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November 2016

Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Speech 42

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Recommended Citation

Pell, Claiborne, "Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Speech 42" (2016). *Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996)*. Paper 36.
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TALKING POINTS ON GAY AND LESBIAN ART

- o The 1991 Pittsburgh Gay and Lesbian Film Festival was not funded directly or indirectly by the NEA.

- o The 1992 Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the Gay and Lesbian Media Coalition in Los Angeles and The New Festival in New York were not funded by the NEA.

- o The NEA provides support to The National Alliance for Media Art and Culture to administer the Media Arts Fund which awards subgrants to small, emerging and culturally diverse media arts organizations and reviews the National Alliance's recommendations for subgrants. The NEA rejected the National Alliance's request for subgrants for the Pittsburgh Festival, the Gay and Lesbian Media Coalition and The New Festival. The National Alliance appealed the denial of these subgrants.

- o In 1993, the Endowment conducted a review of its procedures in refusing the grants and determined that there was an error in procedure in the 1992 decision which resulted in inequitable treatment of these applicants. Based on this review, the Endowment released \$17,500 to the National Alliance for the 1993 fiscal year.

TALKING POINTS RE: WHITNEY MUSEUM/ABJECT ART

- o The NEA did not fund the "Abject Art" exhibit. The NEA funded the Whitney Museum's independent study program for graduate students who use NEA funds to pursue scholarly research and advance their art. The NEA does not provide general operating support to museums, only project support. We ought not to blame the Arts Endowment for supporting an educational program in an established institution because a student at the institution created work that is thought to be objectionable.

- o This particular award for independent study was approved by Ann-Radice, appointed Acting Director of the NEA by President George Bush.