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## Conservation: Hearings, Reports, Correspondence (1971-1973): Speech 03

Florence Lowe

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# NEWS

National Endowment  
for the Arts



National Council  
on the Arts

Washington D.C. 20506

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From: Florence Lowe  
202 382-6064

For Release: Monday a.m.  
March 5, 1973

## MUSEUM CONSERVATION/RENOVATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED

In a recent message to the Congress, President Nixon stated, "As our Bicentennial approaches, the cultural activities of America will take on even greater importance."

Citing this message, Nancy Hanks, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, remarked, "As our nation's museums prepare to meet the challenge implied in the President's statement, the greatest single problem facing them is the preservation of the American heritage. Responding to this need, the National Council on the Arts last May approved programs to assist America's museums in conservation and renovation for preservation purposes.

Miss Hanks' observation accompanied an announcement of 90 grants totaling \$2,152,784 to museums and related institutions in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

Of these, 59 grants totaling \$927,787 (\$100,000 from private sources), are in the area of Conservation and 31 grants totaling \$1,224,997 (\$461,476 from private sources) are for Renovation.

This is the second round of grants in the Endowment's Museum Program of over \$5,000,000 including private funds for Fiscal Year 1973. Previously announced were 131 grants totaling \$1,972,624 (\$40,000 from private sources) in the categories of Aid to Special Exhibitions; Utilization of Permanent Collections; and Wider Availability of Museums.

"When we launched the Conservation/Renovation Programs in May, 1972," Miss Hanks stated, "the National Council on the Arts recognized that a shortage of funds, coupled with a dearth of trained conservators, was jeopardizing the American cultural heritage despite the efforts of the museums.

"At the same time, the Council realized the futility of preserving objects and then placing them in the same environment that caused the deterioration in the first place.

"In our efforts to respond to the needs of the country's museums," Miss Hanks pointed out, "we have tried to approach basic problems but also to remain as flexible as possible. For example, when Hurricane Agnes wreaked its havoc last summer, we made a number of emergency grants to museums in Pennsylvania and New York to help them save water damaged collections."

John R. Spencer, Director of the Endowment's Museum Program, stated, "We feel that the Conservation/Renovation Programs have made very practical contributions to museums of all sizes. We have been helping to relieve the shortage of conservators with training programs. In order to make conservators more available to American museums, we have been encouraging the creation of regional laboratories that can efficiently serve a large area. It is a slow process, but we can already see enough progress to know that we are moving in the right direction.

"We also have been cooperating with the American Institute for Conservation and with the seminars offered by the American Association of Museums to make museum personnel more aware of the problems of conservation.

"The response to the Renovation program has surpassed our expectations," Mr. Spencer said. The number of applications, representing a new public awareness to the needs of Renovation, is so great that we could not do justice to all the worthy projects. Both large and small museums desperately need climate control, security systems and adequate storage.

"We have, for example, helped a museum in Mississippi take moisture from the air and a museum in Arizona add moisture to the air. We have helped upgrade storage in Hartford, Connecticut and have assisted a project to install security equipment in San Francisco. The Renovation program is one of the most gratifying we have in that the need is so great and the results so immediate".

All grants in the Museum Program are on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis with the exception of Installation projects in the Renovation Program. The latter must be matched three dollars from private sources for every federal dollar.

Evan Turner, Director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and J. C. Dickinson, Jr., Director of the Florida State Museum, are Co-Chairmen of the Museum Advisory Panel.

The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent agency of the Federal Government, created in 1965 to encourage and assist the nation's cultural resources. The Endowment is advised by the 26 Presidentially-appointed members of the National Council on the Arts.

Following is a list of grants:--

CONSERVATION

TRAINING IN CONSERVATION

City Art Museum of St. Louis St. Louis, Missouri	Train an intern for one year	\$ 4,200
Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit, Michigan	Train two interns in painting and/or decorative arts conservation and one apprentice in decorative arts	12,500
Harvard University Fogg Art Museum Cambridge, Massachusetts	Continue the Museum's 3-year training conservation apprenticeship program which will include stipends for the three trainees and related equipment	35,000
Museum of Primitive Art New York, New York	Train one intern in the field of primitive art conservation	4,600
New York State Historical Assoc. Cooperstown, New York	Continue the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Program at Cooperstown which will include stipends for thirteen fellows	61,525
New York University Conservation Center Institute of Fine Arts New York, New York	Continue the training program for graduate conservation students	75,000 (\$25,000 non- matching)
Rosary College (Villa Schifanoia Graduate School of Fine Arts. Florence, Italy) River Forest, Illinois	Support of the Graduate program in conservation training	16,950
University of Delaware Newark, Delaware	Develop and plan a training center in art conservation with the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum	10,000

CONSERVATION, Continued

University of Delaware Newark, Delaware	Establish a training center in art conservation with the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum	\$ 300,000 (\$100,000 private)
University of New Mexico Maxwell Museum of Anthropology Albuquerque, New Mexico	Train two conservators, one a permanent staff member, the other a graduate assistant	6,390
Walters Art Gallery Baltimore, Maryland	Train an intern from Cooperstown Center for Conservation of Historic and Artistic works	3,500

