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Description of document:	Meeting minutes from the open meeting portion of National Council on the Humanities meetings, 2016-2019
Requested date:	29-October-2019
Release date:	26-November-2019
Posted date:	09-December-2019
Source of document:	National Endowment for the Humanities Freedom of Information Act Officer 400 7th Street, SW, 4th Floor Washington, DC 20506 FOIAonline

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

November 26, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request 20-05

As the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) official responsible for inquiries under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I am responding to your request, which NEH received on October 29, 2019. You requested "the meeting minutes from the open meeting portion of meetings of the National Council on the Humanities, during calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date."

The information you requested, as maintained in our agency records, is attached. There is no fee for this information.

I trust this fully satisfies your request. For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your NEH FOIA request, please contact the analyst who processed your request or our FOIA Public Liaison at 202-606-8322 or gencounsel@neh.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisette Voyatzis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisette Voyatzis
Deputy General Counsel

Attachment

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 3-4, 2016**

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

Members Present*

**William Adams, Chairman
Rolena Adorno
Camila Alire
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Jamsheed Choksy
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Delbanco
Paula Duffy**

**Gerald Early
David Hertz
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg**

*** Council members Constance Carroll, Francine Berman, Dorothy Kosinski, Marvin Krislov, Daniel Okimoto, and Ramón Saldivar did not attend. Council Member Albert Beveridge attended only on Thursday, March 4, 2016.**

Thursday, March 4, 2016

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Preservation and Access, Federal/State Partnership, 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 2016 National Humanities Medals.

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

Chairman William Adams called the one hundred and eighty-eighth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

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

The Council adopted without amendment the minutes of the one hundred and eighty-seventh meeting of the National Council that NEH's Office of the General Counsel distributed to Council members prior to the meeting.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Adams began his remarks by welcoming new National Council members Patricia Limerick and Shelly Lowe, and recognizing Francine Berman in absentia. Chairman Adams then acknowledged outgoing Council members, including Gary Glenn, Robert Martin, and Adele Alexander and read Ms. Alexander's resignation letter to the Council. Chairman Adams also recognized former Council member Jamie Doggett, who was present at the meeting, for her years of service.

The Chairman concluded his remarks by thanking staff and Council members for their help in creating the March 1, 2016 Chairman's report titled, "Beyond the 50th: New Directions at NEH," which discussed recent changes NEH made to its grant programs.

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 retirement of Malcolm Richardson, Senior Partnership Officer in the Office of the Chairman, who had been with NEH for thirty years.

Ms. Plympton then highlighted upcoming events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of NEH, including the Jefferson Lecture on May 9, 2016, featuring Ken Burns, and "Human/Ties," the NEH-sponsored symposium at the University of Virginia on September 14-17, 2016.

Ms. Plympton concluded her remarks by giving an update on NEH's strategic planning initiatives. She reported that NEH staff had established recommendations on improving the grant application process, on recruiting applicants for grant programs, and on promoting NEH through in-person travel and webinars.

3. Presentation by Mannie Jackson, on the Mannie Jackson Center for Humanities at Lewis and Clark Community College

Chairman Adams introduced Mannie Jackson, for whom the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities is named. Mr. Jackson spoke about his upbringing, his background with the Harlem Globetrotters and in the business world, and about the creation of the Mannie Jackson Center for Humanities in Edwardsville, Illinois.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

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

Mr. Aiken reported that Congress appropriated \$147.9 million for NEH's 2016 fiscal year budget, which was the same amount requested by the President. Mr. Aiken noted that this appropriation reflected a \$2 million increase over NEH's 2015 fiscal year budget. Mr. Aiken concluded his report by noting that the bipartisan Budget Act, which raised discretionary spending caps by \$80 billion in fiscal years 2016 and 2017, should make NEH's 2017 budget process smoother, but election year politics would make this process unpredictable.

5. Budget Report

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

Mr. Myers took a moment to recognize the significance of March 3, as this was the day in 1966 when President Lyndon B. Johnson swore in the first members of the Council and the Council had its first meeting. He noted that the budget of NEH in its first year was \$6 million, which would have been \$40 million today when adjusted for inflation.

Turning to the current budget, Mr. Myers noted that President Obama requested nearly \$150 million for NEH's 2017 budget, which was an increase of almost \$2 million over NEH's 2016 budget. He explained that this requested increase was to support the Chairman's initiative, *The Common Good: Humanities in the Public Square*, and administrative costs, including the 1.6% pay increase for NEH employees.

Finally, Mr. Myers directed Council members to a budget summary in their Council folders showing how NEH would allocate the funds it requested for fiscal year 2017 and noted that that the full budget is available on NEH's website.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Cathy Davidson, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Christopher Merrill and Katherine Tachau also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Ms. Davidson reported that at the meeting the previous day, Office of Digital Humanities Director Brett Bobley reported that Senior Program Officer Jason Rhody was leaving NEH for a new position at the Social Science Research Council. Next, Mr. Bobley offered a presentation about two new grant programs: NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication, NEH's joint fellowship opportunity with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support scholars engaged in humanities research that requires digital formats and digital publication, and the Trans-Atlantic Platform Digging into Data Challenge, which would fund multi-country projects that address any research question in humanities or social sciences disciplines by using large-scale, digital data analysis techniques, and show how these techniques can lead to new insights. Mr. Bobley concluded his report by inviting Council members to the University of Maryland on April 25, 2016, to honor the work of NEH grantee, Andy van Dam, a distinguished computer scientist and one of the fathers of hypertext.

Next, Senior Program Officer Perry Collins presented an update on the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), a project funded in-part by NEH, which aims to collect and make available online content from libraries, archives, and museums across the country. Ms. Collins reported that NEH funding supported DPLA's ability to collaborate with sixteen major partners that collectively provided free and open access to a total of 2.4 million digital objects.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Jennifer Serventi offered a presentation about how a grantee's project could appear several times in the news media throughout the lifecycle of the project. Ms. Serventi explained that the media might cover a project when NEH announces the grant, when the project is active and starts to report results, and after the project is completed and the final results of the project are available.

b. Education Programs

Allison Blakely, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Mr. Blakely reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Senior Program Officer Douglas Arnold discussed NEH's Dialogues on the Experience of War program, which supports discussion-based programs for veterans. Senior Program Officer Jinlei Augst also reported on the Enduring Questions program, through which NEH supports educators in the teaching and development of a new course that fosters intellectual community through the study of an enduring question. Next, Senior Program Officer Julia Nguyen reported on Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges, which provides grants to strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities in subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature. Finally, Program Officer Victoria Sams reported on the Division's request for proposals for a Cooperative Agreement to implement the National Spoken Word Poetry Ambassadors Program (NSWPA). The NSWPA will build on the success of the National Student Poets Program established by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and will enable five students to serve for one year as literary ambassadors, each representing one of five different geographical regions of the country.

c. Preservation and Access

John Unsworth, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members David Hertz and Shelly Lowe also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Mr. Unsworth reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Nadina Gardner began by briefing the committee on the "Sustainability of Digital Resources," a series of agency-wide staff development sessions focusing on ensuring persistent access to digital content. Ms. Gardner noted that in the following week, the Division would host "Sustainable Strategies for Collection Care," a two-day meeting designed to unite professionals in conservation, education, engineering, architecture, conservation science, and facilities, to develop a curriculum for continuing professional development in sustainable preservation.

Next, Mr. Unsworth reported that Senior Program Officer Leah Weinryb-Grohsgal offered “Open Access and the Common Good,” a PowerPoint presentation that discussed balancing open access to grant products with intellectual property laws.

Finally, Mr. Unsworth reported that the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO) would be presenting recently retired Senior Program Officer Helen Agüera with the 2016 Busa prize, which ADHO awards every three years to acknowledge outstanding lifetime achievement in the application of information and communication technologies to humanities research, at the 2016 Digital Humanities Conference in Krakow, Poland.

d. Public Programs

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Paula Duffy, Patricia Limerick, and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Ms. Delbanco reported that at the Committee’s meeting the previous day, Assistant Director Jeff Hardwick began by sharing highlights from recent work of the Division and noting that “Dance: American Art 1830-1960,” an exhibition supported in part by NEH funds, will be opening at the Detroit Institute of Arts later this month. Mr. Hardwick then provided the Committee with a brief overview of the project director’s meeting for grant recipients of the Humanities in the Public Square program, which supports community-based projects that put humanities scholars in direct dialogue with the public on some of the most pressing issues of the day. The Division hosted the project director’s meeting in early February 2016 and representatives from all twenty-one grantees met to discuss shared goals and practices, and challenges in creating public programs.

e. Federal/State Partnership

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Paula Duffy, Patricia Limerick, and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Ms. Delbanco reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Office Director Scott Krawczyk started by thanking Esther Mackintosh and Jeff Allen from the Federation for hosting the Humanities on the Hill reception on March 2, 2016.

Mr. Krawczyk then provided an overview of recent activities and current priorities of the Office. Mr. Krawczyk reported that the Office had scheduled sixteen site visits to state humanities councils for the year. In addition, the Office had formed an executive director advisory group and planned to conduct orientation training for six new executive directors. Mr. Krawczyk concluded his report by noting that his staff members were conducting a thorough review of the Office's State Council Assessment and Review, which requires each state humanities council to write a forward-looking self-assessment report every five years that considers the context in which the state council works, the humanities benefits and services it provides, and the state council's management and organizational effectiveness.

Next, Federation President Esther Mackintosh reported on Humanities on the Hill activities, including the meetings with members of Congress, which she noted were unusually positive. Ms. Mackintosh also provided an update on the 2016 National Humanities Conference, scheduled for November 10-13, 2016, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She reported that the National Humanities Alliance would co-sponsor the Conference, and Elizabeth Finn and Danielle Allen had been confirmed as the keynote speakers.

f. Research Programs

Gerald Early, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Jamsheed Choksy also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Mr. Early reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Jane Aikin updated the Committee on the current activities in the Division, and reported on several Division programs including Documenting Endangered Languages (a joint program

between NEH and the National Science Foundation), Summer Stipends, Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions, and the Kluge Fellowships.

Next, Deputy Director Russell Wyland reported on NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication, NEH's joint fellowship opportunity with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support scholars engaged in humanities research that requires digital formats and digital publication, which Mr. Bobley also discussed in his report to the Committee on Digital Humanities. Mr. Wyland reported that the first deadline for this fellowship program was April 28, 2016, and that the Council would see the initial results of this program in November 2016.

In closing, Ms. Aikin highlighted four traditional print books supported in part by NEH: Michael Penn's *Envisioning Islam: Syriac Christians and the Early Muslim World*; Kevin Butterfield's *The Making of Tocqueville's America: Law and Association in the Early United States*; Mark Hanna's *Pirate Nests and the Rise of the British Empire, 1570 to 1740*; and John Stratton Hawley's translation of *Sur's Ocean* by 16th century Indian poet, Surdas.

g. National Humanities Medals

Christopher Merrill, Chair of National Humanities Medals Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire, Allison Blakely, Cathy Davidson, Bruce Sievers, John Unsworth, and Martha Weinberg also served on the National Humanities Medals Committee.

Mr. Merrill reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2016 National Humanities Medal. Mr. Merrill noted that the National Humanities Medal honors individuals and organizations whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the human experience, broadened citizens' engagement with history and literature or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to cultural resources. Mr. Merrill 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.

Mr. Merrill explained that prior to the meeting, NEH staff sent the Committee a list of the nominations and brief biographical sketches of each of the 153 candidates. He stated that this list included people who were submitted as a result of NEH's nationwide solicitation for nominations, as well as nominations carried over from 2014 and 2015.

Finally, Mr. Merrill reported the Committee reviewed this list of nominees for the 2016 awards and identified a select group of individuals that they would present to the Council and Chairman in the Executive Session.

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

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
JULY 14-15, 2016**

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

Members Present*

**William Adams, Chairman
Rolena Adorno
Camila Alire
Francis Berman
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Jamsheed Choksy
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Ho Delbanco
Paula Duffy
Gerald Early**

**David Hertz
Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Ramón Saldívar
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg**

Thursday, July 14, 2016

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. The Jefferson Lecture Committee met to discuss candidates for the 2017 Jefferson Lecture.

Friday, July 15, 2016

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

Chairman William D. Adams called the one hundred and eighty-ninth 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 Council adopted the minutes of the one hundred and eighty-eighth meeting of the Council without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Adams began his remarks by welcoming new National Council member Francine Berman and thanking the NEH staff for the excellent work they do preparing for and supporting the National Council meetings.

Chairman Adams then brought the Council's attention to a handout in the Council folders about the record of NEH grants supporting the general area of African American history. He informed the Council that the NEH had funded a scholarly conference in May 2016 called "Future of the African American Past," which brought together diverse scholars to take stock of the state of African American studies in the United States and to think about the future of the field. The Chairman also spoke about how NEH is considering ways to share resources with state

humanities councils so that the councils can quickly engage in conversations with their communities about the recent tensions between police and civilians in various cities across the country.

2. Memorial Minute – William Craig Rice

Chairman Adams concluded his remarks with a Memorial Minute for former NEH Division of Education Programs Director William Craig Rice, who passed away suddenly on June 20, 2016. The assemblage then held a moment of silence to honor Dr. Rice.

