

ARTS AND HUMANITIES, WHITE HOUSE LIAISON FOR THE: Records, 1982-1985

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**ARTS AND HUMANITIES, WHITE HOUSE LIAISON FOR THE: Records, 1982-1985  
(3.9 l.ft.; Box 1-10)**

### **Scope and Content Note**

The appointment of a White House Liaison to the Arts and Humanities was an outgrowth of the initial President's Task Force on the Arts and Humanities. The Task Force met in the summer of 1981 with the primary task of exploring ways private funding could be increased for the arts; allowing outside arts professionals input on federal decisions regarding the arts and humanities; and possible management improvements and organizational changes within the federal arts and humanities agencies. The group met with the federal agencies involved and with various local arts and civic groups gathering ideas and recommendations.

The Task Force recommended creation of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities to help coordinate the activities of the two Endowments (National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities) and to pursue private sector funding for the arts and humanities. The President created the Committee on the Arts and Humanities with [Executive Order 12367](#) on June 15, 1982. The Committee's honorary chairman was Nancy Reagan. The chairman was Andrew Heiskell, Chairman of Time, Inc. The Committee had an executive director (Diane Brokaw) and its records are federal records held at the National Archives.

Muffie Brandon, the White House Social Secretary, appears to have coordinated activities of the Task Force and the early stages of creating the President's Committee. In August 1982, Theresa Elmore was appointed White House Liaison for the Arts and Humanities in addition to her White House Administrative Office duties. The White House had no budget or staff for this position, so Ms. Elmore performed this function on an "as-needed" and "part-time" basis. The responsibilities, by her own estimate, took about 15% of her work time.

In addition to working with the President's Committee for the Arts and Humanities and the two Endowments, the Liaison also worked with numerous quasi government and private organizations such as the Congressional Arts Caucus, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Gallery, the Corcoran Museum, the American Association of Museums, Arts International, and the National Association of Local Arts Agency, etc.

Responsibilities also included working with scheduling of the President, First Lady and other White House staff, messages from the President, First Lady or other White House staff to arts groups and institutions, meetings and events involving the White House and the arts/humanities, and meetings of the President's Committee of the Arts and Humanities and facilitating communications between the Committee and White House staff and offices.

Ms. Elmore left her position in the Administrative Office in the fall of 1984 for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. The position of White House Liaison for the Arts and Humanities was taken over by Donna Blume, Executive Assistant in the Deputy Chief of Staff Office (Michael Deaver). This position was eliminated in 1985. Material created by Brandon, Elmore and Blume are all included within this material.

This collection is arranged into five series: SERIES I: President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; SERIES II: Liaison Material; SERIES III: National Endowment for the Arts; SERIES IV: National Endowment for the Humanities; SERIES V: President's Task Force on the Arts and Humanities.

### SERIES DESCRIPTION

#### SERIES I: PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES (1.2 l.ft.; Box 1-3)

This series consists of material relating to the formation of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities and selection of the members. It also includes material regarding meetings of the Committee; meetings of the ad hoc "east" and "west" working groups to find private sector funding; reports on activities of the Committee; an Arts luncheon held at the White House with the President and Mrs. Reagan to honor and recognize significant arts funding by private groups or individuals; and material related to specific private/public projects sponsored by the Committee.

#### SERIES II: LISISON MATERIAL (1.0 l.ft.; Box 4-6)

This series consists of material relating to the White House Liaison for the Arts and Humanities work with all quasi-government and private arts groups and arts policies in general. The material includes background information on various groups and institutions; requests for White House involvement in particular projects or with groups; a day-to-day correspondence file reflecting the work process of the Liason; and material on the National Association of Local Arts Agency meetings. The material is foldered alphabetically by the various groups and the general correspondence file is arranged chronologically.

#### SERIES III: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (1. 2 l.ft.; Box 6-9)

This series consists of material relating to members of the advising group, the National Council on the Arts; a five year operating and budget plan for the National Endowment for the Arts (Endowment, NEA); coordinating specific events or activities with the White House and NEA: including attending American Museum Association's meetings, two requests from dancer/choreographer Martha Graham for White House involvement, a presentation by the city of Baltimore on their arts programs, renaming the Old Post Office in honor of former NEA Chairman Nancy Hanks, and presidential messages for programs; and general liaison correspondence with NEA on ongoing programs and events. This series also includes material regarding two new NEA programs initiated in the 1980s: a new National Medal of the Arts and

design awards for excellence in design by federal facilities, agencies and individuals – both awarded by the President. The material is in alphabetical order by folder title.

