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National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: Reauthorization (1985): Report 12

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Arts Report

"(m) The Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall, in consultation with State and local agencies, relevant organizations, and relevant Federal agencies, develop a practical system of national information and data collection on the arts, artists and arts groups, and their audiences. Such system shall include artistic and financial trends in the various artistic fields, trends in audience participation, and trends in arts education on national, regional, and State levels. Such system shall also include information regarding the availability of the arts to various audience segments, including rural communities. Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Arts, Humanities, and Museums Amendments of 1985, the Chairperson shall submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate a plan for the development and implementation of such system, including a recommendation regarding the need for any additional funds to be appropriated to develop and implement such system. Such system shall be used, along with a summary of the data submitted with State plans under subsection (g), to prepare a periodic report on the state of the arts in the Nation. The state of the arts report shall include a description of the availability of the Endowment's programs to emerging, rural, and culturally diverse artists, arts organizations, and communities and of the participation by such artists, organizations, and communities in such programs. The state of the arts report shall be submitted to the President and the Congress, and provided to the States, not later than October 1, 1988, and biennially thereafter."

NATIONAL STATE OF THE ARTS REPORT

The Committee applauds the research which the Endowment has done on artists and arts. However, during the reauthorization process, the Committee was concerned with the lack of national data on the state of the arts against which it would measure the progress, needs, and goals of the Endowment's programs. Canada and other Western European countries annually have such reports for use in policy-making. Section 105 of the bill adds section 5(m) which establishes a national state of the arts report to be submitted to the President and Congress and provided to the States not later than October 1, 1988, and biennially thereafter by the Chairperson of the Endowment.

The state of the arts report must include data on artists and arts groups, audiences for the arts, and the level of artistic activity in America. The report must describe artistic and financial trends in various artistic fields, trends in audience participation, and trends in arts education. The report must also include a description (1) of the availability of the Endowment's programs to emerging and culturally diverse artists, arts organizations, and communities and (2) of the participation by such artists, organizations, and communities in such programs. Finally, the report must include a summary of the reports submitted by the state arts agencies according to section 5(g) of the Act.

Section 105 the bill specifies that the Endowment must, in consultation with relevant State, local and federal agencies, develop a system of national information and data collection to use in conjunction with the data submitted in the state plans for the preparation of this report. The Chairperson of the Endowment must submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate a plan for the development and implementation of this system. It is not the intent of the Committee to develop a costly system, and this report is to be incorporated into existing planning and assessment activities of the Endowment. The Chairperson in reporting to the Committee should make a recommendation regarding the need for any small additional funds to be appropriated to develop and implement such a system.

Humanities Report

"(k) The Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities shall, in consultation with State and local agencies, other relevant organizations, and relevant Federal agencies, develop a practical system of national information and data collection on the humanities, scholars, educational and cultural groups, and their audiences. Such system shall include cultural and financial trends in the various humanities fields, trends in audience participation, and trends in humanities education on national, regional, and State levels. Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Arts, Humanities, and Museums Amendments of 1985, the Chairperson shall submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate a plan for the development and implementation of such system, including a recommendation regarding the need for any additional funds to be appropriated to develop and implement such system. Such system shall be used, along with a summary of the data submitted with plans under subsection (f), to prepare a report on the state of the humanities in the Nation. The state of the humanities report shall include a description of the availability of the Endowment's programs to emerging and culturally diverse scholars, cultural and educational organizations, and communities and of the participation of such scholars, organizations, and communities in such programs. The state of the humanities report shall be submitted to the President and the Congress, and provided the States, not later than October 1, 1988, and biennially thereafter.

NATIONAL STATE OF THE HUMANITIES REPORT

The Committee would like to acknowledge that for the past 15 years the National Endowment for the Humanities has consistently supported the acquisition of information on advanced degree humanists—tracking their careers, providing data on tenure, rank, salary, and nature of employment for those both inside and outside academe—in order to give some idea of the pool of humanists in American Society. The Committee commends these activities and in Section 107 of the bill adds section 7(j) to the Act, establishing a national state of the humanities report to be submitted to the President and Congress and provided to the States not later than October 1, 1988, and biennially thereafter by the Chairperson of the Endowment.