3. Deputy Chairman's Remarks

Deputy Chairman Margaret Plympton began her remarks by welcoming the Council and Stephen Kidd and his colleagues from the National Humanities Alliance.

Ms. Plympton then drew the Council's' attention to the copy of the staff report, located in the Council folders, that detailed staff departures and listed current NEH interns. Ms. Plympton explained that NEH put a hiring freeze in place last January, which helped the agency to adjust administrative costs. As a result, NEH hopes to begin hiring again in the new fiscal year.

Ms. Plympton then highlighted events celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of NEH, including the Jefferson Lecture by Ken Burns in May 2016 and, in June, a celebration of the fiftieth at the awards ceremony for the National History Day (NHD) contest, where NEH and the NHD program gave more than three thousand medals to history students for conducting exceptional historical research projects. She also updated the Council about the planning status of the Human/Ties festival which will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia, and hosted by the University of Virginia and Monticello from September 14 to 17, 2016, to celebrate the humanities and NEH's anniversary.

Ms. Plympton then spoke of the coming Presidential transition and informed the Council that NEH is preparing transitional materials and making plans for which career employees will step in as political appointees depart. She assured the Council that she will provide a more thorough update to them in November.

Ms. Plympton next drew the Council's attention to the final report on the Muslim Journeys project, which was a program for the public which presented resources on the people, places, culture, and history of Muslims around the world. The project was part of the Bridging Cultures initiative and was conducted in partnership with the American Library Association.

Ms. Plympton concluded her remarks by stating that NEH has completed its first year of strategic planning by implementing a wide range of recommendations from the agency working groups, which spent the past year identifying ways to advance the goals in the strategic plan.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

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

Mr. Aiken reported that the omnibus spending bill Congress passed in December 2015 included an increase of \$1.9 million for NEH's budget, for a total of \$147.9 million for fiscal year 2016. The fiscal year 2017 bill includes a \$500,000 increase for the NEH. Mr. Aiken expressed doubt that Congress would take action on the regular spending bills before the end of the fiscal year 2016.

Mr. Aiken then reported that there are eleven pending nominations to the National Council, six of which have cleared the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and are awaiting action on the Senate floor. However, Senator James Lankford (R-Oklahoma) has placed a hold on these six nominees because of his concerns about the NEH's grant approval process. Mr. Aiken assured the Council that the Office of Congressional Affairs is working on a strategy to convince the Senate to lift the hold and approve the six nominees when the Senate returns to session in September. Part of this strategy is for the NEH to engage state councils, members of the National Council, grant recipients and other constituents of Congress to show Congress what NEH means to the humanities community.

In conclusion, Mr. Aiken said that he remains optimistic that Congress will pass a short-term continuing resolution before the end of fiscal year 2016. He is hopeful that, when Congress

reconvenes in December, it will not only pass a budget with an increase for NEH, but will also make a decision on the pending nominations to the Council.

5. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Challenge Grants

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members John Unsworth and Dawn Delbanco also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Mr. Krislov reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Office of Challenge Grants Director Katja Zelljadt, updated the Committee on the most recent changes in the Challenge grant programs. Senior Program Officer Brandon Johnson next led the Committee in a review of the guidelines for Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. planning and implementation programs.

b. Digital Humanities

Paula Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Allison Blakely and Francine Berman served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Ms. Duffy reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Office of Digital Humanities Program Analyst Ann Sneesby-Koch began by briefing the Committee on press coverage in the past three months for Digital Humanities funded projects. Office of Digital Humanities Director Brett Bobley then updated the Committee on the Transatlantic Platform Digging Into Data Challenge, an international grant competition co-funded by sixteen national funding organizations in eleven countries. Finally, Senior Program Analyst Perry Collins presented information on the Humanities Open Book program, which is jointly funded by NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

c. Education Programs

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, David Hertz, and Shelly Lowe also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Ms. Carroll began the previous day's Council Committee meeting with a moment of silence in memory of former Division of Education Programs Director William Craig Rice. Acting Division Director Wilsonia Cherry, then updated the Committee on the work of the Division over the past four months. Ms. Cherry reported that staff members have visited a number of the 2016 Summer Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops around the country. Staff has used these visits as an opportunity to recruit new panelists and project directors. Ms. Cherry also remarked on recent project directors' meetings for two new programs – Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges, which is an effort to reach this segment of higher education, and Dialogues on the Experience of War, which is a Standing Together program that engages military veterans in dialogues about wartime experience from the perspective of the humanities.

Next, Senior Program Officer Rebecca Boggs reported on the competition for Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops. These programs bring groups of teachers together for intensive one-week summer study. Ms. Boggs noted that this year there is a significant change in the guidelines for the program in that project directors are now allowed to conduct a local program and a national program, or two national, one-week programs.

Senior Program Officer Douglas Arnold then reported on the Seminars and Institutes programs. These Seminars and Institutes provide intellectual enrichment for school and college teachers. Mr. Arnold reiterated that the guidelines for these programs have changed and that the NEH no longer funds five-week programs and now allows one-week programs; other changes include an increase in the cap on the number of participants and the incorporation of a mandatory allotment of slots for non-tenure track faculty.

Finally, Assistant Director Barbara Ashbrook reported on the Cooperative Agreement and Special Projects award made in November 2015 to the Folger Shakespeare Library to support its program to encourage teaching Shakespeare to undergraduates. As part of this program, the Folger awarded mini-grants to support curricular projects focusing on Shakespeare studies and convened a workshop to bring together the twenty-one mini-grant project directors to explore a variety of approaches to engaging students in the study of Shakespeare's plays.

d. Federal/State Partnership

Bruce Sievers, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Jamsheed Choksy also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Mr. Sievers began the Committee meeting the previous day by reporting that Office of Federal/State Partnership Director Scott Krawczyk reported on the Office's recent activities and provided Committee members with information on the April 2016 meeting of the Data Task Force and Compliance Review Committee hosted at NEH in partnership with the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Program Officer Leondra Burchall then provided an update on the work of the Data Task Force and gave a review of all components of the annual compliance plan, which NEH requires of all state councils as a condition of ongoing yearly funding by NEH.

Next, Mr. Krawczyk informed the Committee that the Office had completed six of the sixteen site visits scheduled for 2016. He then reported that the new state council executive director orientation will be held later this month, that the state councils will be significantly involved in the Human/Ties event in September, and that the Office is in the process of transitioning responsibility for maintaining state council general liability insurance to the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Mr. Krawczyk then highlighted some of the recent programming conducted by state councils in Oregon, Wyoming, and Maryland. Next, Program Officer Margaret Ferris

McReynolds explained that the state councils' annual compliance plans provide useful data to the NEH which plays a key role in determining NEH's appropriations request each year. Mr. Krawczyk informed the Committee that, until NEH finalized compliance standards, there will be some measure of irregularity in reporting. Committee members expressed concern about standardizing the questions for the compliance plan and Program Officer Leondra Burchall assured the Committee that the Federal/State Partnership Program and Compliance Review Committee are presently working on this issue.

Finally, Esther McIntosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, reported on planning for this year's Federation conference in Salt Lake City. The conference, coordinated with the National Humanities Alliance, will include two notable working groups. The first will focus on K-12 education and the second will look into bridging the public and humanities communities. Ms. McIntosh also mentioned that the Federation is working to have some state councils partner with local PBS stations to support public events around Ken Burns' next documentary, "Vietnam," to be released in 2017.

e. Preservation and Access

Christopher Merrill, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire and Ramón Saldivar also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Mr. Merrill reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division of Preservation and Access Director Nadina Gardner informed the Committee that NEH will host a symposium on September 30, 2016 to address the issue of preserving recorded sound and moving image materials. This one-day conference, "Play/Back," will call attention to the importance of the nation's audiovisual past and will be attended by scholars, archivists, librarians, curators, preservation professionals, and others concerned about ensuring access to America's rich audiovisual heritage.

Next, Ms. Gardner reported that NEH and the Library of Congress have expanded the date range for the historic newspapers digitized through the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Until now, the program was limited to U.S. newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. The program now accepts digitized historic newspapers from 1690, the year of the earliest known colonial newspaper, to 1963, the year in which many copyright holdings expired due to revisions to the copyright laws.

Ms. Gardner then reported on a new project, the Chronicling America: Historic Newspapers Data Challenge through which the Division offers a cash prize to encourage members of the public to use the eleven million pages of open data in the Chronicling America database to create innovative digital humanities projects. NEH will announce the winners of the challenge later in July and these winners will attend the annual meeting of the NDNP state partners.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Jesse Johnston introduced the Committee to the Division's newest grant program, Common Heritage, which focuses on community digitization events, and Program Officer Tatiana Ausema provided a survey of the field of conservation science, highlighting the strong connections between science and the humanities.

f. Public Programs

Gerald Early, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Cathy Davidson and Dorothy Kosinski also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Mr. Early reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Chairman Adams shared highlights from his recent travels to two significant Public Programs events, the Games for Change Festival in New York City, which explored the potential for the humanities in the digital gaming world, and the American Library Association meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Senior Program Officer Patricia Brooks then gave a report on the digital storytelling workshop that NEH convened in May 2016, in partnership with the Lower East Side Tenement

Museum. The workshop, attended by twenty participants from diverse museums around the country, explored how digital technology can be used in meaningful ways to enrich visitor experiences and to facilitate examination of humanities ideas.

g. Research Programs

Katherine Tachau, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Patricia Limerick and Martha Wagner Weinberg also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Ms. Tachau reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division of Research Programs Director Jane Aikin reported to the Committee on the current activities in the Division, including review of applications to the Fellowships program which will dominate the Committee's workload in November, and staff travel and outreach efforts this fiscal year.

Ms. Aikin then showed the Committee Judith Dupré's "One World Trade Center," the first published product from Division's Public Scholar Program. Ms. Dupré's book is about the design and construction history of the building; it includes a timeline, links to other landmarks in the city, and a discussion on the design of the 9/11 memorial.

Next, Ms. Aikin informed the Committee of the completion of the Papers of George Catlett Marshall project, which NEH funded. Johns Hopkins University Press has published the seventh and final volume and the website of the George C. Marshall Foundation has made available a freely accessible database of the papers.

Ms. Aikin concluded the open session of the meeting by discussing the film "Free State of Jones," which is based partly on a book funded by an NEH Fellowship. The author, Victoria Bynum, received a Fellowship in 2000 for a project resulting in a book titled "The Free State of Jones: Mississippi's Longest Civil War." A Hollywood movie producer was inspired to bring the story to the big screen and Ms. Bynum's book has been reissued in a film edition by Amazon.

h. Jefferson Lecture

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Jefferson Lecture Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Cathy Davidson, Dawn Delbanco, Gerald Early, Dorothy Kosinski, Shelly Lowe, and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee.

Ms. Carroll reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2017 Jefferson Lecture. Ms. Carroll noted that the annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities recognizes distinguished achievement in the humanities and provides an occasion for the lecturer to impart the wisdom of the humanities before a broad general audience.

Ms. Carroll explained that NEH staff sent the Committee a list of the nominations and brief biographical sketches of each of the 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 2015 and 2016.

Finally, Ms. Carroll 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 2017 Jefferson Lecture.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETIETH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
NOVEMBER 17-18, 2016**

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

Members Present*

**William Adams, Chairman
Rolena Adorno
Camila Alire
Francis Berman
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Ho Delbanco
Gerald Early**

**David Hertz
Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg**

*** Council members Jamsheed Choksy and Ramón Saldivar did not attend.**

Thursday, November 17, 2016

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

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

Friday, November 18, 2016

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

Chairman William D. Adams called the one hundred and ninetieth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

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

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

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Adams began his remarks by thanking staff and Council for the work they do in service to the humanities. Chairman Adams then acknowledged five employees who will retire by the end of 2016: Doug Arnold, Barbara Ashbrook, Lenora Markham, Barry Maynes, and Mike Shirley, who together have 143 years of combined service to NEH. Chairman Adams then addressed the matter of the Presidential Transition and acknowledged the uncertainty and uneasiness which is a part of every Presidential Transition in Washington. The Chairman advised Council and staff to stay focused and energetically committed to the execution of NEH's mission.

Next, the Chairman updated Council on events that have taken place since the last Council meeting: the conclusion of the NEH 50th anniversary celebrations with the Human/Ties

event September 14 to 17, 2016, hosted by the University of Virginia and Monticello to celebrate the humanities and NEH's 50th anniversary; the National Humanities Medals ceremony at the White House; and the National Digital Newspaper Program's Data Challenge contest and awards. The latter was a program that awarded cash prizes to members of the public who created innovative digital humanities projects using the eleven million pages of open data in the Chronicling America database.

The Chairman also mentioned the success of the Office of Digital Humanities Project Directors meeting, the NEH booth at the National Book Festival, and the Play/back audiovisual symposium organized by the Division of Preservation and Access where participants from around the country gathered to discuss preservation of America's audiovisual history.

2. Deputy Chairman's Remarks

Deputy Chairman Margaret Plympton began her remarks by welcoming the Council, members of the public, and the Federation of State Humanities Councils' President Esther Mackintosh and Vice President Jeff Allen.

