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Claiborne Pell

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March 24, 1982

Mrs. Lila Tower
Director
Institute of Museum Services
330 C Street, S.W.
Room 4008
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mrs. Tower:

It has come to my attention that the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society has recently submitted an application to the Institute of Museum Services for support under the 1982 grants program.

The Black Heritage Society, founded in 1975, is the only organization in the state that researches, documents and exhibits the history of Blacks in Rhode Island. This vital institution, based in Providence, offers the statewide community a varied program of films, lectures and multi-media events in addition to its impressive exhibit activities. The Society has thrived under the inspired leadership of its current Executive Director, Rowena Stewart.

With the IMS funds, the Society will be in a position to strengthen and expand the conservation and cataloging of its extensive collections of artifacts, documents and photographs. These efforts will permit better use of these materials by the public in the future.

I am strongly supportive of this request for a General Operating Support grant from the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and hope that, after careful consideration, the Institute will act favorably on it.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/ap