REGIONAL CONSERVATION CENTERS

Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit, Michigan	Feasibility study to determine what classifications of materials would lend themselves to some cooperative arrangement and develop a system to serve the Midwest and Great Lakes Region	2,250
Maine State Museum Augusta, Maine	Continue and expand the services of the Conservation Center at Maine State Museum	40,000

CONSERVATION OF COLLECTION

American Museum of Natural History New York, New York	Preservation of documentary collection: replacement of 35,000 nitrate negatives with contact prints and copy negatives on safety film	16,230
Amherst College Mead Art Building Amherst, Massachusetts	Conservation treatment of the American and European painting collection	2,500

CONSERVATION, Continued

Baltimore Museum of Art Baltimore, Maryland	Emergency Conservation on twelve volumes of Alfred Steiglitz's <u>Camerawork</u>	\$ 2,602
Bernice P. Bishop Museum Honolulu, Hawaii	Conservation nitrate negatives	8,350
The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences The Brooklyn Museum Brooklyn, New York	Survey conservation needs of the Paper Collection	6,000
Chemung Historical Society Elmira, New York	Restore and conserve their collection damaged by the flood	8,500
The Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts Columbus, Ohio	Conservation treatment of six paintings	2,250
Cornell University H. F. Johnson Museum of Art Ithaca, New York	Emergency conservation of nine Anglo- Saxon artifacts and a display case for these objects	1,147
The Corning Museum of Glass Corning, New York	Evaluate the methods of controlling storage conditions in order to prevent crizzling of unstable glass	10,000
Denver Art Museum, Inc. Denver, Colorado	Emergency conservation of three Italian panel paintings	5,950
Fisk University Carl Van Vechten Gallery Nashville, Tennessee	Emergency conservation of the Alfred Stieglitz Collection	7,500
Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit, Michigan	Emergency conservation of textiles	2,500



CONSERVATION, Continued

Hampton Institute The College Museum Hampton, Virginia	Long-range (3-years) conservation program for the Museum's ethnological collection	\$ 17,206
Hebrew Union College The Skirball Museum Los Angeles, California	Emergency conservation of the Museum's collection of "Ketubot" (Jewish marriage contracts)	5,000
The Hispanic Society of America New York, New York	Emergency conservation of a large late - 15th Century altar piece from Northern Spain	8,905
Honolulu Academy of Art Honolulu, Hawaii	Emergency conservation of seven paintings, and a survey of 160 paintings	7,265
Jewish Museum New York, New York	Conservation treatment of the collection	10,000
The Library of Congress Washington, D.C.	For support of a meeting of paper conservators to discuss the salvaging of flood damaged materials	1,193
Manchester Historic Association Manchester, New Hampshire	Complete restoration of furniture collections	2,235
Maryland Historical Society Baltimore, Maryland	Emergency conservation of approximately 30 paintings	10,000
Missouri Botanical Garden St. Louis, Missouri	Conservation treatment of the Library's Folio collection	14,140
The New York Historical Society New York, New York	Restoration of the large silk banner carried by the Pewterer's of the City of New York in the Federal Procession, 23 July 1788 in celebration of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States	1,250

CONSERVATION, Continued

The New York Historical Society New York, New York	1-year conservation program for the painting collection	\$ 13,200
Northern Arizona Society of Science and Art, Inc. Flagstaff, Arizona	Copy deteriorating nitrate based photographic negatives on to modern safety film	7,510
Pasadena Art Museum Pasadena, California	Emergency conservation of the Galka E. Scheyer Collection	9,800
Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art Providence, Rhode Island	Conservation treatment of the British watercolors and drawings collection	6,748
St. Bonaventure University Friedsam Library St. Bonaventure, New York	Development of long-range conservation program for the University's Art Collection	2,000
San Joaquin Pioneer and Historical Society Stockton, California	Conservation of collection	5,000
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities Boston, Massachusetts	Conservation treatment of Nathaniel Stebbins Marine Photography Collection	1,750
South Dakota Historical Society Pierre, South Dakota	Emergency conservation of two oil paintings - <u>Indian Burial, Lower Brule, Dakota Territory, and Crow Creek Reservation, 1893.</u>	1,000
University of California R.H. Lowie Museum of Anthropology Berkeley, California	Transcription of all cylinders, original tapes, and disks of Museum's audio recording archive of original ethnographic materials on to magnetic tapes	19,560