Ms. Plympton then drew Council members' attention to the printed staff report that detailed new staff hires and departures, listed NEH interns, and retirements. Ms. Plympton followed this by briefly mentioning the success of the Human/Ties event, and informing Council that NEH received a clean opinion from the independent auditors on the fiscal year 2016 review of agency finances and operations.

Ms. Plympton concluded her remarks with comments on the ongoing strategic planning work at NEH. NEH has completed the first year's tactical work including convening tactical working groups each of which made recommendations, and NEH is currently preparing a structure and approach for the next strategic plan, which is due to the Office of Management and Budget by December 2017 and which NEH will publicly post on its website in February 2018.

3. Conversation with Chairman Adams and Earl Lewis, President of the Mellon Foundation

Chairman Adams introduced Earl Lewis, the sixth President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Chairman Adams and Mr. Lewis conducted a public discussion on the power of the humanities and the collaboration between NEH and the Mellon Foundation, which was well received by members of the National Council.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

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

Mr. Aiken reported that Congress was unable to complete the fiscal year 2017 budget before the end of the term and passed a continuing resolution which extends funding for NEH at the fiscal year 2016 levels until December 9, 2016. Mr. Aiken explained that it is likely that when Congress revisits the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, it will pass another continuing resolution extending funding through March 2017. The second continuing resolution will allow the next Congress to craft a budget in line with its and the incoming Presidential Administration's agendas.

Mr. Aiken then reported that President Obama has nominated sixteen individuals to serve on the National Council. Six nominations have cleared the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and are awaiting action on the Senate floor. However, meetings with Senator James Lankford's (R-Oklahoma) staff have not convinced the senator to lift the hold he has placed on these six nominees. Mr. Aiken assured Council that all of the nominees are outstanding individuals; however, in light of the uncertainty in this time of Presidential transition, he did not believe that the Senate would move forward on a vote for any of the nominees before this session of Congress closes in December.

In conclusion, Mr. Aiken was not optimistic that the recommended increases in funding put forth by President Obama will be included in the next administration's budget. However, he

remained cautiously optimistic that the communications to Congress from the engaged and active humanities community will continue to provide lawmakers with favorable impressions about the NEH.

5. Budget Report

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

Mr. Myers first reported on NEH's 2016 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 2016 activities: the first, a chart showing the number of projects that received funding in 2016 in each of NEH's grant programs and offices; the second, an analysis of the number of applications submitted in 2016 and the number the Council recommended for funding; and third, an analysis of NEH's Treasury matching funds that were released in 2016 to individual projects to match donations those projects received from third parties.

Mr. Myers reported that the Council considered slightly more than 5,300 applications during fiscal year 2016, which represents an increase of nearly eight percent over last year's volume; and in fact, over the last two years applications to NEH have increased by nearly twenty-five percent. He noted that most of this increase was associated with the introduction of several new grant programs. Mr. Myers also noted that Council recommended funding for 847 grants; this translates to a success rate of nearly sixteen percent. Mr. Myers explained that this number is comparable to the past several years.

Next, Mr. Myers reported that the agency released \$2.48 million in Treasury matching funds to eighty-nine projects. Of the seventy-nine project matching offers that closed in 2016, all grantees were able to raise one hundred percent of the matching funds offered by NEH. These funds—that is, Treasury matching funds, which require a one-to-one match—are in addition to the nearly \$9 NEH million obligated in Challenge Grant funds.

Finally, following on a topic Ms. Plympton raised in her remarks, Mr. Myers informed the Council that NEH has recently completed the annual audit of accounts for 2016, which was done by an independent auditor. 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 twelfth year in a row, NEH received a clean bill of fiduciary health from the auditors.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Challenge Grants

Christopher Merrill, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Shelly Lowe and Gerald Early also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Mr. Merrill reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, the Committee viewed a promotional video introducing the Creating Humanities Communities Grant program and then discussed the guidelines for this new program. Office Director Katja Zelljadt, Senior Program Officer Brandon Johnson and Program Analyst Susan Broeksmit discussed the methods they are using to communicate the new grant opportunity to potential applicants, and specifically to Native American groups.

b. Education Programs

Martha Wagner Weinberg, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Paula Duffy and Cathy Davidson also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Acting Division Director Wilsonia Cherry began the previous day's Council Committee meeting by updating the Committee on the work of the Division. Ms. Cherry reported on a successful Project Director's meeting for the Division's summer programs, preparatory work for the next round of Dialogues on the Experience of War, and preparatory work for the Division's newest program, Humanities Connections. Ms. Cherry also announced the retirements of long-serving staff members Barbara Ashbrook and Douglas Arnold.

Next, Senior Program Officer Deborah Hurtt reported on the competition for Humanities Initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. This program works to strengthen humanities education at participating institutions by enabling faculty to engage in study and strengthen their capacity to teach the humanities. Funds may be used to enhance existing, or develop new, programs, resources, and courses. Ms. Hurtt then reported that, in 2016, the NEH especially encouraged proposals for the new initiative, The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square. This initiative seeks to connect the study of humanities to the current conditions of national life. Applicants from a variety of humanities disciplines submitted projects on a variety of topics and formats.

c. Federal State/Partnership

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Dawn Delbanco and Katherine Tachau also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Acting Office Director Meg Ferris McReynolds began the Committee meeting the previous day by reporting on the Office's recent activities: hosting a small gathering of new state council executive directors in July, and in September, meeting with state council representatives who were attending the National Book Festival and supporting strong involvement of the state councils at the Human/Ties events.

Ms. McReynolds then reported on other Office activities including site visits and a grant workshop in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She also informed the Committee of the Office's progress updating the guidelines for the state council self-assessment and review process. The Office will provide a copy of the draft guidelines to the Committee at the March National Council meeting.

Program Officer Jill Austin then reported on Humanities and the Legacy of Race and Ethnicity grants that NEH awarded this fall. NEH designed these grants to respond to the civil unrest earlier this year in cities across the country, and in particular, to support public

discussions about the persistent social, economic, cultural and racial issues that divide American communities. Forty-eight state councils submitted proposals and received awards. Ms. Austin then highlighted programs supported by these funds in Mississippi, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Oregon.

Finally, Esther McIntosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, reported on the success of the National Humanities Conference held November 10-13, 2016 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

d. Preservation and Access

Dorothy Kosinski, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Patricia Limerick also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Ms. Kosinski reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Nadina Gardner informed the Committee about her Division's work on an NEH Chairman's grant made to the University of Delaware to support a delegation to Cuba of students and professors from the university's Art Conservation Program. The delegation visited museums and archives and met with Cuban counterparts to exchange information on conservation practices.

Next, Ms. Gardner reported on Division activity since the last Council meeting. She highlighted a staff visit to Gallaudet University for Deaf Heritage Day, a successful event supported by a grant from the Division's Common Heritage program. Gallaudet students, alumni and members of the public brought personal memorabilia to be digitized at the event and attended presentations on the care of documents, photographs, and film.

Senior Program Officer Leah Weinryb Grohsgal then reported on the Chronicling America Historic Newspaper Data Challenge. Members of the public submitted entries earlier this year for innovative digital humanities projects using the newspapers on the Chronicling

America website; the six prize winners visited Capitol Hill in September to discuss their projects with their congressional representatives.

Finally, Senior Program Officers Jesse Johnston, Joshua Sternfeld, and Joel Wurl presented information on Play/back, the audiovisual symposium sponsored by the Division in September 2016. The event drew two hundred participants from around the country for dialogue and collaboration on ensuring access to America's rich audio visual heritage.

e. Public Programs

Bruce Sievers, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, Francine Berman, and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Mr. Sievers reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Karen Mittelman began the meeting by sharing two catalogues from NEH-funded exhibitions. Ms. Mittelman then gave a progress report to the Committee on the community engagement efforts by public television station WETA around the upcoming broadcast of Ken Burns' "Vietnam" series, a ten-part documentary that will premiere on PBS in the fall of 2017. NEH contributed funds to the film and to the nationwide programming initiative run by WETA.

Next, Senior Program Officer Marc Ruppel updated the committee on "Walden," an NEH-funded digital game that is a first-person simulation of a year in the life of Henry David Thoreau, developed in close collaboration with scholars. Mr. Ruppel presented a brief trailer of the project to the Committee which intrigued the Committee and led to a productive discussion with staff about issues facing humanities-based digital games.

f. Research Programs

John Unsworth, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire, Allison Blakely, and Constance Carroll also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Mr. Unsworth reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Jane Aikin reported to the Committee on current activities in the Division, including review of applications to the summer stipends program, Fellowships at Independent Research Institutions, and the NEH NSF Documenting Endangered Languages program. Ms. Aikin also announced that the review of applications for the Kluge Fellowship program will take place in early December; NEH administers this program on behalf of the Library of Congress's John W. Kluge Center.

Ms. Aikin then brought to the Committee's attention a number of NEH-supported books that have recently appeared in print.

g. Digital Humanities

John Unsworth, Chair of the Digital Humanities Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire, Allison Blakely, and Constance Carroll also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

Mr. Unsworth reported that at the Committee's meeting the previous day, Office Director Brett Bobley reported that he and Senior Program Officer Jennifer Serventi had visited Argentina to meet with the NEH's international Digging Into Data partners; Digging into Data is a grant program which funds multi-country projects that address any research question in humanities or social sciences disciplines by using large-scale, digital data analysis techniques, and show how these techniques can lead to new insights. Mr. Bobley opined that these partnerships might develop into future opportunities for collaboration between NEH and international funding agencies.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIRST
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 2-3, 2017**

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

Members Present*

**William Adams, Chairman
Rolena Adorno
Francis Berman
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Jamsheed Choksy
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Ho Delbanco
Pamela Duffy**

**David Hertz
Dorothy Kosinski
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Ramón Saldívar
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg**

*** Council members Camila Alire, Gerald Early, and Marvin Krislov did not attend.**

Thursday, March 2, 2017

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 3, 2017

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

Chairman William D. Adams called the one hundred and ninety-first meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

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

The Council adopted the minutes of the one hundred and ninetieth meeting of the Council without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Adams began his remarks by thanking staff and Council for the work they do in service to the humanities, and acknowledging Council member David Hertz's twelve years of service on the National Council.

Chairman Adams followed with personnel matters. The Chairman acknowledged two new, internal-hire program directors – Joshua Sternfeld, formerly a Program Officer in Preservation and Access, now in Federal/State Partnership, and Carol Peters, formerly the Director of EDSITEment, now in Education Programs – and thanked Russell Wyland for stepping into the role of Acting Director of Research Programs. Then, Chairman Adams spoke at length about the accomplishments of four retiring staff members – Jane Aiken, Wilsonia Cherry,

Larry Myers, and Frank Shaw – and recognized Eva Caldera, who left the agency before the March Council meeting.

The Chairman closed his remarks by reminding the National Council that Martha Nussbaum will deliver the Jefferson Lecture on May 1, 2017, and reported that planning and fundraising for the event has gone well.

2. Deputy Chairman's Remarks

Deputy Chairman Margaret Plympton began her remarks by welcoming meeting attendees and drawing Council members' attention to the printed staff report that detailed new staff hires and departures, listed NEH interns, and retirements.

Ms. Plympton then updated the National Council on the transition planning work NEH is doing, including maintaining communications with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, as well as non-governmental humanities organizations. Ms. Plympton further reported on ways in which NEH has continued to stabilize and institutionalize the new grant programs it has put in place in recent years, and agency plans for upgrading the NEH.gov and EDSITEment websites.

Ms. Plympton concluded her remarks by informing the National Council that NEH is progressing in its strategic planning work and has formed a working group with the goal of completing a first draft of a strategic plan by June 2017, and a final version ready for public posting in February 2018.

3. Report by Debra Hess Norris, Chair of Fine Arts and Director of the Winterthur Museum/University of Delaware Art Conservation Program, on NEH's support for preservation at the University of Delaware, and in particular a recent NEH-funded conservation delegation to Cuba

Nadina Gardner, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access introduced the guest speaker, Debra Hess Norris, the Chair of Fine Arts and Director of the Winterthur Museum/University of Delaware Art Conservation Program. Ms. Norris and three colleagues

presented on the conservation work and preservation education program at the University of Delaware and, specifically, the knowledge gained by the delegation of University of Delaware students who, with funding from NEH, visited cultural institutions in Cuba in November 2016.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

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

Mr. Aiken began with a background on the status of the federal budget. Mr. Aiken reminded the National Council that, in July, 2016, the United States House of Representatives passed and presented to the United States Senate an appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017, which included President Obama's request for a \$1.9 million increase in NEH's budget. While considering the appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017, the Senate Appropriations Committee proposed to increase NEH's budget by \$500,000. However, rather than passing a fiscal year 2017 budget, Congress passed a continuing resolution to fund the government at fiscal year 2016 levels until December 2016. After the Presidential election in November 2016, Congress opted to pass a second continuing resolution to continue funding the government at fiscal year 2016 levels until April 2017, allowing the Trump administration input into the fiscal year 2017 budget.

Mr. Aiken informed Council that non-governmental humanities organizations have been lobbying Congress on the importance of NEH and that Chairman Adams met with more than a dozen members of Congress from both political parties in question and answer sessions. Chairman Adams also met with senior staff on the relevant Congressional committees and attended events where members of Congress were present.

