

7-28-1980

## Letters (1980): Correspondence 123

Claiborne Pell

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File: Albert T. Klyberg  
The Rhode Island Historical  
Society  
52 Power Street  
Providence, Rhode Island  
02906

July 28, 1980

Honorable Livingston L. Biddle, Jr.  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Arts  
2401 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Rhode Island Historical Society has recently submitted an application to the Museum Program of the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant request for \$23,307 has been made under the Collections Maintenance category.

As you know the Rhode Island Historical Society's headquarters is the magnificent 18th century mansion known as the John Brown House. The Society's nationally recognized collection of portraits and decorative arts are housed in this building. These important paintings, furnishings and documents, however, have never been adequately protected with a climate control system. With the financial assistance from the Arts Endowment, the Society will undertake a major installation of an energy-efficient air conditioning system which has long been needed.

I am strongly supportive of this grant request from Rhode Island's leading historical museum and sincerely hope that the Arts Endowment will ultimately act favorably upon it.

With warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/ap

enclosures