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Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (1979-1992): Correspondence 09

Winifred Lambrocht

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January 27, 1984

Sandy:

Thought I'd send along the attached so you have the latest info. As you can see, the saga continues....

Sincerely,

Pat
January 19, 1984

Dear Christina,

The Folk Arts Program at RISCA is scheduled to start a third year of activities on February 1, 1984.

For the past two years, and despite attempts to rectify the situation, the salary issued to the Folk Arts Coordinator has not been in compliance with the NEA/Folk Arts approved grants. Efforts to rectify the situation were initiated in the summer of 1982 (a year and a half ago).

I now find myself on the eve of a new program year, with the non-compliance situation still in existence. NEA has placed an administrative hold on the 1984 Folk Arts grant, as you know, pending resolution of the situation; this places both my salary and Folk Arts projects in jeopardy.

Because of this state of affairs, I feel I cannot continue research and programming on a regular basis. I am requesting a written statement from you, assuring me that the contracts that I am issuing for Folk Arts projects will be respected, since you have assured me as much.

Grant requests for continuing or new Folk Arts programs are due at NEA on April 1, 1984, with a letter of intent due by mid February (less than a month away). I cannot in good consciousness submit a new application, knowing that the terms of the previous grant have not been respected.

I am urging you to settle this situation which has already lingered for too long. This is not a question of salary raise, it is a matter of complying with the stipulations of a federal grant. The stated salary in the past grants is considered average for the position of Folk Arts Coordinator.

The lack of resolution on this matter is not only jeopardizing a program that has provided some excellent public programs and research,
it is also showing a lack of concern and interest in a program that touches upon the lives of people in every community in the state.

Furthermore, it negates the support extended to us by the Director and the personnel at NEA/Folk Arts; they have given me direction and assistance since the beginning of the program, and, without their continuous and generous support, we would not have the excellent program which is now in place at RISCA.

Sincerely,

Winifred Lambrecht
Director, Folk Arts