

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 14, 2024
Chicago, IL
Hybrid Meeting**

**Report: August 2024
National Historical and Publications 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 (May 23-24, 2024), both as a Commission member and as appointed Chair of the Executive Committee. My term as Chair of the Executive Committee runs through 2025. Archivist of the United States (AOTUS), Dr. Colleen Shogun, chaired the Commission meeting.

Oversight Committee (August 9, 2024)

The Oversight subcommittee, which was created to respond to operational issues with more flexibility than the Commission, was held on August 9, 2024. 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), Dr. Meredith Evans (Jimmy Carter Presidential Library), myself (SAA), and NHPRC staff members.

Current discussion items for the Oversight Committee included:

Reviewing the Archives Leadership Institute

Regular review of the guidelines for what the NHPRC does and does not fund

Cost share requirements and policies for earmarks as well as competitive grants

These will be discussed further at the Committee's September meeting and recommendations will be made to the full Commission.

Updates from the May Commission Meeting (May 23-24, 2024)

Grant Review Update

At its semiannual meeting in November the Commission reviewed the following 80 applications requesting \$10,492,888 in FY24 appropriated grant funds. Staff is recommending support for 33 proposals totaling \$4,220,583 in awards for projects in 34 states.

Publishing Historical Records in Collaborative Digital Editions	17 grants	\$2,119,943
Archival Projects	11 grants	\$1,406,264
Public Engagement with Historical Records	5 grants	\$694,376

Please note Mr. Eck’s discussion of the continued impact of Congressional earmarks for which the NHPRC is administratively responsible. Fortunately, they have been able to hire several new staff to assist with the added workload.

Budget FY24 (from NHPRC Executive Director Christopher Eck’s Report)

“In March, Congress passed an omnibus spending bill for the entire Federal government, which gave us a final full-year appropriations of \$10 million for the Commission’s existing competitive grants programs (the same amount as FY23) and with no additional funding for the new \$2 million Congressional Papers grant program that was funded in FY23. Our FY24 appropriation includes \$7 million for our competitive grants and an additional \$3 million to be held in reserve for a new grants program to support HBCU archives.

In addition to the \$3 million in FY24 funds we will hold in reserve for the new HBCU program, we will reserve an additional \$1.5 million repayment of the expended FY23 HBCU funds. With these adjustments, a balance of \$6,642,736 remains for our FY24 competitive grants. In November, the Commission awarded \$2,009,467 in grants, and staff is recommending \$4,220,583 in grants funds at this May meeting.

Impact of Congressionally Directed Spending Projects

Included in the omnibus bill were \$38,414,000 for 38 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS, or earmarked) projects. The coordination, processing, and administration of CDS project awards have become a significant and increasing part of our work, unfortunately, over the past three years. Because these awards must be managed and obligated by the end of the current fiscal year, their untimed appearance and the unknown pending final number of awards in the bill places an extraordinary burden on staff, particularly given the timing of the irregular final passage of the appropriations bill. The long-term implications of this work include delays in the management of the post-award processes, including monitoring the regular reporting and analysis of our overall programming.”

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, zanisht@wfu.edu

