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Meeting with National Endowment for the Arts/National Endowment for the Humanities, 2:30 pm
3/7/94

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**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
ARTS**

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

The Federal agency
that supports the
visual, literary and
performing arts to
benefit all Americans

Office of the
Chairman

Arts in Education

Challenge &
Advancement

Dance

Design Arts

Expansion Arts

Folk Arts

International

Literature

Locals

Media Arts

Museum

Music

Opera/Musical
Theater

Presenting &
Commissioning

State & Regional

Theater

Visual Arts

TO:

Steve Lee

Name

AIDS Working Group

Company

(202) 632-1096

Fax Number

FROM:

Alexander D. Crary

RE:

History and Accomplishments
of the AIDS Working Group

DATE:

3/04/94

MESSAGE:

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this cover sheet): SIX
Please call _____ at 202-682-5414 if there
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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
ARTS

HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE AIDS WORKING GROUP

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Since 1987, concerned staff members of the National Endowment for the Arts have met to discuss and formulate action on a variety of AIDS/HIV issues. Endowment Chairmen have encouraged the AIDS Working Group (AWG) to address AIDS issues and the considerable impact of AIDS on artists, arts organizations and the agency itself. The ad hoc group evolved to become a recognized team of 20+ staffers from program and administrative offices with co-chairs, regular meetings, and a liaison to the Chairman.

Arts in Education

*Challenge &
Advancement*

Dance

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Theater*

*Presenting &
Commissioning*

State & Regional

Theater

Visual Arts

The AWG was begun to help the Endowment respond to requests from the arts fields for information and assistance, particularly in regard to grant activity. Its first step was to appoint liaisons in each Program and office whose responsibility was to gather and impart useful information. For the liaisons' use, the AWG prepared packets of basic information and referrals, and saw to it that a letter from the Chairman went out with each grant award to make grantees more aware of the growing AIDS crisis and of the Endowment's concern. The letter has been updated and revised with each new Chairman for distribution in grant award packages.

Since that time the AWG has accomplished the following:

Coordinated the first ARTS/AIDS/HIV Forum which over 30 executive directors of arts and arts-AIDS organizations attended along with members of the Endowment, the NCA, and other national organizations;

Acted as a point of contact for such national AIDS-related efforts as the National Clearinghouse for AIDS Information, Art Against AIDS, and World AIDS Awareness Day/A Day Without Art;

Followed developments and issues in the health care/insurance areas that may affect artists and arts organizations. Consulted with staff of the American Council for the Arts (ACA) in the design of a survey of the current health insurance situation of 2,000 artists nationwide, which will permit a focus on some areas of high AIDS incidence;

Developed communication with other Federal agencies, and influenced the development of a similar group in the National Endowment for the Humanities. AWG plans to collaborate more with the NEH group in the near future.

Coordinated several seminars on issues relevant to the education of Endowment employees with the Whitman Walker Clinic, a major AIDS service center in DC;

Designed and quilted an Endowment panel to contribute to The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in memory of colleagues;

Coordinated fund raising efforts for Endowment employees to provide support for local organizations serving children and adults with AIDS. The most recent fund raiser was in December of 1993 for Grandma's House, and resulted in \$1,200 cash, two televisions, and two computers for the DC homes for abandoned children with AIDS;

Participated in Day Without Art remembrance activities on December 1. The 1993 activities included arranging an AIDS art installation by visual artists Gordon Fluke for Endowment staff. The exhibit also included audio-taped passages about AIDS, which had been read by Endowment staff, and the AIDS Quilt panel referenced above.

Enclosure 2

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

AIDS Working Group Members/Liaisons
(All telephone numbers are Area Code 202)

Suzanne Callahan	Dance	682-5435
Katherine Carl	Museum	682-5442
Valerie Cassell	Expansion Arts	682-5583
Josh Dare	Public Affairs	682-5570
Eva Jacob	Policy, Planning, & Research	682-5664
Kristin Kelly	Literature	682-5451
Steve Klink	Personnel	682-5405
Sall Ann Kriegsman	Dance	682-5435
Bert Kubli	Visual Arts	682-5715
Dorothy Lewis	Public Partnership	682-5523
Terry Liu	Folk Arts	682-5722
David Low	Presenting & Commissioning	682-5444
Judith O'Brien	Administrative Services	682-5401
Kathy Plowitz-Worden	Management Systems	682-5691
Mat Snyder	Theater	682-5425
Allison G. Soffer	International	682-5422
Henry Spiegler	Grants	682-5783
Paula Terry	Special Constituencies	682-5532
Camille Thomas	Presenting & Commissioning	682-5444
Carol Warrell	Management	682-5635
Jeff Watson	Music	682-5703

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

February 23, 1994

MEMORANDUM

To: Suzanne Callahan
NEA Dance Program, Room 620

From: Virginia Field ✓
NEH Media Program, Room 420

RE: The Meeting with Kristine Gebbie on March 7th

Listed below are the names and programs of NEH staff members who participate in the NEH AIDS Awareness Group.

Our group has been meeting for approximately two years. Through our work, and in keeping with the Endowment's educational mission, we attempt to provide education and awareness of HIV/AIDS to all NEH staff. As such, we have organized numerous lunchtime panel presentations, featuring speakers from the Whitman Walker Clinic, The AIDS Quilt Project, The Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, and the AIDS Action Council. Additionally, we have raised money for AIDS WALK '92 and '93, conducted a food drive, and held an extremely successful book drive and sale. At a recent book sale, for example, we raised \$333 for Food and Friends. In terms of community service, we have adopted a regular Saturday meal delivery route with Food and Friends.

The members are:

Sandy Adams, Personnel, Room 419
Kassie Abromovitz, State Programs, Room 411
Monique Anderson, Grants Office, Room 310
Sally Benson, Public Programs, Room 420
Jeff Field, Preservation and Access, Room 802
Virginia Field, Public Programs, Room 420
Joanne Graham, Public Programs, Room 420
Greg Fowler, Outreach, Room 308
Joe Herring, Public Programs, Room 426
Susan Jaffe, Public Affairs, Room 410
Laurie Kovalik, Accounting, Room 317
Michael Lanza, Education, Room 304
Meghan Laslocky, Research, Room 318
Amy Lifson, Public Affairs, Room 410
John Malloy, Fellowships, Room 316
Louise McQueen, Personnel, Room 419
Barbara Paulson, Preservation and Access, Room 802
Peter Scott, Public Affairs, Room 407
Jon Seydl, Public Programs, Room 420
Steve Veneziani, Grants, Room 310
Russ Wyland, Fellowships, Room 316