Mr. Aiken stated that NEH has not received any communication from the White House about what the President would like to see in the fiscal year 2017 budget or what he will recommend for the fiscal year 2018 budget.

In conclusion, Mr. Aiken informed Council that the current budget situation is similar to that in 2013 when Congress failed to timely pass a budget and there was a government-wide

shutdown. Mr. Aiken said that, while this situation could put pressure on Congress to make spending cuts or eliminate agencies, he remained optimistic that the political capital of NEH will sustain it.

5. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Cathy Davidson, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Christopher Merrill and Jamsheed Choksy also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

At the Committee's meeting the previous day, Senior Program Officer Jennifer Serventi began with an overview of recent news articles about projects funded by the Office of Digital Humanities. Recent stories have been featured in the *Atlantic*, *Forbes*, the *San Antonio Express*, and on National Public Radio. Next, Office Director Brett Bobley led a discussion about the Trans-Atlantic Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (T-AP), whose members contributed about \$9 million to the Digging into Data Challenge program. The goal of T-AP is to bring international funders of the humanities and social sciences together to share best practices and to offer joint grant programs that encourage collaborative research on an international scale. Mr. Bobley informed the Committee that, by bringing in T-AP as a co-sponsor of NEH's existing Digging Into Data Challenge grant program, the program increased in size from four participating countries in 2013 to eleven countries in 2017.

Next, Senior Program Officer Perry Collins gave a presentation on the Humanities Open Book program, which is a program that supports the digitization of out-of-print books. Ms. Collins highlighted a website called Cornell Open, created by one of the grantees, Cornell University Press. In closing, Ms. Collins reported to the Committee on the now closed-out grant to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which NEH first funded in 2012. Ms. Collins highlighted that NEH-funding of the DPLA has helped support content partners in fourteen

states across the country and has made accessible to the public nearly 15.5 million items through the DPLA portal.

b. Education Programs

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Francine Berman and Patricia Limerick also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Newly appointed Division Director Carol Peters began the previous day's Council Committee meeting by updating the Committee on the work of the Division. Ms. Peters reported on the successful Project Director's meeting for the Division's Humanities Initiatives at Minority-Serving Institutions programs. Ms. Peters also informed the Committee that Division staff have made a number of presentations to professional organizations since the last National Council meeting, including presentations at conferences held by the Council on Undergraduate Research Dialogues and the National Council of Teachers of English.

Next, Senior Program Officer Victoria Sams reported on the progress of the National Academies of Sciences study on Integrated Higher Education in the Humanities, Arts, Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a two-year study partially funded by the NEH. Senior Program Officer Rebecca Boggs followed Ms. Sams with a report on the competition for Humanities Connections, a new program in the Division that supports expanding the role of humanities in the undergraduate curriculum and the development and implementation of an integrated set of courses and student engagement activities focusing on significant humanities content. A common topic, theme, or compelling issue or question must link a minimum of three courses and activities and may fulfill general education or core curriculum requirements, but may also be designed for students in a particular course of study.

Next, Ms. Sams reported on the second iteration of the Dialogues on the Experience of War, grant program, part of the NEH's *Standing Together* initiative which stems from the NEH's *Common Good* initiative. This program funds grants which use humanities sources to

engage military veterans, via discussion groups held in a variety of community venues, in discussions on issues such as questions about the nature of duty, heroism, suffering, loyalty, and patriotism.

c. Federal State/Partnership

Bruce Sievers, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Shelly Lowe and John Unsworth also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Office Director Joshua Sternfeld began the Committee meeting the previous day by introducing a new staff member, Michael Chambers, and then provided an overview of the Office's long-term goals and priorities, which include increasing the consistency and rigor of the site review process.

Next, Esther Mackintosh, the President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils reported that forty-five state councils have registered for the March 2017 Humanities on the Hill event to speak with legislators. Ms. Mackintosh also updated the Committee on planning for the 2017 National Humanities Conference, which will be held in Boston in November 2017.

d. Preservation and Access

Albert Beveridge, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Katherine Tachau also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

At the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Nadina Gardner began by noting that one year ago, the NEH announced a special encouragement to applicants seeking support for documentation of imperiled cultural heritage in Syria, Iraq, and other conflict zones. This special encouragement grew out of a 2015 conference called "Seeking Collaboration: A Summit for Projects Collecting Cultural Heritage Data in Syria and Conflict Zones," which was organized by the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), and the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) and supported by NEH. As a follow-up to the conference, AIA and

ASOR developed an online resource called “Heritage Under Threat,” which provides current projects to document and protect worldwide cultural heritage. NEH continues to support work in this area and, since the November 2016 Council meeting, Senior Program Officers Sarah Lepinski and Mary Downs have taken part in several conferences focused on this important topic.

Ms. Gardner then reported that the Division is producing a series of online features highlighting Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions. The series, called “50 States of Preservation,” will show how modest awards of \$6,000 and less can have a transformative effect on small libraries, museums, and historical societies.

Finally, Ms. Gardner reported on the efforts of Senior Program Officer Jesse Johnston, who is the NEH’s Acting Records Officer, to help the agency refine policies and practices related to the preservation of its official records.

e. Public Programs

Dorothy Kosinski, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Allison Blakely, Dawn Delbanco, and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

At the Committee’s meeting the previous day, Division Director Karen Mittelman began the meeting by sharing a new NEH-funded anthology from the Library of America, “World War I and America,” edited by Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Scott Berg. The volume includes American writing about the war from journalists, diplomats, novelists, and many others. The publication is accompanied by a series of public programs, funded by a Chairman’s Special Award, which will reach one hundred and twenty libraries in all fifty states. Ms. Mittelman reminded the Committee that the Library of America was originally founded with seed money from NEH and the Ford Foundation in 1972.

Next, Ms. Mittelman updated the Committee on several other recent and ongoing Division-funded projects and noted that the History Film Forum, sponsored by NEH in

partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, will be held the week of March 6, 2017. The four-day festival brings together scholars and filmmakers to discuss the art and craft of historical storytelling and to explore how films have shaped the way we see our nation and collective past.

Deputy Director Jeff Hardwick then gave a progress report on the twenty-one Humanities in the Public Square projects that the Council approved in November 2015. This grant initiative supports public forums, programs, and educational resources that draw on humanities scholarship to address pressing community concerns. As an exemplar, Mr. Hardwick highlighted the program by grantee North Dakota State University, in Fargo. The University has faced several student veteran suicides and recognizes this as a critical local issue that one that is also nationally relevant; over the past year, oral history workshops, lectures, community conversations, and reading programs have helped area residents listen to and appreciate the experiences of veterans in the community.

Mr. Hardwick reported that the Humanities in the Public Square projects are wrapping-up and the Division is planning a project directors meeting at the end of April 2017 to further discussion about the challenges and opportunities of these projects.

The Committee meeting closed with a preview of an upcoming NEH-funded film by Ric Burns, "The Chinese Exclusion Act," scheduled to air on PBS's American Experience series later this year. This film chronicles the history and impact of the 1882 act barring Chinese people from immigrating to the United States or becoming citizens.

f. Research Programs

Ramón Saldivar, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Paula Duffy and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

At the Committee's meeting the previous day, Acting Division Director Russell Wyland provided the Committee an update on current activities in the Division. Mr. Wyland first noted the retirement, at the end of December, of long-serving Division Director Jane Aikin. With the

government-wide hiring freeze in place, the anticipated national search for Ms. Aikin's successor is on hold until at least mid-April, 2017. Mr. Wyland informed the Committee that the Division has been intensely busy since the November 2016 Council meeting with activities including coordinating the evaluation of the Library of Congress' John W. Kluge Center Fellowships. Next Mr. Wyland brought the Committee's attention to a number of NEH-supported books that have recently appeared in print; Mr. Wyland highlighted two books resulting from recent NEH grants—Roger Ekirch's *American Sanctuary: Mutiny, Martyrdom, and National Identity in the Age of Revolution* and Randall Fuller's *The Book that Changed America: How Darwin's Theory of Evolution Ignited a Nation*.

Finally, Acting Deputy Director John Cox provided a brief presentation on the challenges facing many of the institutions supported by the Fellowships Programs at Independent Research Institutions (FPIRI) grant programs.

g. National Humanities Medals

Chris Merrill, Chair of the National Humanities Medals Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Constance Carroll, Dawn Delbanco, Paula Duffy, David Hertz, and Patty Limerick also served on the National Humanities Medals Committee. Jamsheed Choksy was on the Committee, but was not able to attend the meeting due to illness.

Mr. Merrill reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2017 National Humanities Medal. Mr. Merrill noted that the National Humanities Medal honors individuals and organizations whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the human experience, broadened citizens' engagement with history and literature or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to cultural resources. Mr. Merrill 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.

Mr. Merrill explained that prior to the meeting, NEH staff sent the Committee a list of the nominations and brief biographical sketches of each of the 138 candidates. He stated that this list included people who were submitted as a result of NEH's nationwide solicitation for nominations, as well as nominations carried over from 2015 and 2016.

Finally, Mr. Merrill reported the Committee reviewed this list of nominees for the 2017 awards and identified a select group of individuals that they would present to the Council and Chairman in the Executive Session.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SECOND
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
JULY 13-14, 2017**

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

Members Present*

**Margaret Plympton, Acting Chair
Rolena Adorno
Francine Berman
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Jamsheed Choksy
Cathy Davidson
Dawn Ho Delbanco
Paula Duffy**

**Gerald Early
David Hertz
Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Bruce Sievers
John Unsworth
Martha Wagner Weinberg**

*** Council members Camila Alire, Ramón Saldivar, and Katherine Tachau did not attend.**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

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 in sessions that were both open and closed to the public.

Friday, July 14, 2017

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

Acting Chair Margaret Plympton called the one hundred and ninety-second meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:07 a.m. A quorum was present.

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

The Council adopted the minutes of the one hundred and ninety-first meeting of the Council without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. **Acting Chair's Remarks**

Acting Chair Margaret Plympton began her remarks by thanking staff and Council for the work they do in service to the humanities.

Acting Chair Plympton followed with personnel matters. She first introduced the new Senior Deputy Chairman, Jon Parrish Peede. Ms. Plympton then noted that two political appointees had recently left the agency: Communications Director Theola DeBose, and Sabrina Curtis, the White House Liaison and Strategic Scheduler.

Ms. Plympton then updated the Council on activities of the NEH since the March Council meeting. She informed the Council that the Division of Public Programs has been involved in the ongoing work to support the pre-release activities for Ken Burns's film series *Vietnam*. Ms.

Plympton also noted that various program offices within the NEH, including Federal/State Partnership, are preparing to participate in the National Book Festival scheduled to take place September 2, 2017, in Washington, DC.

2. Senior Deputy Chairman's Remarks

Senior Deputy Chairman Jon Parrish Peede began his remarks by introducing himself and then drawing Council members' attention to the printed staff report with details about new staff hires and departures, and NEH interns. Senior Deputy Chairman Peede welcomed the new White House Liaison, Matt Ciepielowski, and acknowledged several staff members who are serving in interim positions: David Dohanec as Acting Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, David Skinner as Acting Director of Communications, and Stefanie Walker as Acting Deputy Director of Research Programs.

Senior Deputy Chairman Peede also acknowledged departing NEH staff: Tim Aiken, Director of Congressional Affairs; Perry Collins, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Digital Humanities; Brandon Johnson, Senior Program Officer in the Office of Challenge Grants; and Katja Zelljadt, Director of the Office of Challenge Grants. Senior Deputy Chairman Peede concluded his remarks by recognizing NEH staff who have received internal educational opportunity awards.

3. Presentation by Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress

Acting Chair Plympton introduced the guest speaker, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. Ms. Hayden presented on the work of the Library of Congress and how that work fosters the humanities and connects to the work of the NEH.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

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

Mr. Aiken began by providing Council with background on the status of the Fiscal Year 2018 federal budget. Mr. Aiken explained that in the appropriations bill released in July 2017,

the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee included funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and NEH. Mr. Aiken explained to the Council that there are a number of roadblocks to this appropriations bill becoming law. First, the spending levels suggested in the bill exceed the spending limits set by Congress in 2011, and before Congress passes the bill and forwards it to the President, Congress must adjust either the spending recommendations or the spending limits. Secondly, in order for the Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill to proceed at currently suggested spending levels, Congress will need to raise the debt limit. Lastly, the appropriations bill as it currently stands is at odds with the President's Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal which does not include funding for either the NEA or the NEH.

5. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Challenge Grants

David Hertz, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Francine Berman also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

At the Committee's meeting the previous day, Senior Program Officer Brandon Johnson reported to the Committee on the Next Generation Humanities PhD program. The grantees for this program submitted white papers this spring in which they documented the successes, failures, and best practices of participating institutions. All twenty-eight white papers are available on the NEH website.

b. Digital Humanities

John Unsworth, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Shelly Lowe also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

At the Committee's meeting the previous day, Office Director Brett Bobley began with a presentation on what NEH staff consider before steering a potential grantee towards the Office

of Digital Humanities or towards a different division, now that so much of the work in the humanities involves technology. Mr. Bobley explained that the Office of Digital Humanities tends to fund projects that are focused on experimentation, new methods, and building a scholarly infrastructure.