**SERIES IV: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (0.3 l.ft; Box 9-10)**

This series consists of material relating to members of the advising group, the National Council on the Humanities; proposed budget requests for FY 1983 for the National Endowment for the Humanities (Endowment, NEH); a set of public affairs news items regarding the NEH for the spring quarter of 1984; and a folder on staff reductions at the NEH. This series also includes liaison material between Muffie Brandon and Teresa Elmore with William Bennett, Chairman of the NEH and other NEH Staff members regarding activities of Bennett, new programs for the NEH, scheduling requests, and events sponsored by the Endowment for the time period 1982-August 1984.

**SERIES V: PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
(0.2 l.ft.; Box 10)**

This series consists of material relating to Executive Order 12308 issued on June 5, 1981 creating the President's Task Force on the Arts and Humanities; outlines for the objectives of the Task Force; meeting schedules; minutes of some meetings; preliminary recommendations; scheduling for a Task Force luncheon with President Reagan on October 14, 1981 for presentation of the Task Force report; and two drafts of the Task Force final report. The material is arranged in roughly chronological order.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**SERIES I: President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities**

**Box 1**

Arts Luncheon, 05/17/1983 (Binder) (1)-(5)  
Brokaw Correspondence [Diane J. Brokaw, Executive Director] (1)(2)  
Deutsch Correspondence [Armand S. Deutsch, Co-Vice Chairman]  
[Extension of Executive Order – President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities]  
Heiskell Correspondence [Andrew Heiskell, Chairman]  
[Humanities Luncheon, 1983 (1984) – Canceled] (Binder) (1)-(5)  
Kansas Regional Seminar II 11/22/1983  
McHenry Correspondence [Barnabas McHenry, Co-Vice Chairman]  
Meeting with Mrs. Reagan – Report 01/27/1983  
PATHS (The Philadelphia Alliance for Teaching the Humanities in the Schools)  
Presidential Fellowship Program Ad Hoc Working Group (1)-(3)

**Box 2**

The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, 1981-January 1983  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, February 1983-December 1983  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, January 1984  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, February 1984-October 1984  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Executive Order, Legislation &

Appropriations (1)-(4)

The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Mailing Lists (1)(2)  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Meeting, 09/07/1982  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Meeting, 09/21/1982  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Meeting, 11/02/1982  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting II, 02/11/1983  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting IV, 10/11/1983  
(Binder) (1)-(3)  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting V, 02/23/1984  
(Binder) (1)-(3)  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting VI, 06/12/1984  
(Binder) (1)(2)

Box 3

The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting VII, 10/18/1984  
(Binder) (1)-(3)  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Members  
The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Start-up, 1981-1982 (1)(2)  
Private Sector Action [Ad Hoc Working Groups – East & West]  
Private Sector Initiatives Office  
Recognition Ad Hoc Working Group  
Sinatra Sings for Texas - [Recognition]  
Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 12/05/1983  
Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 01/16/1984  
Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 02/01/1984  
Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 05/09/1984 & Status Report  
Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 10/10/1984  
Taxation [Ad Hoc Working Group on Taxes – Charitable Donations] (1)-(4)  
Texas Seminar for the Arts and Humanities, 05/05/1983-05/06/1983  
[Watts Community Housing Corporation Board Project]  
Young Presidents' Organization (1)-(3)

SERIES II: Liaison Material

Box 4

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Affiliate Artists  
American Artists Professional League/Michael Werboff (1)(2)  
American Ballet Theatre  
*American Theatre*, July/August 1985  
The Arena Stage Campaign  
Arts and Humanities Legislation  
Arts and Humanities Presidential Messages (1)(2)  
Arts and Humanities Scheduling Requests  
Arts International  
ArtTable (1)(2)  
[Brooke Astor]

Business in the Arts  
California Museum of Afro-American History and Culture  
[Center Stage – Baltimore, Maryland]  
Congressional Arts Caucus  
*Connoisseur*, March 1983 re: Chinese Art  
Corcoran Gallery  
Cultural Property Advisory Committee  
Education Working Group  
[Federal Funding/Private Donations – Arts & Humanities]  
General Correspondence (July 1981-May 1982)

