

6-4-1979

Museum Services Act (1984): Correspondence 12

George C. Seybolt

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_45

Recommended Citation

Seybolt, George C., "Museum Services Act (1984): Correspondence 12" (1979). *Museum Services Act (1984)*. Paper 9.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_45/9

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files II (1962-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Museum Services Act (1984) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

All replies to:
One Red Devil Lane
Westwood, MA 02090
June 4, 1979

Lee Kimche, Director
Institute of Museum Services
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 325-H
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Lee:

I was shocked to receive a message on Friday afternoon (June 1st) that you had to have any comments on the reauthorization document prepared by you and the HEW staff by Wednesday, June 6th or three working days from then. I thought that the Board's Subcommittee on Policy at its meeting with you on Tuesday, May 29th, had expressed its views most vigorously of the failure to include the Board in the routine of this matter with sufficient time to have the Board express its opinion and to consider what is proposed. As a matter of fact, I went so far as to say to you "I don't know what you have a Board for if a matter of high policy of this sort is not brought to its attention for consideration."

I can well imagine that the department in which we are domiciled wants the usual routine for the organizations which they shepherd and support to be included in the department but I don't believe that they have any intention of providing a routine which slights the Board's contribution. Therefore, I can only assume that you made no provision to insert time in the schedule for this purpose.

As you know, the Board has spent a lot of time, in general terms, on reauthorization needs but it has never looked at a finished document as a Board and had an opportunity to comment on it. I find this unthinking and disrespectful to the Board's views and opinions and to its inputs, and must advise you that I cannot be certain that it will sustain what has been created without an opportunity to consider the proposal agreed upon by HEW and you.

I trust that you are going to get it to the Board just as fast as possible and ask for responses just as fast as possible. I would not ask you to do this but, as you know, we have absolutely no staff of any sort and since some speed seems to be the essence, I can only suggest that this poor alternative to an orderly, organized process which the Board has established that it not only requires but which produces good answers has been abrogated in this most important matter.

Lee Kimche, Director

June 4, 1979

Also, kindly inform me of whatever responses you may get whether they be transcriptions of phone conversations or letters and, further than that, make it clear to the Board in the forwarding document that I stand ready to talk to them at any time and anticipate that I will hear from a great many of them.

Very truly yours,


Chairman,
National Museum Services Board

George C. Seybolt

cc: Mr. Joseph Califano, Secretary, Department of HEW
Mr. Hale Champion, Under Secretary, Department of HEW
Dr. Mary F. Berry, Assistant Secretary for Education, Department of HEW
Members of the National Museum Services Board

P.S. This was dictated by machine on Sunday and is being signed by Karen Mehegan since I will be in Cleveland for AAM Meeting until Wednesday.