Next, Senior Program Officer Jennifer Serventi presented on the Livingstone Online project which seeks to preserve and make available to the public the 1871 Nyangwe field diary of explorer David Livingstone. Ms. Serventi discussed how the project began with a grant from the Office of Digital Humanities to help the project develop the technology to read Livingstone's previously unreadable field diaries using spectral analysis. The project next received a Preservation and Access grant to digitize the now uncovered text. And later, the project received a grant from the Division of Research Programs to create critical editions of Livingstone's diary.

Next, Senior Program Officer Elizabeth Tran gave the Committee an overview of a new Office of Digital Humanities collaboration with the Mellon Foundation and the Library of Congress to improve optical character recognition for humanities collections. This institutional collaboration has funded a state-of-the-field report to be developed by Northeastern University. This report will identify key research problems and technical challenges for optical character recognition for humanities collections.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Perry Collins gave a presentation on an upcoming NEH-funded workshop that is geared towards helping scholars learn how to pitch their research for general readers. Ms. Collins noted that the NEH received 293 applications to the workshop for the forty available slots. The Office of Digital Humanities plans to work closely with the project directors at Georgia Tech and Loyola University New Orleans to monitor the outcomes of the workshop and to discuss future iterations.

c. Education Programs

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Dawn Delbanco and Albert Beveridge also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Division Director Carol Peters began the previous day's Council Committee meeting by updating the Committee on the work of the Division. Ms. Peters reported on the successful Project Director's meeting for the Dialogues on the Experience of War program. Division staff took part in the National History Day national contest in June, where EDSITEment staff conducted a workshop for teachers. Ms. Peters also informed the Committee that Division staff have been visiting NEH-funded Seminars, Institutes, and Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops around the country.

Next, Senior Program Officer Victoria Sams reported on the progress of the National Academies of Sciences study on Integrated Higher Education in the Humanities, Arts, Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a two-year study partially funded by NEH. Participants are poised to draft a report this summer and to complete the study in 2018. Acting Deputy Director Julia Nguyen followed with a report on the competition for the Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges program, which supports faculty and curriculum development at two-year colleges.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Deborah Hurtt reported on the Seminars and Institutes program. This program provides intellectual enrichment opportunities for school teachers and enables college teachers to conduct research projects while engaging with colleagues on topics of interest. These programs also provide opportunities for teachers' intellectual growth paired with topics relevant to classroom teaching.

d. Federal State/Partnership

Patricia Limerick, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Office Director Joshua Sternfeld began the Committee meeting the previous day by introducing the Office intern, Daniela Azpiazu, and then provided an update on staff travel, highlighting recent and upcoming site visits. Mr. Sternfeld then introduced the social media campaign #NEHInYourState, which has featured work from state councils in Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Ohio, and Alabama. Finally, Mr. Sternfeld updated the Committee on the work to revise and update the Office's self-assessment guidelines which guide the self-assessment and review process required for all state councils.

Next, Esther Mackintosh, the President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, reported that the Federation, in partnership with the National Humanities Alliance, is in the final planning stages for the 2017 National Humanities Conference, which will be held in Boston in November 2017. Ms. Mackintosh also mentioned that the Federation will celebrate its fortieth anniversary next year and plans are in the works for ways to recognize this milestone. Lastly, Ms. Mackintosh announced that the Federation has received two recent Mellon Foundation grants that will support the work of the state councils for democracy and the informed citizen.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Leondra Burchall and Program Analyst Michael Chambers, II, reported on data collection from the annual compliance plan submitted by each state council. The annual compliance plan is required of all state humanities councils as a condition of ongoing yearly funding from the NEH.

e. Preservation and Access

Dorothy Kosinski, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Allison Blakely and Cathy Davidson also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

At the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Nadina Gardner provided information to the Committee on Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions. In November, the Division expects to cross the threshold of 2,000 awards made since the program launched in 2000. The program serves as the Division's primary outreach

program providing guidance, training, and equipment to small museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies for the preservation of their collections. Ms. Gardner also described the Fifty States of Preservation series, organized by Senior Program Officer Leah Weinryb Grohsgal, which publishes features on the NEH website highlighting the work of preservation assistance grants and their benefits to the awardee institutions.

Next, Ms. Gardner reported that Senior Program Officers Mary Downs and Sarah Lepinski attended a two-day convening of organizations that fund preservation of endangered cultural heritage. The meeting was held June 12-13, at the Whiting Foundation in New York City, and NEH was among the fourteen international organizations represented.

Then Ms. Gardner acknowledged Program Analyst Adriana Cutler for receiving an NEH Employee of the Year award and acknowledged the recent educational and career development award given by NEH to Program Officer Cathleen Tefft. Ms. Gardner introduced Aia Yousef, a Ph.D. candidate in comparative literature at Princeton who is working as the summer intern in the Division.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Joel Wurl gave a presentation highlighting recent Division grants dealing with military history and veterans, related to NEH's *Standing Together* initiative.

f. Public Programs

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Jamsheed Choksy also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

At the Committee's meeting the previous day, Division Director Karen Mittelman began the meeting by highlighting recent projects funded by the Division. She described the reinstallation of the permanent collections at the Portland Museum of Art, in Portland, ME, which Ms. Mittelman noted is an excellent example of the impact of NEH support for a rural museum. Ms Mittelman also described the Games for Change student design challenge in which

more than 2,000 middle and high school students in New York, Pittsburgh, and Dallas competed by developing games around the NEH-sponsored humanities theme “Local Stories, Immigrant Voices.”

Ms. Mittelman concluded her presentation by sharing the final report for the Latino American’s 500 Years of History project. This initiative was built around the Peabody award-winning documentary film series *Latino Americans*, which aired on PBS in 2013 with NEH support. For this project NEH and the American Library Association supported more than 1,800 public programs held in forty-three states and the District of Columbia.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Trisha Brooks and Program Officer George Lazopoulos presented a report on the public impact of projects funded by the Division. The study, which will be available on the NEH website, examined the public reach and impact of more than two-hundred projects at over three-hundred sites across the United States in Fiscal Year 2012.

g. Research Programs

Christopher Merrill, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Gerald Early and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

At the Committee’s meeting the previous day, Acting Division Director Russell Wyland provided the Committee with an update on staff changes and current activities in the Division, including recent competitions as well as ongoing work in Fellowships and the Awards for Faculty program. Mr. Wyland then spoke to the Committee about an NEH-funded project that illustrates the broad reach of NEH support: a new biography, “Henry David Thoreau: A Life” by Laura Dassow Walls. Ms. Walls received an NEH fellowship in 2015 to work on this book. Based on a survey of Ms. Walls’ citations and bibliography, Mr. Wyland showed the Committee how many of the resources and references had been supported by NEH awards including scholarly editions of correspondence, journals, and works of Thoreau and related figures, some awards reaching as far back as the 1970s.

PLENARY SESSION CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-THIRD
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
NOVEMBER 16-17, 2017**

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

Members Present*

Jon Parrish Peede, Acting Chairman	Marvin Krislov
Camila Alire	Patricia Limerick
Rolena Adorno	Shelly Lowe
Francine Berman	Christopher Merrill
Allison Blakely	Ramón Saldívar
Dawn Ho Delbanco	Bruce Sievers
Paula Duffy	Katherine Tachau
Gerald Early	Martha Wagner Weinberg
Dorothy Kosinski	

*** Council members Albert Beveridge, Constance Carroll, Jamsheed Choksy, David Hertz, and John Unsworth did not attend. Council member Camila Alire attended only on Thursday, November 16, 2017.**

commitment to unfettered access to knowledge; the primacy of critical reasoning; apolitical research and scholarship; mutual respect in our interactions; and robust dialogues.

2. Assistant Chairman for Programs' Remarks

Assistant Chairman for Programs Adam Wolfson began his remarks by drawing Council members' attention to the printed staff report with details about new staff hires and departures. Mr. Wolfson noted that Carmen Ingwell joined NEH as Director of Communications; Vincent Ricardel as Senior Advisor to the Chairman; Timothy Robison as Director of Congressional Affairs; and Robert Frankel as Advisor to the Chairman.

Mr. Wolfson then acknowledged recent interim appointments in the program divisions: Jeff Hardwick as Acting Director of Public Programs; Patricia Brooks as Acting Deputy Director of Public Programs; and Mark Silver as Acting Deputy Director of Research Programs.

Mr. Wolfson also noted three staff departures: Carolyn Addey, Program Analyst in the Division of Research Programs, retired after 43 years of public service; Gale Buster, Administrative Liaison in the Office of the Chairman, retired after 33 years of public service; and Annie Judkins, Program Assistant in the Division of Research Programs, retired after 46 years of public service.

3. Presentation by Father Columba Stewart, Hill Museum and Manuscript Library

Acting Chairman Peede introduced the guest speaker, Father Columba Stewart, Executive Director of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML), an NEH funding recipient located in Collegeville, Minnesota. Father Stewart presented on HMML's efforts to preserve, digitize, and share religious manuscripts from war-affected regions, and described how that work fosters the humanities and connects to the work of the NEH.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

Timothy Robison, Director of Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional Affairs report.

Mr. Robison began by describing some of NEH's efforts to build relationships with members of Congress, and expressed his view that there is considerable support in Congress for NEH and its mission. Mr. Robison then updated Council on the status of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 federal budget. He noted that the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution, set to expire on December 8, 2017, and that there has been talk in the House of Representatives of a two-week extension to allow Congress to reach an agreement. Mr. Robison shared his opinion that Congress would pass the extension and, ultimately, reach agreement on the FY 2018 budget.

5. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Dorothy Kosinski, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Patricia Limerick also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office Director Brett Bobley began with an overview of the work of the Office of Digital Humanities, emphasizing how its grant programs differ from other NEH funding opportunities that support projects using digital technology. Ms. Kosinski and Ms. Limerick engaged the staff in a discussion about the critical insights humanities scholars can bring to conversations about technology and contemporary society.

Program Analyst Patricia Germann then provided an overview of NEH's institutional repository, which contains scanned versions of documents and photos covering NEH's entire fifty-two-year history. Ms. Germann showed several examples of materials available to the public through this resource, including early materials about the National Council and the Jefferson Lecture.

b. Education Programs

Christopher Merrill, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Allison Blakely and Paula Duffy also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Division Director Carol Peters began the previous day's Committee meeting by welcoming two new staff members to the Division: John Cox as Deputy Director; and Leondra Burchall as Senior Program Officer, on detail from the Office of Federal/State Partnership. She then updated the Committee on the work of the Division, which included meetings for project directors of Summer Seminars and Institutes.

Next, Senior Program Officer Victoria Sams reported on the progress of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine study on Integrated Higher Education in the Humanities, Arts, Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a two-year study partially funded by NEH. The project team and study committee met in October 2017 to revise the full draft of the final report and expect to complete the report in March 2018. The team will spend the last two months of the grant term—March and April 2018—disseminating the report.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Barbara Bays reported on Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic-Serving Institutions, at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and at Tribal Colleges and Universities, three programs intended to strengthen and enrich humanities education at these presidentially designated institutions. These projects, which are eligible for up to \$100,000 in funding, enable faculty within an institution or from cooperating schools, colleges, and universities to engage in study and strengthen their capacity to teach the humanities. Recipients may use grant funds to enhance existing programs, resources, or courses, or to develop new ones.

c. Federal/State Partnership

Gerald Early, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Camila Alire also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office Director Joshua Sternfeld began with an update on Office activity since July, which included site reviews of five state humanities councils: Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Wyoming.

Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, then reported that the Federation, in partnership with the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), recently concluded the 2017 National Humanities Conference, which the Federation and NHA hosted in Boston from November 2-5, 2017. She noted that the conference had six hundred attendees, a record number, and expressed her appreciation for the active engagement by NEH staff in attendance.

Ms. Mackintosh also discussed the Federation of State Humanities Councils' two Mellon Awards. The first award will continue the Federation's partnership with the Pulitzer Prizes and will examine the critical role of journalism and the power of the humanities to enrich understanding of local and national issues. The second award will explore how to raise public awareness of the humanities. State humanities councils will assist the Federation in administering these awards.

Next, Office Director Sternfeld and Program Analyst Michael Chambers, II reported on NEH activities at the National Humanities Conference. Mr. Sternfeld reported that NEH staff were involved in seven sessions, including an orientation for new board members, and a working group called "Dismantling the Legacy of Race." Mr. Chambers then described the Humanities in Action Showcase, an effort to build awareness of state humanities council programs by recording interviews with program participants.

Switching subjects, Office Director Sternfeld updated the Committee on hurricane relief efforts in affected states and territories. In addition to the emergency grants that NEH is offering to institutions in FEMA-designated disaster zones, the Office of Federal/State Partnership is working with other NEH offices to provide state humanities councils funding for additional emergency relief for cultural organizations.

