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Advisory Panels: Confidentiality Clause (1975): Correspondence 01

Livingston Biddle

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TO: SENATOR

FROM: LB

OK

May 6

RE: HISTORIC PRESERVATION

One of the purposes of the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 is to

"support cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past..."

The Arts Endowment is authorized to support
"architecture and allied fields..."

Its mandate includes "projects" to carry out the purposes of the Act and these are broadly defined as programs in keeping with the Act's wide mandate.

Putting these together it is certainly appropriate for the Arts Endowment to assist in the area of architectural preservation.

* * * * *

In line with this rationale, one of the Arts Endowment's three main areas of concentration is --

The Advancement of our Cultural Legacy

This is spelled out in our hearing record.

In Nancy Hanks testimony, you will note that a section is devoted to Architectural Preservation, and that it outlines cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In sum -- no new mandate seems required.

I recommend something like this in the Report... "The Committee commends the Endowment for the initiatives it has taken in projects which are of abiding value to our nation and recalls in its report on earlier reauthorization legislation recommending that the Endowment only support projects of such value and quality for Bicentennial purposes. In this regard, the Committee encourages the Endowment to place an important emphasis on projects related to the preservation of and enhancement of our country's historic landmarks, so that in accord with the Declaration of Purpose of the Act, we may achieve a better understanding of the past."