This report is similar to the national state of the Arts report described earlier and will include information on humanities, scholars, educational and cultural groups, and the audiences for humanities and cultural activities. Also, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities must, in consultation with relevant State, local and federal agencies develop a system of national information and data collection to use, in conjunction with the data submitted by state agencies and humanities entities, in the preparation of this report. The Chairperson must submit a plan for this report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate according to the same procedures as the national state of the arts plan described above.

Museum Study

"(d) The Council shall conduct a study to determine—

"(1) the nature and level of Federal support provided to museums;

"(2) the areas in which such support overlaps or is inadequate, particularly in case of emerging museums;

"(3) the impact of the Institute of Museum Services in carrying out its stated purpose; and

"(4) the impact and nature of conservation and preservation programs being carried out under this Act and other Federal laws and the areas in which such programs overlap or are inadequate."

MUSEUM STUDY

Section 109 of the bill requires the Federal Council to conduct a study of the nature and level of Federal support provided to museums across programs within this Act and other Federal laws. The testimony heard by the Committee indicated the need for coordination among conservation and preservation efforts. Nine years after the establishment of the Institute of Museum Services, while Congress applauds its contributions to museums, the Committee believes it is appropriate to assess and evaluate the Institute's role in the context of other federal efforts for museums. This study should include an examination of: areas where federal support overlaps; areas where federal support is inadequate particularly in the case of emerging museums; the impact of the Institute of Museum Services in carrying out its stated purpose; and the impact and nature of conservation and preservation programs being carried out under this Act and other Federal laws—including program overlap, lack of coordination, and inadequate coverage. While a recent study, "Collections Management, Maintenance, and Conservation" has been completed by the American Association of Museums on the status of the preservation field and its problems, that study does not address these issues of concern to the Committee.

Arts
+
Humanities
Education
Report

"(e)(1) The Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, with the cooperation of the Secretary of Education, shall conduct jointly a study of—

"(A) the state of arts education and humanities education, as currently taught in the public elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

"(B) the current and future availability of qualified instructional personnel, and other factors, affecting the quality of education in the arts and humanities in such schools.

"(2) The Endowments shall consult with the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives in the design and implementation of the study required by this subsection.

"(3) Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of the Arts, Humanities, and Museums Amendments of 1985, the Endowments shall submit to the President, the Congress, and the States a report containing—

"(A) the findings of the study under paragraph (1);

"(B) the Endowments' views of the role of the arts and humanities in elementary and secondary education;

"(C) recommendations designed to encourage making arts and humanities education available throughout elementary and secondary schools;

"(D) recommendations for the participation by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities in arts education and humanities education in such schools; and

"(E) an evaluation of existing policies of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities that expressly or inherently affect the Endowments' abilities to expand such participation.

Finally, in Section 110 of the bill, the Committee requires that the Chairpersons of the National Endowments jointly, with the cooperation of the Secretary of Education, conduct a study of the state of arts and humanities education, as currently taught in the public elementary and secondary schools in the United States.

The study must examine the current and future availability of qualified instructional personnel and other factors affecting the quality of education in the arts and humanities in public elementary and secondary schools. The Endowments must consult with the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on the design and implementation of the study. Not later than two years after the enactment of this bill the Chairpersons of the Endowments must submit to the President, the Congress, and provide to the States a report of the findings of this study, recommendations for encouraging arts and humanities education, and recommendations for expanding the participation of the Endowments in public elementary and secondary education.

In addition, the study must assess the impact of the Endowments' policies on their participation in arts and humanities education. It must also assess whether any policies have positive or unintentional adverse effects on the Endowments' abilities to expand their support for and participation in promoting arts and humanities education in the public elementary and secondary schools.

Several excellent reports on arts in education in the schools by the Getty Foundation, the Chief State School Officers, the National Center for Education Statistics, the Endowments and others have been issued recently. It is the intent of the Committee that the Endowments use the information and findings in these studies as a primary resource for their own assessment of arts and humanities education.