

2017

National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: Reauthorization (1985): Report 14

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Gray Garwood's revised version of NEA language with NEA edits and additions

REVISED REPORT LANGUAGE ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES AT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS:

The Conferees are aware that a number of issues have been raised concerning the management and administration of the National Endowment for the Arts' programs. These include potential problems with the membership of peer panels and the maintenance of a post-award evaluation program. < Insert A (see attached sheet)

have generally worked well to provide

for which equitable grant making at the National Endowment for Arts is based. Under current practice, the Endowment appoints all panel members for one years terms. While members may be reappointed, the Endowment has worked to ensure significant turnover in panel membership. In 1985, for example, less than 10% of the panelists had served for more than three years on a panel. To build upon and ensure this turnover, the Conferees agree to the language in the House bill concerning the duration of service of panel members.

Insert B (see attached sheet)

The National Endowment for the Arts has guidelines addressing possible conflicts on interest among panel members. For example, these guidelines state that "where a panelist or Council member has organizational affiliations that cause a conflict of interest, or appearance of a conflict of interest, with respect to a grant application, that Council or Panel member must excuse himself or herself from the deliberative process in connection with the application in question." Again, to further reinforce the concern for maintaining a fair panel process, the Conferess agree to the language in the House bill concerning conflict of interest and panel membership.

With regard to post-grant award evaluation, the Conferees note that the Endowment has a formal process for conducting such evaluations with respect to all its grantees. The Conferees are pleased to learn ^{that} the Endowment's on-site visit program ^{and} audit effort (averaging 3% of Endowment organizational grantees during the past fiscal years), ^{has increased} ^{1,000% since} ^{FY 1981} which compares favorably with the audit samples of other federal agencies. The Conferees recognize the strengths of the Endowment's evaluation procedures, many of which have resulted from efforts in the past two years to improve the post-award evaluation system. Nonetheless, the Conferees believe that there should be additional effort in this area, and agree to the language in the House bill which affirms the importance of post-grant award evaluations. The Conferees, also, acknowledge the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget uniform grant administration regulations, with which the Endowment is in compliance. The NEA may utilize these current regulations where they are consistent with the intent for accountability and post-award evaluation embodied in Section 100(d) of the House bill to implement this section.

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~~In considering the legislation,~~ The Conferees have been made aware of considerable material submitted by the agency and others on a variety of management issues, and ~~based on the review by the House Committee on Select Education, the conferees~~ believe that with the exception of rare and isolated cases the National Endowment for the Arts is well managed.

W

11/15/85

Suggested Report Language -- Management Issues

INSERT B

The Conferees are pleased to hear that during the 1981-84 period 94% of individual grantees in those programs accounting for the vast majority of individual grants (Design Arts, Literature and Visual Arts) during the 1981-84 period had had no service at any time on any Endowment panel; and that, based on a sample, in FY 84, only 15.8% of the Endowment's institutional panelists were on panels recommending FY 84 grants to organizations with which they were affiliated.

from Anne M

Report language p. 39(House)

In making grants under this section, the conferees direct that in implementing the requirement to give particular regard to underrepresented artists and groups of artists in making grants under section 5c, the Arts Endowment observes the standards of artistic merit as stated elsewhere in the statute.