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Museum Services Act (1973): Correspondence 07

Constantine Albans

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PENOBSCOT HERITAGE



MUSEUM OF LIVING HISTORY

No address

July 10, 1973

REC'D JUL 12 1973

Ans'd.....

Senator Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Room 325, OSOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities. You have expressed a desire to obtain statements from members of the museum profession in relation to the proposed Museum Services Act. This statement is in response to that request.

The Penobscot Heritage Museum of Living History is "one of the finest educational museums in the State of Maine", (quote from the Director of the Maine State Museum). It has been honored with a award for excellence by the American Association for State and Local History.

Since its birth in 1968 it has proven immensely popular in this region, especially with the school-children. Over 11,000 children have been given conducted tours of the present exhibit. Approximately 8,000 adults have visted us too. We are generally geared for the 4-8 grade level, and in addition to the exhibit in our gallery, furnish a number of traveling exhibits to schools in our area. (Last year these five exhibits averaged two hundred days "on the road"). A docent program provides for instruction in conjunction with these exhibits.

As Penobscot Heritage has no permanet collection, it has relied heavily on inter-museum cooperation for advice and loans. (A number of items have been donated and some exhibits constructed- but these items do not constitute a permanet collection in the accepted sense).

Financially, we are struggling. Support has been provided largely by private contributions, rent free space by the City of Bangor, and a small State matching grant for salaries.

Present and anticipated needs are mainly for operations and salaries. It appears that grants for specific programs are available through governmental sources (for example: Bicentennial

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programs) but virtually nothing for operations. Some program grants are simply not applicable for small museums, and as I see it this is the greatest need in the museum profession.

Small museums serve an important function, but with today's financial situation face a bleak future. Thus, I speak in support of the proposed act.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Constantine Albans
Director

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