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# CLAIBORNE PELL

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 13, 1979

PELL: RISD TO HOST NORTH AMERICAN CITIES SYMPOSIUM  
WITH ART ENDOWMENT FUNDS--APRIL 18-20 IN PROVIDENCE

The Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), aided by a \$30,000 federal grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, will host a two-part symposium on Rebuilding the Medium Size North American City, Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) announced today.

"One of the major problems facing medium-size cities like Providence," Pell said, "is a shortage of reliable and easily available background data and strategies relevant to urban rebuilding. Although each city's problems and needs are unique, there is much that can be shared. This symposium is an important step in that direction."

Pell, who heads the Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities and who wrote the legislation creating the National Endowment for the Arts, actively supported RISD's application for funding. His subcommittee is responsible for "oversight" of the Endowment.

The first of the two-part symposium at RISD will be held April 18-20. The second will be held this Fall and the results are scheduled for publication early next year. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, the Providence Mayor's Office, the Providence Preservation Society and Brown University will join RISD in the symposium.

The objectives of the two-part symposium, Pell said, are

- To identify those issues and problems that are particularly pertinent to the medium-sized North American city.
- To review economical, political, social and design strategies that led to significant accomplishments in the recent past.
- To collect comparative information and experiences as a resource for future strategies.
- To propose a series of case studies to be carried out between the first and second parts of the symposium.

Pell said nine cities plan to participate in the symposium, which will focus on "issues, problems and strategies peculiar to the medium-sized North American city." Those cities, including Providence, are Hartford, Conn.; Portland, Oreg.; San Antonio, Tex.; Nashville, Tenn.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Quebec, Quebec; Charlestown, S.C.; Spokane, Wash.; and Savannah, Ga.

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