

1980

## Letters (1980): Correspondence 16

Claiborne Pell

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January 11, 1980

Honorable Livingston L. Biddle  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is my understanding that the Foundation for Repertory Theatre of Rhode Island, Inc., has submitted an application to the Challenge Grant Program of the National Endowment for the Arts for funding in FY '81.

The Foundation has been closely linked with Rhode Island's Trinity Square Repertory Company since the theater group was established in 1964. The history and fine reputation of Trinity Square are well-known. It has developed into one of the finest repertory theater companies in the United States and those of us in Rhode Island are proud indeed to have it within our state.

As the owner of the facility, the Foundation continues to play a crucial role in the life and success of the company. In the fall of 1978, the Foundation, under the guidance of a devoted and determined Board of Trustees, launched a major fund raising campaign aimed primarily at retiring a large mortgage on the theater building. Funds are also being raised to make a number of long-needed capital improvements to the structure.

Challenge grant funds would provide an invaluable stimulus to this campaign. I want to express to you my own strong support for this grant proposal and hope that, after careful consideration, the Arts Endowment will act favorably on it.

With warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC:CF