

Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2025

Present: Kalish; Etter; Fajardo; Jones, Jr.; Keith

Staff: Coval, Olivier, Albright

The Executive Committee opted not to record this meeting.

1. NEH operating grants terminated

Coval received notification from the Federation of State Humanities Councils (FSHC) that NEH operating grants have been terminated, effective April 2, 2025. She summarized the organization's financial situation for the Committee.

Approximately \$130,000 awarded through the current federal budget Continuing Resolution (CR) has yet to be received. The agreement allows for funds to be drawn on a reimbursement basis. Coval submitted a funds request this morning. If received, it would last for the next 1.5 pay periods.

Without CR funds, Coval will need to access funds from reserves for the next pay period. \$26,000 has been pulled from the line of credit at Vectra Bank, which must be repaid. There is currently about \$700,000 in reserves, which, if used for monthly expenses, would last an estimated six months. The office space and photocopier leases each contain escape clauses if federal funding is reduced by a certain percentage.

Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island has submitted a bill to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for cultural agencies (including NEH, NEA, and IMLS) for FY2025/2026.

The Committee discussed the situation, and possible responses:

- email appeal to CH's full list of donors
- outreach to all of Colorado's Congressional offices informing them of the termination
- Jones Jr. will reach out to his legislature contacts and the Governor to appeal for bridge/emergency funding.
- identify five people for an advisory group to help determine a path to funding, e.g. Jerry Glick, Shannon Gifford
- El Pomar, Gary Community Ventures, and Daniels Fund are possibilities for bridge funding

Messaging

The Federation has shared talking points for public information and engagement.

- Fajardo and Keith will share examples of successful appeal messages from other organizations
- separate messages are needed for fundraising, versus outreach and networking
- Coval's four decades of service is a strong testimony

- funding is critical; an appeal should be included with all communications
- Coval will work on draft messaging today, and send out templates when complete
- Kalish will distribute the messaging documents to the full board.

2. Other business

A Joint Finance and Development Committee meeting will be convened as soon as possible.
Formation of the advisory group will be delayed until afterward.

Adjourned.