Box 5

General Correspondence (June 1982-03/15/1983)  
General Correspondence (03/16/1983-December 1983)  
General Correspondence (January 1984-March 1984)  
General Correspondence (April 1984-June 1984)  
General Correspondence (July 1984)  
General Correspondence (August 1984-December 1984)  
[Grants & Contracts – OMB Accounting Changes]  
Hold for Biff [Henley]  
Houston Ballet and Business Arts Fund  
Institute of Museum Services  
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
[Karen Hanson Munro]  
Kentucky Center for the Arts  
[Liaison Job Responsibilities, Structure]  
Liberty Park Monument (New Jersey) (1)(2)  
The Library of Congress  
Medal of Freedom  
Mrs. H.H.A. Beach Festival  
National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies (NALAA) (1)-(3)

Box 6

National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies (NALAA) – 1984 Sixth Conference (1)-(4)  
National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities  
The National Gallery of Art  
National Humanities Alliance  
[Presidential Remarks on the Arts & Humanities, 1981-1983]  
[Presidential Remarks on the Arts & Humanities, 1984]  
Pritzker Award  
Project: A Sign of Peace and Friendship Among People  
[Senior Audiences]  
Special Assistant on the Arts  
[Star Spangled Salute, 1984] (Binder)  
Terra Correspondence re: Theodore Bikel  
Volunteer Consulting Group

Young Performers at the White House

SERIES III: National Endowment for the Arts

Box 6, cont.

American Association of Museums (1)-(3)

[American Management Association]

*Arts Review*, Summer 1985

*The City as a Stage: Strategies for the Arts in Urban Economies*, NEA Design Arts Program, 1983

Box 7

Design Arts in America: A Working Session of the National Endowment for the Arts, 02/19/1982-02/20/1982 (Binder) (1)-(5)

[Design – Federal Government]

“Guide to the National Endowment for the Arts,” August 1984

Interagency Committee on the Arts and Humanities (1)(2)

[Martha Graham/Royce Hall Request \(1\)](#)

[Martha Graham/Royce Hall Request \(2\)](#)

Minnesota Commendation Letters

National Arts Medal

National Endowment for the Arts

National Endowment for the Arts, 1981

National Endowment for the Arts, January 1982-June 1982

National Endowment for the Arts, July 1982-December 1982

National Endowment for the Arts, January 1983-August 1983

National Endowment for the Arts, September 1983-February 1984

National Endowment for the Arts, March 1984

National Endowment for the Arts, April 1984-05/03/1984

National Endowment for the Arts, 05/03/1984-05/31/1984

Box 8

National Endowment for the Arts, June 1984-December 1984

National Endowment for the Arts, 1985

National Endowment for the Arts, *Annual Report*, 1983

NEA/Baltimore Event, 09/21/1981 – “Baltimore: The Arts in a Proud City”

National Endowment for the Arts – Five Year Planning Document – Draft 01/16/1984 (Binder) (1)-(7)

National Endowment for the Arts Local Programs

National Endowment for the Arts: National Council on the Arts (1)-(3)

National Heritage Fellowship Awards (1)(2)

Box 9

Old Post Office / Nancy Hanks Center (1)(2)

Presidential Design Award Program, November 1983 (1)(2)

Presidential Design Award Program, December 1983-February 1984

Presidential Design Award Program, March 1984

Presidential Design Award Program, April 1984-November 1984  
Presidential Design Awards – Event, 01/30/1985 (1)-(4)  
Special Partnership Projects / Private Sector Initiatives

SERIES IV: National Endowment for the Humanities

Box 9, cont.

National Endowment for the Humanities: National Council on the Humanities  
National Endowment for the Humanities Estimates of Appropriations for the Fiscal Year  
1983 (Binder) (1)(2)  
National Endowment for the Humanities, 1982 (1)(2)  
National Endowment for the Humanities, January 1983-04/04/1983  
National Endowment for the Humanities, 04/05/1983 (1)(2)  
National Endowment for the Humanities, 04/06/1983-04/25/1983  
National Endowment for the Humanities, 04/26/1983-June 1983  
National Endowment for the Humanities, July 1983-08/10/1983

Box 10

National Endowment for the Humanities, 08/11/1983-October 1983  
National Endowment for the Humanities, November 1983-April 1984  
National Endowment for the Humanities, 05/01/1984-05/23/1984  
National Endowment for the Humanities, 05/24/1984-August 1984  
“In the News: Recent Stories about the National Endowment for the Humanities,” Spring  
1984 (1)-(3)  
Walter Anderson – NEH Employee

SERIES V: President’s Task Force on the Arts and Humanities

Box 10, cont.

President’s Task Force, May 1981-07/10/1981  
President’s Task Force, 07/11/1981-August 1981  
President’s Task Force, September 1981-December 1981  
President’s Task Force Report – First Draft, 09/0/1981  
President’s Task Force Report – Second Draft, 09/10/1981