Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993): Speech 07

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Criteria for the Selection of a Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities:

This position, vital to the cultural life of the nation, demands the talents and skills of a distinguished leader who has compiled an imposing record of accomplishment in the humanities and significant administrative experience. The new chair should fuse intellectual attainments with political and diplomatic skills of a high order, so as to establish and maintain a cordial and effective working relationship with the President, the Congress, the academic community, and the public. He or she should be a person of demonstrably broad cultural sympathies and interests, an effective manager, and a persuasive advocate for the transformative power of the humanities for both individuals and society, and a catalyst for heightened awareness of the role the humanities play in a democracy. Finally, the chair must be committed to the goals of the NEH as presented in the Declaration of Findings and Purposes in the enabling legislation (copy attached).

Prepared by the Executive Committee of the National Humanities Alliance as a contribution to the search for a new chair for the National Endowment for the Humanities.