Mr. Sternfeld concluded his presentation with a discussion of the disaster-relief sessions held at the National Humanities Conference, which explored how state humanities councils can assist cultural institutions in disaster preparedness and response.

d. Preservation and Access

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Ramón Saldívar and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Division Director Nadina Gardner began the previous day's Committee meeting by providing information on NEH's ongoing work to preserve endangered cultural heritage. Ms. Gardner noted that, since late September 2017, the Division has received numerous requests for Chairman's emergency grants as a result of the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. Senior Program Officer Tatiana Ausema then delivered a presentation on how cultural heritage organizations in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico have been affected by these disasters, and how NEH, through its emergency grants, has assisted in their recovery.

e. Challenge Grants

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, stated that the Committee did not hold an open session the previous day and thus that he did not have anything to report at this time.

f. Public Programs

Dawn Ho Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Martha Wagner Weinberg also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Acting Division Director Jeff Hardwick began by updating the Committee on recent exhibition openings and film broadcasts, and shared the catalogues from two recent exhibitions that the Division funded: *Adios, Utopia:*

Dreams and Deceptions in Cuban Art Since 1950; and *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

Next, Senior Program Officer Marc Ruppel spoke about *Walden, a game*, a first-person simulation of Henry David Thoreau's experience at Walden Pond. This NEH-funded project, developed by the University of Southern California's Game Innovation Lab, is the first to launch under NEH's Digital Projects for the Public program. The game has received several national awards and has been adopted in schools across the country.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Chrissy Cortina provided an update on the broadcast and public outreach events for *The Vietnam War*, the PBS series by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. NEH provided support for both the series' production and a nationwide public engagement campaign. More than 33.8 million viewers have watched the series since it premiered in September 2017; and the seventy-three PBS stations in thirty-five states which received NEH outreach grants have held more than 350 public events.

g. Research Programs

Katherine Tachau, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Shelly Lowe also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Acting Division Director Russell Wyland began the previous day's Committee meeting with a brief staff update. He then reported on Division activities since July, including the status of recent application deadlines in Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions, Summer Stipends, the NEH-NSF Documenting Endangered Languages program, and the Kluge Fellowships program.

Mr. Wyland also distributed the Division's plan for spring regional grant-writing workshops in states throughout the country.

Finally, Mr. Wyland highlighted a few recently published books developed with NEH support: Christina Bueno's *The Pursuit of Ruins: Archaeology, History, and the Making of*

Modern Mexico; James Kloppenberg's Toward Democracy: The Struggle for Self-Rule in European and American Thought; and William Taubman's Gorbachev: His Life and Times.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOURTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 8-9, 2018**

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

Members Present*

**Jon Parrish Peede,
Senior Deputy Chairman
Rolena Adorno (via telephone)
Francine Berman
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Dawn Delbanco
Paula Duffy
David Hertz**

**Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Katherine Tachau
Martha Wagner Weinberg**

*** Council members Camila Alire, Albert Beveridge, Jamsheed Choksy, Gerald Early, Ramón Saldivar, Bruce Sievers, and John Unsworth did not attend.**

Thursday, March 8, 2018

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Education Programs, Challenge Grants, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Digital Humanities, and Research Programs committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues in sessions that were both open and closed to the public.

Friday, March 9, 2018

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

Senior Deputy Chairman Jon Parrish Peede called the one hundred and ninety-fourth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item IIIA)

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

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. **Senior Deputy Chairman's Remarks**

Senior Deputy Chairman Jon Parrish Peede began his remarks by stating that he is humbled that the President has expressed his intent to nominate him as chairman of NEH, and honored to serve the agency alongside the NEH staff and the Council.

Mr. Peede then spoke about the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum—two new museums that have received NEH support—which he said exemplify the significance and importance of the agency's work. He also commended the agency's efforts to award Chairman's Emergency Grants to cultural institutions in FEMA-designated disaster areas following the 2017 hurricanes.

Following the Senior Deputy Chairman's remarks, Council member David Hertz spoke in memory of former NEH Chairman Bruce Cole, who passed away in January 2018.

2. Assistant Chairman for Programs' Remarks

Assistant Chairman for Programs Adam Wolfson began his remarks by drawing Council members' attention to the printed staff report with details about new staff hires and departures. Mr. Wolfson noted that, on March 2, 2018, President Trump announced his intent to nominate the Senior Deputy Chairman as the next chairman of NEH. He also noted that Peter Roberts Coffin joined NEH as Special Assistant to the Senior Deputy Chairman, and that Janice Joyce joined as director of the Office of Grant Management.

Mr. Wolfson then acknowledged two promotions: Jorge Vasquez to the position of Human Resources Specialist, and Gwen Yates to the position of Program Analyst in the Division of Research Programs; and two recent interim appointments in the program divisions: Daniel Sack as Acting Deputy Director of Research Programs, and David Weinstein as Acting Deputy Director of Public Programs.

Mr. Wolfson also noted two staff departures: Jerri Shepherd, Grants Administrator in the Office of Grant Management, retired after forty years of service to NEH; and Joseph Phelan, Program Specialist in the Division of Education Programs, retired after fourteen years of service.

3. Presentation by Columbia University Professor Rita Charon, on Humanities and Medicine

Senior Deputy Chairman Peede introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Rita Charon, Professor of Medicine and founder and Executive Director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. Dr. Charon spoke about the intersection between the humanities and medicine, and described her work in "narrative medicine," some of which she undertook as part of an NEH-funded project.

4. Congressional Affairs Report

Timothy Robison, Director of Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional Affairs report.

Mr. Robison began by noting that, on February 8, 2018, Congress passed a six-week continuing resolution, which would fund the government, based on 2017 figures, until March 23, 2018. He reported that NEH has received numerous requests from members of both parties on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House of Representatives' Committee on Appropriations, and shared his opinion that negotiations regarding NEH's budget are ongoing and productive. Mr. Robison expressed appreciation for Congress's bipartisan recognition of NEH's work and impact.

5. Budget Report

Jeffrey Thomas, Assistant Chairman for Planning and Operations, provided the National Council with a report on NEH's FY 2018 and FY 2019 budgets. Regarding the FY 2018 budget, Mr. Thomas informed Council members that, like almost all other federal agencies, NEH has been operating under a series of continuing resolutions. Under these circumstances, NEH has appropriated funding for the first 174 days of the fiscal year, and has allocated this funding among the agency's grant-making divisions in a manner that will allow it to fund all grants approved at the March 2018 National Council meeting. Mr. Thomas added that NEH's conservative spending plan ensures that the agency will also be able to fund grant applications that the Council approves at its July 2018 meeting.

Regarding the FY 2019 budget, Mr. Thomas informed Council members that the Administration intends to request that Congress appropriate to NEH only enough funds to close the agency. At the Office of Management and Budget's request, NEH submitted to Congress a "shutdown budget" for FY 2019, which requested approximately \$42 million to fund the orderly shutdown of the agency's operations and grant programs beginning October 1, 2018.

Mr. Thomas emphasized, however, that NEH is continuing normal operations and intends to make a full round of awards following this and the next meeting of the National

Council. He added that, when presented with a similar shutdown budget for the current fiscal year, Congress signaled its intention to set aside the Administration's wishes and provide NEH with a full budget for the year.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Education Programs

Katherine Tachau, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Following introductions, Division Director Carol Peters began the previous day's Committee meeting by reporting on some of the Division's work since the November 2017 National Council meeting. Ms. Peters then noted staff participation at several meetings in Washington, D.C., including the annual conventions of the American Historical Association, the Council for Undergraduate Research, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities, as well as a meeting of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

b. Challenge Grants

Katherine Tachau, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Division of Education Programs Director Carol Peters began by reporting on the Division of Education's work with the Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. Planning grant program. Ms. Peters reminded Committee members that these grants are designed to support universities as they prepare to institute wide-ranging changes in humanities doctoral programs to help students translate what they learn in doctoral programs into a variety of careers.

Ms. Weinberg applauded the grant program's goals, noting her interest in seeing additional detail about specific careers for which these projects prepare students.

c. Federal/State Partnership

Christopher Merrill, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Allison Blakely and Dorothy Kosinski also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Following introductions, Senior Program Officer Meg McReynolds began the previous day's meeting with an update on the Office of Federal/State Partnership's activity since November 2017, which included three site visits (to the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Ohio), and continuing efforts to provide supplementary funding to state councils in areas affected by last year's hurricanes. Ms. McReynolds also reviewed the Senior Deputy Chairman's recent travel to state humanities councils.

Ms. McReynolds then provided the Committee with a brief update from the Federation of State Humanities Councils, whose representatives were unable to attend Thursday's National Council meeting due to events related to "Humanities on the Hill," the Federation's annual national advocacy event.

Next, Ms. McReynolds discussed updates to the Office's processes for self-assessments and site reviews. She stated that these updates, which include additional templates and revised guidance for both state humanities councils and external site visitors, should improve the quality of the information the Office collects about state humanities councils' activities and programs. This led to a lively discussion about how the state councils originally formed; how the Office of Federal/State Partnership guides state councils to distinguish between the arts and humanities; and the ways in which NEH, through the Office of Federal/State Partnership, maintains oversight over the network of state humanities councils.

Finally, Program Analyst Michael Chambers provided a presentation on the Office's three-pillar strategy—of capacity-building, communications, and outreach—to strengthen the

network of state humanities councils. Mr. Chambers then shared a clip from a new video the Office developed as part of its outreach efforts. The clip highlights a project from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities featuring a public discussion in which veterans describe their homecoming experiences.

The Committee was pleased to learn about the dynamic ways in which state humanities councils are sharing resources and information across this wide network. It urged Office staff to include National Council members in its e-newsletter so that the National Council might have a better grasp of the extraordinary work the state humanities councils are undertaking.

d. Preservation and Access

Constance Carroll, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Francine Berman and Paula Duffy also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Division of Preservation and Access Director Nadina Gardner began by thanking Senior Program Officers Joel Wurl and Mary Downs for their work in coordinating, respectively, the Humanities Collections and Reference Resources and the Documenting Endangered Languages grant programs.

Ms. Gardner then described a new grant program, Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grants, for which the deadline is next week. This grant program will support a broad array of projects from new construction or renovation of buildings to sustaining digital scholarly infrastructure.

Next, Ms. Gardner reported that the Division has awarded fifty-three Chairman's Emergency Grants to cultural institutions whose humanities collections were affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and added that NEH is currently processing additional requests. The Committee was greatly impressed by the scale of these efforts and praised the Division's efforts to ensure that hurricane victims receive this much-needed support.

The Committee concluded with a presentation by Senior Program Officers Mary Downs and Leah Grohsgal on Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions. NEH has awarded more than two thousand grants, in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, through this program since it was established eighteen years ago.

Following Ms. Carroll's Committee report, Senior Deputy Chairman Peede recognized Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, for her leadership; and acknowledged the importance of her organization's partnership with NEH.

e. Public Programs

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members David Hertz and Shelly Lowe also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

Acting Director of the Division of Public Programs Jeff Hardwick began the previous day's meeting by thanking the staff for its work in reviewing proposals and preparing the Committee book.

Mr. Hardwick especially commended Senior Program Officer Patricia Brooks, who served as Acting Deputy Director for four months (from September 2017 to January 2018), which is the maximum amount of time permitted for this acting position. Mr. Hardwick also thanked Senior Program Officer David Weinstein for his current work as Acting Deputy Director, a role he assumed in January 2018.

Next, Mr. Hardwick highlighted recent and upcoming museum exhibits and films that the NEH has funded. Among other projects, Mr. Hardwick mentioned "Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music," an exhibit scheduled to open later this month at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia; and "Native Voices," a children's exhibit from the Boston Children's Museum that is touring the country and currently on view at Port Discovery in Baltimore.

Mr. Hardwick also mentioned recently broadcast NEH-funded films, including biographies of Bob Hope and Lorraine Hansberry, and “Tell Them We are Rising,” a history of historically black colleges and universities.

f. Digital Humanities

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members David Hertz and Shelly Lowe also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office of Digital Humanities Director Brett Bobley provided an overview of “ODH at TEN: Our Tenth Anniversary Project Directors Meeting,” held at NEH on February 9, 2018. The meeting, which had about one hundred and eighty attendees as well as participants via social media, celebrated the Office’s tenth anniversary. It featured a special session hosted by National Council member John Unsworth, which explored the Office’s impact over the past decade, as well as brief talks about forty-three projects that the Office funded during 2017.

Next, Mr. Bobley spoke briefly about NEH’s Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grants, offered through the Division of Preservation and Access. Mr. Bobley noted that, among other things, this new program directly addresses the needs of the field by providing long-term support for critical digital projects. He added that this grant program has already generated significant positive feedback.

g. Research Programs

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee’s report. National Council members Patricia Limerick and Rolena Adorno also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Following introductions, Division of Research Programs Acting Director Russell Wyland began the previous day’s meeting with a staff update. He noted Daniel Sack’s appointment, through mid-May 2018, as Acting Deputy Director, and Gwendolyn Yates’ promotion to the

position of Program Analyst; he then introduced Blake Plante, the Division's spring intern from Pomona College.

Mr. Wyland then informed the Committee about Division activities since November 2017. These activities included reviewing the Public Scholar, Collaborative Research, and Scholarly Editions and Translations programs, the results of which the Division will present to the National Council at its July 2018 meeting; and providing the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress with an update on the Division's recent work.

