a project outside of its standing grant programs, in the form of a cooperative agreement or

special award, if the Division determined the project represents a high priority topic. Ms. Ashbrook noted that the Division might support such a project in order to extend an existing Chairman's grant or to collaborate with other divisions on an existing grant program.

c. Digital Humanities

John Unsworth, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Cathy Davidson, Marvin Krislov, and Dorothy Kosinski also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Mr. Unsworth reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Program Analyst Ann Sneesby-Koch gave a presentation about the McBee digitization program. This program involved NEH digitizing the records for its grants from 1965 to 1979, which were stored on a prototype 'computer' system, the McBee KeySort punch cards. With NEH's completion of this project, members of the public now have the ability to search for all grants NEH has made since its founding.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Perry Collins reported on a project to digitize all NEH's National Council meeting agenda books and minutes, which total over 425,000 pages of materials. When the project is completed, NEH staff will have the ability to search and read Council materials going back to the founding of NEH.

d. Public Programs

John Unsworth, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Cathy Davidson, Marvin Krislov, and Dorothy Kosinski also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Mr. Unsworth reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Karen Mittelman began by recognizing several museum exhibitions supported in part by NEH funds, including, "Pearls on a String: Artists, Patrons, and Poets at the Great Islamic Courts" at the Walters Art Museum, which received a positive review in the Washington Post. She also mentioned the recent PBS series on Walt Disney, which reached 9.5 million viewers

and was featured in more than 130 major media outlets. Ms. Mittleman then provided the Committee with a preview of the educational kit to be used by NEH grantees in the latest NEH on the Road program, “Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of Northeast Brazil.”

Next, Senior Program Officer David Weinstein updated the Committee on the Latino Americans: 500 Years of History program, which NEH funded in 2014 through a cooperative agreement with the American Library Association to support programming in Latino-American History at a variety of venues across the country.

Senior Program Officer Karen Kenton then reported to the Committee on a partnership NEH is exploring with the Osher Foundation. Ms. Kenton explained that the foundation supports colleges and universities in developing programs called Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs), which offers members aged fifty and older intellectually challenging, noncredit courses and activities that stimulate creativity and community building. She reported that five OLLIs were piloting the use of various NEH-supported resources, including the *Created Equal* film set.

e. Federal/State Partnership

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Camila Alire, Allison Blakely, and Gary Glenn also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Ms. Carroll reported that at the Committee’s meeting the previous day, Office Director Scott Krawczyk started by thanking Program Officers Meg Ferris McReynolds and Leondra Burchall for their work while the Office was without a director. Mr. Krawczyk also thanked Esther Mackintosh and Jeff Allen from the Federation for welcoming him to NEH.

Mr. Krawczyk then reported on the National Humanities conference, state humanities councils’ support of the National Book Festival, staff activities in support of NEH, and recent staff travel. He also described his visit to the annual Veterans’ Voices Award presentations in Minnesota. Next, Mr. Krawczyk noted several division projects and summarized current

priorities for the division. He emphasized three main goals: reviewing and analyzing systems for identifying areas of improvement; systems enhancement in innovation, such as participation by state council experts in NEH's strategic planning efforts; and program innovation through incentive grants.

Next, Federation President Esther Mackintosh reported on the Federation's 2015 annual conference on November 5-8, 2015 in St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. Mackintosh highlighted the presentation by Chairman Adams at the breakfast session, and several conference speakers, including David Eggers, and President Lyndon B. Johnson's daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb, and Lucy Baines Johnson. Ms. Mackintosh noted that next year's conference would be a joint effort cosponsored by the National Humanities Alliance and held in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 10-13, 2016.

Ms. Mackintosh then spoke briefly about the Federation's 2015 Schwartz Prize winners, the state humanities councils from California, Maryland and Minnesota, and praised California Humanities' War Ink project, which explores veterans' experience through the narrative of their tattoos.

Finally, Ms. Mackintosh reported on the Federation's work with the Pulitzer Prize organization to recognize its 100th anniversary in 2016 through a nationwide effort focused on the impact of journalism in the humanities, and she updated the Committee with news of forty councils being funded for projects connected to the Pulitzer Prize's 100th anniversary.

Next, Federation Vice President Mr. Allen reported on the Cultural Data Project (CDP), which is an online system in which arts and cultural organizations can enter financial, programmatic and operational data into a standardized form and use the CDP to produce a variety of reports designed to help increase management capacity, identify strengths and challenges, and support informed decision-making. The Federation received an NEH Chairman's Grant to support this project, which allowed it to increase participation in the CDP from ten state councils to thirty five state councils.

Finally, Mr. Allen reported that the Committee discussed the topic of branding at the state council level and agreed that the Office of Federal/State Partnership would work with the Federation to pursue this discussion further.

f. Preservation and Access

Christopher Merrill, a member of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report on behalf of the Committee Chair, Dawn Delbanco, who participated in Thursday's Committee meeting, but was unable to attend Friday's plenary session. National Council members Bruce Sievers and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Mr. Merrill reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division staff made two presentations. Senior Program Officer Leah Weinryb Grohsgal briefed the committee on the Chronicling America Historic Newspaper Data Challenge, a new contest that encourages members of the public to use open data to create innovative digital humanities projects. Ms. Weinryb Grohsgal explained that contestants could submit entries through Challenge.gov, a website launched by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to encourage federal agencies to promote innovation through special competitions directed at the public. Ms. Weinryb Grohsgal reported that NEH would announce the results of the contest next summer and would recognize the winners at the annual meeting of the National Digital Newspaper Program next September.

Next, Senior Program Officers Mary Downs and Sarah Lepinski offered "Imperiled Heritage," a PowerPoint presentation on the grave threats to cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq due to the political and social turmoil in the area and attacks and looting by extremists, and the efforts underway by the preservation and archaeology communities to document and mitigate the losses. They also announced an upcoming summit meeting, supported largely by an NEH Chairman's Grant to the Archaeological Institute of America and the American Schools of Oriental Research, at which representatives from over a dozen international organizations will

meet to coordinate efforts to address the crisis to cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq. Ms. Downs and Ms. Lepinski also pointed out that NEH recently incorporated into several of its grant program guidelines special encouragement for applicants to study, document, or digitally represent lost or imperiled cultural heritage materials.

g. Research Programs

Katherine Tachau, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Ms. Tachau reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day Jane Aikin, Director of the Division of Research Programs, reported to the Committee on the current activities in the Division, including recent deadlines for three grant programs: Summer Stipends, Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions, and NEH's and National Science Foundation's joint Documenting Endangered Languages Program. Ms. Aikin also reminded the Committee that the Division would receive applications in the Collaborative Research program and Scholarly Editions and Translation program in three weeks, and in the Public Scholar program in two weeks. She also reminded the Committee that NEH's review of the Kluge Fellowship applications would occur in January. Ms. Aikin concluded the meeting by calling the Committee's attention to six books recently published with NEH support.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

Chairman Adams called the closed session of the one hundred and eighty-seventh meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 10:53 a.m.

FOIA 16-20 NOTE: NEH has not included pages 16-26 of this document because they are not responsive to the request.

(b) (5)

ADJOURNMENT
(Agenda Item V)

Chairman Adams thanked the National Council members for their service to NEH and adjourned the one-hundred and eighty-seventh meeting of the National Council on the Humanities at 12:16 p.m. on November 20, 2015.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate:



Michael P. McDonald,
Secretary, National Council on the Humanities

Date: March 8, 2016