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Museum Services Act (1973): Correspondence 29

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July 11, 1973

Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman
Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities
Room 4230, U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

There is no doubt that Federal support to Museums at the multi-million dollar level can be justified. Most museums, as does this one, operate on an extremely tight budget too often restricted financially from expanding and developing to the full extent they might wish.

This Museum, in particular, has reached that plateau where additional staff and larger quarters are desperately needed if we are to continue growing at the rate we have during the past few years. The need for more services and programs is evident in the community as attendance swells and teacher requests increase.

A program designed to channel Federal funds to museums to supplement their day-to-day operating budget has long been advisable. Such assistance would provide the wider base of support that museums must have if they are to continue functioning in today's inflationary society and, at the same time, maintain and, hopefully, expand the cultural and educational growth of the Nation.

I fully support The Museum Services Act, Bill S. 796, and am enclosing a statement of the information being sought by the Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Saloom
Director

PAS:jl

Enclosures

cc: American Association of Museums

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

1. Museum services to the public -

a) attendance levels and growth

<u>1969-70</u>	<u>1970-71</u>	<u>1971-72</u>	<u>1972-73</u>
14,859	17,060	18,857	20,345

Approximately 30% increase in attendance

b) school groups attending Museum -

<u>1969-70</u>	<u>1970-71</u>	<u>1971-72</u>	<u>1972-73</u>
95	95	139	230

Approximately 140% increase in group attendance

c) school age level of museum audience in organized tours -
pre-school through junior high school

d) educational programs provided by Museum -

Enrichment Classes -

after-school and Saturday classes in the arts, crafts, science, nature study, etc. This year 45 classes were offered in which 518 children were enrolled

Junior Volunteer Program -

30 students in Grades 7-12 serve as teacher aides, store clerks, etc.

Programs -

cultural programs such as ballet and theater are presented; also, lectures and demonstrations in science, photography, art, crafts, live animals, etc.

e) adult education -

programs and field trips of the type described in (d and f) are also offered for adults

f) field trips -

day trips to salt marsh, mountains, fish hatchery, town government agencies, plays and opera. Overnight trips planned to camping area and Washington, D.C.

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SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

g) support services for local schools -

School Loan Department -

500 portable exhibits (history, science, industry, social sciences and natural history) available for loan to local teachers. Approximately 65% of elementary teachers utilize this resource material. Comprehensive catalog prepared and delivered to teachers. Exhibits have also recently been listed in media center card files of several town schools

Resource Person Bureau -

staff and community volunteers available to present a specific resource lesson in a classroom upon request of teacher. Lessons were presented to 44 classes this year, up from 11 the previous year. This is an area where expansion is planned

h) number of requests for organized school tours denied -

although Museum's schedule was very full, we did not have to deny any tours. More requests from local schools would have been made had there been funds available for transporting the students to the Museum

2. Present financial means of providing these services -

a) local government -

the Town Board of Directors allotted \$10,000 to the Museum last year while the Board of Education contributed \$8000. Together they represent 45% of budget

b) private contributions -

this falls into two categories. One, the Greater Hartford United Way donated approximately \$8200 or 20% of the Museum's budget in 1971-72. The Museum has been a United Way agency since 1967. Secondly, individuals and civic groups contribute varying amounts towards the support of the Museum. (Total: \$1800, 1972-73)

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

c) admission -

at this point, the Museum does not charge admission to any visitor during public hours (Tuesday-Sunday, 2-5 P.M.) - adult or child. However, there is a fee for group tours from outside Manchester (\$5.00 for 30 children or under) (Total \$800, 1972-73)

e) corporate -

the Museum receives no corporate donations directly but does receive them indirectly through the United Way

g) other -

the Museum receives money from memberships (\$5298), class fees (\$2000), and from a small store which we operate (\$2000).

3. Present and future financial needs -

a) Operations

\$4521*

b) Maintenance

\$3292*

c) Salary

\$31,531*

d) Program

\$3792*

*figures represent Museum's fiscal year,
May 1 - April 30, 1973

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

c) trends in museum funding, i.e. comparison of budget in 1971 versus 1972 -

spending was greater in almost all categories including salaries and supplies. Electricity and fuel outlays represent the largest budgetary disbursement increase in 1971-72 over 1970-71. Without substantial additional usage of these commodities, cost grew by 38%. On the other hand, receipts from the major contributors (United Way, Boards of Directors and Education) has remained relatively stable over the past few years. The increases in income from larger class attendances and store sales were, therefore, utilized for the growing operating expenses rather than expansion of programs and staff size