Finally, Mr. Wyland announced that the Division would be increasing the stipend for its Fellowships program from \$4,200 to \$5,000 per month, for a maximum award of \$60,000. The Committee noted that the stipend amount had been stagnant for a decade, and that the increase was both timely and appreciated.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIFTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
JULY 12-13, 2018**

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

Members Present*

**Jon Parrish Peede, Chairman
Camila Alire
Francine Berman
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Jamsheed Choksy
Dawn Delbanco
Paula Duffy**

**Gerald Early
Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Weinberg**

*** Council members Rolena Adorno, David Hertz, Christopher Merrill, and Ramón Saldivar did not attend.**

Thursday, July 12, 2018

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Agenda Items I & II)

The Digital Humanities, Education Programs, Federal/State Partnership, Preservation and Access, Challenge Grants, Public Programs, and Research Programs Committees met to discuss grant proposals, programs, and policy issues in sessions that were both open and closed to the public. The Jefferson Lecture Committee met in a closed session to discuss candidates for the 2018 Jefferson Lecture.

Friday, July 13, 2018

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

Chairman Jon Parrish Peede called the one hundred and ninety-fifth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item IIIA)

The Council adopted the minutes of the one hundred and ninety-fourth meeting of the Council without amendment.

REPORTS
(Agenda Item IIIB)

1. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Peede began his remarks by acknowledging certain members of the public in attendance: Stephen Kidd, of the National Humanities Alliance; Esther Mackintosh, of the Federation of State Humanities Councils; and Bob Perry, of the National Trust for the Humanities.

Chairman Peede then acknowledged that the United States will celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding in 2026. On that point, he cited troubling statistics regarding the decline of civics education and awareness in this country and spoke

about NEH's long history of support for grants related to the U.S. Constitution and to the Bill of Rights. In particular, he noted that NEH funds documentaries and exhibitions on American history and government, preservation of historical documents, scholarly research that sheds light on the events and individuals that shaped the nation, and educational programs that encourage understanding of the history of the United States. Chairman Peede emphasized that he would like NEH to continue its support for such work, finding ways to present it holistically and in the broader context of civics education.

Finally, Chairman Peede introduced Carlos Díaz-Rosillo, who joined NEH as Senior Deputy Chairman in June 2018.

2. Senior Deputy Chairman's Remarks

Senior Deputy Chairman Carlos Díaz-Rosillo began his remarks by outlining what he would like to accomplish in his new role: expand NEH's international reach by building strategic partnerships around the world to promote the best of American education, research, and scholarship, and the resilience of our history, our culture, and our heritage; leverage modern technology to promote NEH's work; and promote interdisciplinary work in the humanities.

Mr. Díaz-Rosillo then turned to staff developments since the last Council meeting. He noted that Peggy Lee Mowers joined NEH as Executive Assistant to the Chairman and that Anne-Imelda Radice joined as Director of the Division of Public Programs. He also noted that NEH promoted Karen Kenton to Director of the Office of Federal/State Partnership, and that Jeff Thomas retired from his position as Assistant Chairman for Planning and Operations after forty-five years of service to NEH.

Next, Mr. Díaz-Rosillo thanked Jeff Hardwick for serving as Acting Director of the Division of Public Programs, and Russell Wyland for serving as Acting Director of the Division of Research Programs. He concluded his remarks by drawing Council members' attention to the printed staff report with additional details about recent staff hires and departures.

3. Presentation by Lori Foley, Federal Emergency Management Agency, on Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery for Cultural Organizations

Chairman Peede introduced the guest speaker, Lori Foley, Heritage National Task Force Administrator at the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"). Ms. Foley spoke about the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a public-private partnership between FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, and its efforts to protect the nation's cultural heritage from natural disasters.

4. Congressional Affairs and Budget Reports

Timothy Robison, Director of Congressional Affairs, provided the National Council with the Congressional Affairs and Budget reports.

Mr. Robison began by describing NEH's congressional outreach activities since March, which included arranging meetings between members of Congress and NEH grantees while the grantees were in Washington, D.C. for NEH training.

Next, he reported that President Donald Trump signed the fiscal year 2018 omnibus spending package on March 23, 2018. This legislation included a \$153 million budget for NEH, which represents a \$3 million increase over fiscal year 2017.

Mr. Robison then reported that the pending House and Senate appropriations bills for fiscal year 2019 both include \$155 million for NEH. He added that the Senate Appropriations Committee has sent all of its fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills to the full Senate, while the House Committee on Appropriations has passed its appropriations bill pertaining to NEH, but has yet to send it to the full House.

5. Presentation by Forum One on New NEH Website

Chairman Peede introduced Julia Bradshaw, Alex Klatsky, and Joey Tackett, three representatives from Forum One, the digital services agency working with NEH on its website redesign process.

Mr. Klatsky began with an overview of the website redesign process. Next, Ms. Bradshaw and Mr. Tackett each spoke in detail about particular phases of the process, and highlighted the ways in which Forum One collaborated with NEH staff to ensure the new website meets the agency's specific needs. Mr. Klatsky then described some design challenges that arose throughout the process, and explained how Forum One addressed them. Finally, Mr. Klatsky informed the National Council that the new website is scheduled to launch the second week of August.

6. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Shelly Lowe, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire and Gerald Early also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office of Digital Humanities Director Brett Bobley began by discussing the NEH's newest grant program: Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants. Mr. Bobley noted that this grant program (which the Division of Preservation and Access administers) will help address a critical issue in the field of digital humanities, namely, how to sustain digital projects that are making valuable contributions to the field.

Next, Mr. Bobley briefed the Committee on a recent meeting of the steering committee for the Trans-Atlantic Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities, an international collaboration between humanities and social science research funders.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Elizabeth Tran reported on a workshop she co-hosted at the 2018 Digital Humanities Conference in Mexico City, entitled "The Trans-Atlantic Platform: Digging into Data Challenge Experience." The workshop, aimed at individuals interested in adding an international dimension to their research and funders interested in international

funding opportunities, focused on how international partnerships can benefit large-scale research projects in digital scholarship.

b. Education Programs

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

Following introductions, Division of Education Programs Director Carol Peters began the previous day's Committee meeting by reporting on staff travel and the Division's recent work, including project directors meetings in May and June.

Senior Program Officers Victoria Sams and Rebecca Boggs then provided brief reports on a recently published study by the National Academy of Sciences ("NAS"), which NEH co-sponsored, entitled "Branches from the Same Tree," and on a meeting of the Alliance for Arts in Research Universities concerning strategies for implementing the NAS study recommendations.

c. Federal/State Partnership

Bruce Sievers, 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.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office of Federal/State Partnership Director Karen Kenton began with an update on the Office's recent activity, which included a two-day orientation session for new executive directors of state humanities councils, held in partnership with the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and a funding workshop in Alabama for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She also described her Office's staff travel to Rhode Island, Oklahoma, and Mississippi.

Ms. Kenton then provided updates on the Chairman's Emergency Grants for hurricane relief, which NEH has awarded to the state humanities councils of Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, and expects to award to the humanities council of Puerto Rico. In addition, she reported

on the status of the Chairman's Statehood Grants, which NEH will award to state humanities councils and partner institutions for projects that commemorate the 150th and 200th anniversaries of statehood. Ms. Kenton noted that the Chairman considers these grants to be a "down payment" in anticipation of the U.S. semiquincentennial celebration in 2026.

Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, then updated the Committee on the Federation's activities, which include planning for the 2018 National Humanities Conference. Ms. Mackintosh also reported on the status of two Mellon Foundation grants that the Federation is currently administering with assistance from state humanities councils.

Next, Senior Program Officer Meg McReynolds provided an overview of the Office of Federal/State Partnership's site review process, and Program Analyst Michael Chambers presented a summary of data gathered from the state humanities councils' fiscal year 2017 compliance reports.

Finally, Ms. Kenton reported that the Office is currently updating its site review process, and also working with the Federation to develop new strategies for data collection and analysis. The latter initiative aims to capture quantitative and qualitative information that will help identify areas in need of improvement and build an evidence-based narrative about the impact of humanities research, preservation, and programming.

d. Preservation and Access

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Francine Berman and John Unsworth also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Following brief introductions, Division of Preservation and Access Director Nadina Gardner began the previous day's meeting with a summary of current Division activities, including its ongoing work related to NEH's Protecting Our Cultural Heritage initiative, an effort to encourage projects that conduct research and develop resources for the study,

documentation, and presentation of imperiled cultural heritage materials. Ms. Gardner then announced that as part of this effort NEH will sponsor a 2019 meeting of international private funders that support the protection of endangered cultural heritage worldwide.

Next, Senior Program Officer Cathleen Tefft gave a presentation on recent Division awards to support literary studies on projects that preserve the papers of great American writers and special collections of rare books. Ms. Tefft also provided an overview of efforts in the research library community, some NEH-funded, to extend the reach of bibliographic description through linked data initiatives.

e. Challenge Grants

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Challenge Grants, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Francine Berman and John Unsworth also served on the Committee on Challenge Grants.

Mr. Krislov reported that the Committee on Challenge Grants did not hold a meeting in open session.

f. Public Programs

Patricia Limerick, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

The previous day's Committee meeting began with remarks from Assistant Chairman for Programs Adam Wolfson, who introduced Anne-Imelda Radice as the new Director of the Division of Public Programs.

Next, Deputy Director Jeff Hardwick highlighted recent and upcoming exhibits, programs, and films that received NEH funding, including: an exhibit on Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings at the New York Botanical Garden; a nationwide reading and discussion program on the founding era, presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History; and a revitalized NEH On the Road exhibit about visual culture and the civil rights movement. Mr.

Hardwick also mentioned that the NEH-funded film, "The Jazz Ambassadors," about the United States government's use of jazz musicians as cultural diplomats, premiered on PBS last spring.

Finally, Senior Program Officer David Weinstein provided an update on the Division's ongoing study of the distribution of NEH-funded documentary films. Mr. Weinstein noted that the NEH website includes a comprehensive media log of NEH-supported films, which may make it easier for the public to access these films.

g. Research Programs

Jamsheed Choksy, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Allison Blakely and Dorothy Kosinski also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Following introductions, Division of Research Programs Acting Director Russell Wyland began the previous day's meeting with a brief staff update and a review of Division activities since March.

Mr. Wyland then called the Committee's attention to a display of recently published books that received NEH support, highlighting three in particular: *The Fair Chase: The Epic Story of Hunting in America*, by independent scholar Philip Dray; *Mapping the Middle East*, by Zayde Antirm; and *Red Hot Mama: The Life of Sophie Tucker*, by Lauren Rebecca Sklaroff.

h. Jefferson Lecture

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Jefferson Lecture Committee, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Jamsheed Choksy, Dawn Delbanco, Paula Duffy, Patricia Limerick, and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on the Jefferson Lecture.

Mr. Krislov reported that the Committee met to consider nominations for the 2018 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. He explained that NEH staff previously sent the Committee a list of nominees along with a brief biography of each individual. He added that the list includes individuals who were nominated as a result of a nationwide solicitation that NEH

conducted last spring as well as eligible nominees carried forward from the previous two years' solicitations.

During the previous day's Committee meeting, Committee members reviewed the list of nominees and identified a short list of the most highly recommended nominees to deliver the 2018 Jefferson Lecture. Mr. Krislov reported that the Committee will present its short list for the Council's consideration at the executive plenary session of today's meeting.

PLENARY SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item IV)

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIXTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
NOVEMBER 15-16, 2018**

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

Members Present*

**Jon Parrish Peede, Chairman
Rolena Adorno
Camila Alire
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Jamsheed Choksy
Dawn Delbanco
Paula Duffy
David Hertz**

**Marvin Krislov
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Ramón Saldívar
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
Martha Weinberg**

*** Council members Francine Berman, Constance Carroll, Gerald Early, Dorothy Kosinski, and John Unsworth did not attend. Council member Bruce Sievers attended only on Thursday, November 15, 2018.**

Thursday, November 15, 2018

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 in sessions that were both open and closed to the public.

Friday, November 16, 2018

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

Chairman Jon Parrish Peede called the one hundred and ninety-sixth meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

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

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

REPORTS
(Agenda Item III.B)

1. **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Peede began his remarks by recognizing Stephen Kidd, of the National Humanities Alliance, and Jeff Allen, of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, along with their colleagues, for their work on the 2018 National Humanities Conference, which took place in New Orleans on November 8-11, 2018, and which several NEH staff members attended. Chairman Peede then said a few words about the 2018 Jefferson Lecture, which was held in Washington, D.C. on October 15, 2018, and thanked Council members for attending the event.

Next, Chairman Peede spoke about his recent travels on behalf of the agency—including visits to the Buffalo Bill Center in Cody, Wyoming; Heart Mountain, site of an internment camp where Japanese and Japanese-Americans were confined during World War II; Crow Agency,

Montana, headquarters of the Crow Indian Reservation; and the Center for the American West at the University of Colorado Boulder—and reflected on key takeaways from these visits. In particular, Chairman Peede emphasized that the humanities are not divisive or frivolous, nor are they a luxury; rather, they are at the core of every living, healthy, prospering democracy.

2. Staff Report

Assistant Chairman for Programs Adam Wolfson began his remarks by drawing Council members' attention to the printed staff report with details about new staff hires and departures. Mr. Wolfson informed the Council that the agency recently hired several new staff members, including in the Office of Communications, the Office of Grant Management, the Office of Human Resources, and the program divisions. He added that NEH has hired its first Chief Information Security Officer, Henry Nguyen, and, in another first, Chairman Peede named Ifa Bayeza as NEH's first "Humanist in Residence." Mr. Wolfson also reported that NEH recently hired Michelle Young as Staff Assistant to the Chairman.

