

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
July 26, 2023  
Hybrid Meeting – Washington, DC**

**SAA Rep Interim Report:  
July 2023 National Historical & Publication  
Records Commission (NHPRC)**

**(Prepared by Commissioner Tanya Zanish-Belcher, SAA Representative)**

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States. I represented SAA at the most recent NHPRC meeting, both as a Commission member and as an appointed member of the Executive Committee.

I am providing a brief update (beyond my usual annual update for the November Council meeting), not only on the meeting results but also on the creation of a new Oversight Subcommittee. This subcommittee will review (in-depth) several NHPRC processes, especially relating to the Archives Leadership Institute, and the review and possible revision of what NHPRC funds, especially relating to oral history and other non-traditional forms of documentation.

I am a member of this new subcommittee, and we held our first meeting on Monday, July 10. Much of the discussion related to ALI, and Nancy Melley reported to the group on the latest updates in the planning process. The subcommittee includes the following members: Glen Asner (Office of the Secretary of Defense), Christine Lamberson (History Office/Federal Judicial Center), Janice Ruth (Library of Congress), Kathleen Williams (National Gallery of Art), myself (SAA), and NHPRC staff members Darrell Meadows, Keith Donohue, and Nancy Melley.

The group agreed we would like to review the programmatic topics planned for ALI 2024, in addition to encouraging expanded marketing plans relating not only to DEI, but also to local, state, and federal archivists. This group has participated at much lower levels in ALI over the past decade. There will not be an official alumni event for ALI this year, but Nancy may try and organize something for the SAA meeting.

The review of “What We Fund” was tabled due to lack of time and will be discussed at our next meeting in August. This discussion was precipitated by an increasing number of community archives and groups requesting oral history funds. At its last meeting, the

Commission agreed that this may be the time to revise the guidelines. NHPRC has not funded oral histories (except for Native American projects) as this was perceived as “creating” a historical record as opposed to preservation. I am very excited about the possibility of NHPRC expanding its funding support for additional types of documentation.

**Additional Updates from the May Commission Meeting Grant Requests:**

At its semiannual meeting in May, the Commission reviewed the following:

|                             |           |             |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| DE-Inst Historical Editing  | 1 grant   | \$465,000   |
| DL-Archives Leadership Inst | 1 grant   | \$300,000   |
| PE-Publishing               | 19 grants | \$2,942,454 |
| RH-Archival Projects        | 21 grants | \$2,647,825 |
| DP-Public Engagement        | 5 grants  | \$601,205   |

In addition, the Commission reviewed two proposals to host the Archives Leadership Institute, presented by the University of Virginia and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Commission voted to approve the Virginia proposal to undertake the following three-year ALI, starting in Summer 2024.

**Budget (from NHPRC Executive Director Christopher Eck’s Report)**

“The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 is a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill signed by President Joe Biden on December 29, 2022. Congress appropriated \$12 million for the NHPRC grant program, which includes \$2 million set aside for historical records collections of Members of Congress. Current funds are supplemented by the Commission’s no-year, unobligated carryover grant funds of nearly \$389 thousand and returns/de-obligations of a little over \$177 thousand (*see* the Financial Summary).

Earmarks (now known as “Congressional Directives”), the number of which are rapidly expanding, continue to be a challenge for the NHPRC. Please note these were not reviewed nor evaluated by the NHPRC, but they are responsible for overseeing them. Appropriations included an additional \$23,772,500 in Congressionally earmarked projects. This is the second cycle of 28 earmarks to be managed by the NHPRC in FY23. (As you will recall, Congress appropriated \$5.265 million in earmarked FY22 funds, and we obligated ten awards by the fiscal year deadline of September 30, 2022.)”

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 2023, and new AOTUS Dr. Colleen Shulgin will be present.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, [zanisht@wfu.edu](mailto:zanisht@wfu.edu)