CONSERVATION, Continued

University of California University Art Museum Berkeley, California	Emergency conservation of seven works - six Hans Hofmann and one Henry Alexander	\$ 5,000
University of Illinois Krannert Art Museum Champaign-Urbana, Illinois	Remount 1381 prints and drawings	3,000
University of Iowa Museum of Art Iowa City, Iowa	Restoration of 36 paintings in the University Museum's collection	10,000
University of Vermont Robert Hull Fleming Museum Burlington, Vermont	Emergency conservation of Museum's print and drawing collection	7,580
University of Wisconsin Foundation Elvehjem Art Center Madison, Wisconsin	Emergency conservation of the University's collection	10,000
Walker Art Center Minneapolis, Minnesota	Development of an emergency conservation laboratory	7,500
Walters Art Gallery Baltimore, Maryland	Establishment of a metalurgical laboratory to discover causes of decay of Bronzes and development of methods of treatment	29,811
Whitney Museum of American Art New York, New York	Emergency conservation treatment of prints and drawings	6,617
Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts Delaware Art Museum Wilmington, Delaware	Conservation treatment of the collection	5,000
Wood Art Gallery, Trustees of Montpelier, Vermont	Emergency conservation treatment of the collection	2,830

CONSERVATION, Continued

Yale University Art Gallery New Haven, Connecticut	One year conservation project	\$ 7,500
 <u>SPECIAL PROJECTS</u>		
American Association of Museums Washington, D.C.	For support of three 3-day seminars to be held in 1973-74	21,233
Berger, Gustav New York, New York	Research Project: "Search for a non- aqueous, non-staining adhesive for paper	8,920
National Gallery of Art Washington, D.C.	Preparation of a printed handbook describing the properties and characteristics of principal artists' pigments	11,000
University of New Mexico University Art Museum Albuquerque, New Mexico	Establishment of a regional center for research and conservation procedures on photographs	2,500

RENOVATION (CLIMATE CONTROL, SECURITY, STORAGE)

Surveys

Allentown Art Museum Allentown, Pennsylvania	Survey of climate control in the exhibition area	\$ 1,850
Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit, Michigan	Survey of climate control needs in the exhibition area	5,000
Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Massachusetts	Survey of storage needs in the Print Department and climate control needs in the Museum	22,500
Peabody Museum of Salem Salem, Massachusetts	Survey of climate control and security needs	10,000
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Survey of climate control and storage needs in the Academy and the Peale House	12,000
Philadelphia Museum of Art Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Survey of security needs of the Museum, Rodin Museum, Cedar Grove, Letitia Street and Mt. Pleasant Historical houses	38,250
The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Inc. Boston, Massachusetts	Survey of climate control, security and storage needs	9,750
University of Vermont Robert Hull Fleming Museum Burlington, Vermont	Survey of climate control, storage and security needs	3,916
Worcester Art Museum Worcester, Massachusetts	Survey of climate control needs	5,000

RENOVATION, Continued

Installation

The American Museum of Natural History New York, New York	Improvement of storage facilities for its fur and textiles collection	\$ 16,000
Atlanta Arts Alliance, Inc. The High Museum of Art Atlanta, Georgia	Installation of reserve water chiller unit	7,500
The Baltimore Museum of Art Baltimore, Maryland	Installation of climate control and security systems	270,000 Treasury ( $\frac{1}{2}$ private)
Boise Art Association Boise, Idaho	Installation of climate control and security systems	6,250
Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center Inc. Nashville, Tennessee	Installation of a security system	9,000
California Palace of the Legion of Honor San Francisco, California	Installation of climate control and security systems, and improvement of storage facilities in the Print and Drawing Department	100,000 Treasury ( $\frac{1}{2}$ private)
Charleston Art Gallery of Sunrise Charleston, West Virginia	Improvement of storage facilities	3,000
The Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts Columbus, Ohio	Installation of climate control equipment and improvement of storage facilities	27,500
Detroit Historical Museum Detroit, Michigan	Installation of climate control and security systems and improvement of storage facilities	33,250

RENOVATION, Continued

Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit, Michigan	Installation of climate control and security systems and improvement of storage facilities in the Graphic Arts Department	\$ 100,000 Treasury (½ private)
Hampton Institute The College Museum Hampton, Virginia	Installation of a security system	5,112
Harvard University Fogg Art Museum Cambridge, Massachusetts	Installation of a security system	1,217
Historic Pensacola Preservation Board Pensacola, Florida	Installation of climate control and security systems	3,409
Huntington Galleries, Inc. Huntington, West Virginia	Installation of security systems and improvement of storage facilities	6,000
Lyme Historical Society Old Lyme, Connecticut	Installation of climate control in the Florence Griswold House	1,800
Merrimack Valley Textile Museum North Andover, Massachusetts	Installation of a security system	5,187
Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts Minneapolis, Minnesota	Installation of climate control equipment in the Minneapolis Institute of Fine Arts	196,952 Treasury (½ private)
Museum of New Mexico Santa Fe, New Mexico	Installation of security system	10,000
New York Historical Association Cooperstown, New York	Installation of a security system in the Fenimore House in Cooperstown	4,237
Norwegian-American Museum Decorah, Iowa	Installation of climate control system and improvement of storage facilities	54,317

RENOVATION, Continued

Rhode Island School of Design  
Museum of Art  
Providence, Rhode Island

Installation of climate control  
system

\$ 136,000  
Treasury  
( $\frac{1}{2}$  private)

The Textile Museum  
Washington, D. C.

Installation of climate control  
and security systems and improve-  
ment of storage facilities

120,000  
Treasury  
( $\frac{1}{2}$  private)