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Honorable Francis S.N. Hodson
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
2401 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

March 5, 1982

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Rhode Island School of Design has recently submitted an application to the Endowment's Challenge Grant Program. The total amount being requested is $600,000 which will be matched four-to-one by R.I.S.D. with new and increased funds.

The NEA Challenge monies will be used as the cornerstone of a major capital campaign aimed towards the renovation and adaptive re-use of Memorial Hall as a much-needed addition to the R.I.S.D. library. Memorial Hall is a landmark church, designed by the noted Rhode Island architect, Thomas Telft, in 1853 and given to the school in 1903. Its adaptive re-use as a library addition will allow the school to make its extensive art reference collection more accessible to the students and the general public. The Challenge Grant will also be used as an incentive for an increase in regular annual giving which will be used in support of scholarship aid, endowed professorships and equipment improvements.

I want to express my strongest personal support for this important grant request from the Rhode Island School of Design. It is my sincere hope that, after careful consideration, the Arts Endowment will act favorably on the full Challenge Grant request.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/ap