Turning to developments in the program divisions, Mr. Wolfson noted that Christopher Thornton joined NEH as the new Director of the Division of Research Programs, and that Joel Wurl was promoted to Deputy Director of the Division of Preservation and Access.

Finally, Mr. Wolfson acknowledged several staff departures. Barbara Bays, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, retired after twenty-four years of federal service; Ralph Canevali, Deputy Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, retired after thirty years of service to NEH; Gladys Coleman, Budget Analyst in the Office of Planning and Budget, retired after forty-eight years of federal service; Anna Gillis, Managing Editor in the Office of Publications, retired after thirty-five years of federal service; Talana Morton-Smith, Training and SharePoint Designer in the Office of Information Resources Management, retired after thirty-five years of federal service; Richard Pettit, Program Analyst in the Division of Education Programs, retired after ten years of federal service; Adrian Reilly, Webmaster for the Division of Education Programs—EDSITEment, retired after eight years of federal service;

Barbara Tatge, Grants Administrator in the Office of Grant Management, retired after thirty years of federal service; and Jim Turner, Program Analyst in the Division of Research Programs, retired after thirty years of federal service. Bob Coffin, Special Assistant to the Chairman, left his position to pursue other opportunities.

3. Presentation by Kaywin Feldman, Minneapolis Institute of Art, on the Future of Museums

Chairman Peede introduced the guest speaker, Kaywin Feldman, Director and President of the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Ms. Feldman spoke about the future of museums, particularly with respect to how museums can continue their mission of collecting, preserving, and conserving works of art while also providing relevant and engaging experiences for contemporary audiences.

4. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Katherine Tachau, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office of Digital Humanities Director Brett Boley reported on the recent NEH/Mellon Humanities Open Book project directors meeting, held September 27, 2018, at the Mellon Foundation headquarters in New York.

Next, Senior Program Officer Jennifer Serventi previewed the upcoming Office of Digital Humanities project directors meeting, to be held in Washington, D.C. on March 18, 2019. Then, Senior Program Officer Sheila Brennan provided an update on a selection of projects that received NEH funding through the Office's grant programs.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Elizabeth Tran briefed the Committee on a forthcoming research report from Northwestern University about optical character recognition and its importance to humanities research.

b. Education Programs

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge and Shelly Lowe also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Following introductions, Division of Education Programs Director Carol Peters began the previous day's Committee meeting by reporting on staff travel to conduct site visits, offer grant-writing workshops, and attend conferences, as well as the Division's recent work, which included hosting two project directors meetings in October.

Next, Division staff provided a report on the impact and reach of the Summer Seminars and Institutes and Landmarks of American History and Culture programs, highlighting the fact that, since the program's inception, teachers who attended Landmarks programs have reached over three million K-12 students in our nation's public and private schools.

c. Federal/State Partnership

Ramón Saldívar, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Camila Alire and David Hertz also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office of Federal/State Partnership Director Karen Kenton began by providing the Committee with an update on the Office's recent activity. Senior Program Officer Meg Ferris McReynolds followed with a report on NEH's increased presence at the 2018 National Book Festival.

Next, Office of Publications Director David Skinner led a lively discussion about NEH's *Humanities* magazine and magazines published by the state humanities councils. Finally, Esther Mackintosh and Jeff Allen, of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, presented highlights from the 2018 National Humanities Conference and updated the Committee on the Federation's other recent activities.

d. Preservation and Access

Patricia Limerick, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council member Paula Duffy also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Following brief introductions, Division of Preservation and Access Director Nadina Gardner began the previous day's meeting by describing the Division's ongoing efforts, in the months since Chairman Peede awarded sixty-seven emergency grants, to support disaster recovery at humanities institutions affected by the 2017 hurricanes.

Next, Senior Program Officer Sarah Lepinski and Program Analyst Jennifer Ingram briefed the Committee on results from the first round of NEH's Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grants program, which aims to help humanities institutions secure long-term support for their core activities and expand efforts to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials.

e. Public Programs

Dawn Delbanco, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Allison Blakely and Bruce Sievers also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Division of Public Programs Director Anne-Imelda Radice began by thanking Division staff and agency leadership for their support as she assumed her new role as Director.

Next, Senior Program Officer Marc Ruppel gave a presentation on the NEH-funded documentary series, *Shakespeare Uncovered*, a WNET production now in its third and final season. Mr. Ruppel discussed the popularity of the series and its long shelf-life across multiple media and formats.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Chrissy Cortina provided a brief update regarding the NEH on the Road grant program. She noted that seven NEH on the Road exhibitions are

currently traveling around the country, and that the latest exhibition, *Frida Kahlo's Garden*, is already booked for the next three years.

f. Research Programs

Jamsheed Choksy, Chair of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno and Christopher Merrill also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Following introductions, Division of Research Programs Director Christopher Thornton began the previous day's meeting with a brief staff update and a review of Division activities since July. Mr. Thornton also informed the Committee that NEH extended the Summer Stipends deadline for applicants in areas affected by Hurricane Florence.

Finally, Mr. Thornton distributed the Division's plan for this year's regional grant application-writing workshops. In addition to presenting discipline-based workshops at major academic conferences, Division staff will conduct workshops in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

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

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVENTH
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES
MARCH 7-8, 2019**

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

Members Present*

**Jon Parrish Peede, Chairman
Rolena Adorno
Francine Berman
Albert Beveridge
Allison Blakely
Constance Carroll
Dawn Delbanco
Paula Duffy
David Hertz**

**Dorothy Kosinski
Marvin Krislov
Patricia Limerick
Shelly Lowe
Christopher Merrill
Bruce Sievers
Katherine Tachau
John Unsworth
Martha Weinberg**

*** Council members Camila Alire, Jamsheed Choksy, Gerald Early, and Ramón Saldivar did not attend. Council member David Hertz attended only on Thursday, March 7, 2019.**

Thursday, March 7, 2019

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 in sessions that were both open and closed to the public.

Friday, March 8, 2019

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

Chairman Jon Parrish Peede called the one hundred and ninety-seventh meeting of the National Council on the Humanities to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING
(Agenda Item IIIA)

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

REPORTS
(Agenda Item IIIB)

1. **Chairman's Remarks**

After thanking the NEH staff for their dedication, especially in the weeks following the partial government shutdown during December 2018 and January 2019, Chairman Peede provided the Council with two updates; first, that the President approved Congress's \$155 million appropriation to the agency for Fiscal Year 2019 (the third consecutive year in which NEH's budget has increased) and, second, that the President has nominated sixteen individuals to the National Council on the Humanities.

Next, Chairman Peede shared excerpts from a speech he delivered at the Federation of State Humanities Councils' annual "Humanities on the Hill" event, held earlier in the week, in

which he spoke about the “culture of the humanities.” In his remarks, he noted that the humanities bind people together, particularly in trying times, and emphasized that the nation must attend to its cultural resources so as to preserve understanding of its founding ideals.

2. Senior Deputy Chairman’s Remarks

Senior Deputy Chairman Carlos Díaz-Rosillo began his remarks by recognizing that NEH is a critical part of our democratic tradition, and thanking staff for their efforts to advance the agency’s mission.

Next, Mr. Díaz-Rosillo provided the Council with three updates. First, he discussed NEH’s recent efforts to expand its international reach, which include potential partnerships with several foreign embassies and the formation of an international advisory group to help the agency accomplish its international objectives. Second, Mr. Díaz-Rosillo informed Council members that NEH received a “clean” opinion with no findings for its Fiscal Year 2018 audit. Third, he reported that the agency raised 109 percent of its goal during the 2018 Combined Federal Campaign.

Finally, Mr. Díaz-Rosillo referred Council members to the printed staff report with details about new staff hires and departures. Since the last Council meeting, five individuals joined the NEH staff: Janice Bell, as Senior Librarian and NEH’s Federal Agency Records Officer; Jason Harshman, as Program Specialist in the Division of Education Programs; Sherry Heinitz, as IT Specialist in the Office of Communications; Ellen Jones, as Special Assistant to the Director of Congressional Affairs; and Joshua Salpeter, as Special Advisor to the Senior Deputy Chairman. In addition, there were three staff departures: Adam Kress, Attorney-Advisor in the Office of the General Counsel, left NEH to pursue other opportunities; Lucy Cutrona, Public Affairs Specialist, retired after thirty-four years of federal service; and Shirley Newman, Program Assistant in the Office of Federal/State Partnership, retired after forty-eight years of federal service.

3. Presentation by Dr. Janine Pease, Faculty Member, Little Big Horn College

Chairman Peede introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Janine Pease, the founding president and a current faculty member of Little Big Horn College. Dr. Pease spoke about Little Big Horn College's efforts to preserve the Crow Indian language and culture, including a "rapid word collection" project that convened more than sixty tribal elders to create a 15,000-word Crow dictionary, and an NEH-supported oral history project to interview tribal elders whose lives were affected by federal relocation policies and the War on Poverty.

4. Committee Reports on Policy and General Matters

a. Digital Humanities

Francine Berman, Chair of the Committee on Digital Humanities, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Bruce Sievers and John Unsworth also served on the Committee on Digital Humanities.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Office of Digital Humanities Director Brett Bobley provided an overview of the history and impact of the Humanities Open Book grant program, which will end this year after four rounds of funding. Then, Senior Program Officer Elizabeth Tran briefed the Committee on a new report from Northeastern University entitled "A Research Agenda for Historical and Multilingual Optical Character Recognition."

b. Education Programs

Francine Berman, Chair of the Committee on Education Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Bruce Sievers and John Unsworth also served on the Committee on Education Programs.

Division of Education Programs Director Carol Peters began the previous day's Committee meeting by reporting on the Division's recent work, including staff travel and outreach. Ms. Peters also introduced the Division's newest staff member, Jason Harshman. Senior Program Officer Victoria Sams and Program Analyst Nick Di Taranto followed with a report on the Division's Dialogues on the Experience of War grant program.

c. Federal/State Partnership

Christopher Merrill, Chair of the Committee on Federal/State Partnership, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Patricia Limerick and Martha Weinberg also served on the Committee on Federal/State Partnership.

Following introductions, Office of Federal/State Partnership Director Karen Kenton began the previous day's meeting by providing the Committee with an update on the Chairman's recent travel and as well as the many state humanities council programs that NEH has funded through Chairman's Statehood Grants. Next, Senior Program Officer Meg Ferris McReynolds followed with an overview of the site review process. Finally, Ms. Kenton read aloud a written report from Esther Mackintosh, President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, regarding the Federation's recent activity.

d. Preservation and Access

Shelly Lowe, Chair of the Committee on Preservation and Access, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Albert Beveridge, Allison Blakely, and Dorothy Kosinski also served on the Committee on Preservation and Access.

Following brief introductions, Division of Preservation and Access Director Nadina Gardner began the previous day's meeting by reporting on the Division's recent activities, including staff representation at the annual conferences of the Coalition for Networked Information and of the Association of Moving Image Archivists. Ms. Gardner also highlighted Chairman Peede's recent visit, along with Senior Program Office Tatiana Ausema, to the graduate program in Art Conservation sponsored by the University of Delaware and the Winterthur Museum Garden and Library, during which the Chairman and Ms. Ausema met with museum staff and students.

Finally, Senior Program Officer Leah Grohsgal delivered a presentation about the challenges of preserving the increasing abundance of humanities content in digital form and how NEH is responding to this dilemma.

e. Challenge Grants

There was no separate open session report for the Committee on Challenge Grants, which met together with the Committee on Preservation and Access.

f. Public Programs

Marvin Krislov, Chair of the Committee on Public Programs, delivered the Committee's report. National Council members Rolena Adorno, Paula Duffy, and Katherine Tachau also served on the Committee on Public Programs.

At the Committee meeting the previous day, Division of Public Programs Director Anne-Imelda Radice began by thanking Division staff for their work as the "public face" of NEH, and then called the Committee's attention to an NEH-funded exhibition that will open at the Freer-Sackler on March 30, 2019, entitled "Empresses of China's Forbidden City, 1644 to 1912." Next, Ms. Radice reported that the Division has made efforts to recruit panelists from every state and region, with considerable success: of the ninety-seven panelists serving over the past year, the largest number came from the Midwest, and there was strong representation from the South and the Mountain West.

Finally, Senior Program Officer David Weinstein informed the Committee about an NEH-funded film, *Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*, which is part of PBS's *American Masters* series and scheduled to be broadcast nationwide starting in April 2019. Mr. Weinstein informed Council members that NEH funded approximately \$450,000 of the project's \$650,000 budget.

g. Research Programs

Constance Carroll, a member of the Committee on Research Programs, delivered the Committee's report on behalf of Committee Chair David Hertz, who did not attend Friday's plenary session. National Council member Dawn Delbanco also served on the Committee on Research Programs.

Following introductions, Division of Research Programs Director Christopher Thornton began the previous day's meeting with a brief staff update. He then assured the Committee that the recent partial government shutdown had not seriously disrupted the application process for the three grant programs in the Division that are scheduled for consideration at the July 2019 Council meeting (Collaborative Research, Scholarly Editions and Translations, and the Public Scholar Program).

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