



# **Arts and Humanities, White House Liaison for the: Records, 1982-1985**

## **Finding Aid Type**

White House Staff and Office File Collections

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## **Record Type**

Textual

## **Scope and Content Note**

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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 consists of 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 List**

### **SERIES I: PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

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: LIAISON MATERIAL**

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 Liaison; 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**

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**

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**

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.

#### **Last Modified Date**

2024-02-26

#### **SERIES I: PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

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.

**Box 1**

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

**Box 2**

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, 1981-January 1983
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, February 1983-December 1983

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, January 1984
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, February 1984-October 1984
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Executive Order, Legislation & Appropriations (1)-(4)
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Mailing Lists (1)(2)
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Meeting, 09/07/1982
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Meeting, 09/21/1982
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Meeting, 11/02/1982
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting II, 02/11/1983
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting IV, 10/11/1983 (Binder) (1)-(3)
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting V, 02/23/1984 (Binder) (1)-(3)
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting VI, 06/12/1984 (Binder) (1)(2)

**Box 3**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Plenary Meeting VII, 10/18/1984 (Binder) (1)-(3)
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Members
OPEN	The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Start-up, 1981-1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Private Sector Action [Ad Hoc Working Groups - East & West]
OPEN	Private Sector Initiatives Office
OPEN	Recognition Ad Hoc Working Group

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Sinatra Sings for Texas - [Recognition]
OPEN	Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 12/05/1983
OPEN	Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 01/16/1984
OPEN	Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 02/01/1984
OPEN	Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 05/09/1984 & Status Report
OPEN	Summaries of Current Initiatives and Activities, 10/10/1984
OPEN	Taxation [Ad Hoc Working Group on Taxes - Charitable Donations] (1)-(4)
OPEN	Texas Seminar for the Arts and Humanities, 05/05/1983- 05/06/1983
OPEN	[Watts Community Housing Corporation Board Project]
OPEN	Young Presidents' Organization (1)-(3)

## **SERIES II: LIAISON MATERIAL**

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 Liaison; 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.

### **Box 4**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
OPEN	Affiliate Artists
OPEN	American Artists Professional League/Michael Werboff (1)(2)
OPEN	American Ballet Theatre
OPEN	<i>American Theatre</i> , July/August 1985
OPEN	The Arena Stage Campaign
OPEN	Arts and Humanities Legislation
OPEN	Arts and Humanities Presidential Messages (1)(2)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Arts and Humanities Scheduling Requests
OPEN	Arts International
OPEN	ArtTable (1)(2)
OPEN	[Brooke Astor]
OPEN	Business in the Arts
OPEN	California Museum of Afro-American History and Culture
OPEN	[Center Stage - Baltimore, Maryland]
OPEN	Congressional Arts Caucus
OPEN	<i>Connoisseur</i> , March 1983 re: Chinese Art
OPEN	Corcoran Gallery
OPEN	Cultural Property Advisory Committee
OPEN	Education Working Group
OPEN	[Federal Funding/Private Donations - Arts & Humanities]
OPEN	General Correspondence (July 1981-May 1982)

**Box 5**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	General Correspondence (June 1982-03/15/1983)
OPEN	General Correspondence (03/16/1983-December 1983)
OPEN	General Correspondence (January 1984-March 1984)
OPEN	General Correspondence (April 1984-June 1984)
OPEN	General Correspondence (July 1984)
OPEN	General Correspondence (August 1984-December 1984)
OPEN	[Grants & Contracts - OMB Accounting Changes]
OPEN	Hold for Biff [Henley]
OPEN	Houston Ballet and Business Arts Fund
OPEN	Institute of Museum Services
OPEN	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
OPEN	[Karen Hanson Munro]
OPEN	Kentucky Center for the Arts
OPEN	[Liaison Job Responsibilities, Structure]
OPEN	Liberty Park Monument (New Jersey) (1)(2)
OPEN	The Library of Congress



<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Medal of Freedom
OPEN	Mrs. H.H.A. Beach Festival
OPEN	National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies (NALAA) (1)-(3)

#### **Box 6**

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

#### **SERIES III: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

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.

**Box 6, cont.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	American Association of Museums (1)-(3)
OPEN	[American Management Association]
OPEN	<i>Arts Review</i> , Summer 1985
OPEN	<i>The City as a Stage: Strategies for the Arts in Urban Economies</i> , NEA Design Arts Program, 1983

**Box 7**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Design Arts in America: A Working Session of the National Endowment for the Arts, 02/19/1982-02/20/1982 (Binder) (1)-(5)
OPEN	[Design - Federal Government]
OPEN	“Guide to the National Endowment for the Arts,” August 1984
OPEN	Interagency Committee on the Arts and Humanities (1)(2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<a href="#">Martha Graham/Royce Hall Request (1)</a>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<a href="#">Martha Graham/Royce Hall Request (2)</a>
OPEN	Minnesota Commendation Letters
OPEN	National Arts Medal
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, 1981
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, January 1982-June 1982
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, July 1982-December 1982
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, January 1983-August 1983
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, September 1983-February 1984
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, March 1984
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, April 1984-05/03/1984
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, 05/03/1984-05/31/1984

**Box 8**

Status	Title
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, June 1984-December 1984
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, 1985
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts, <i>Annual Report</i> , 1983
OPEN	NEA/Baltimore Event, 09/21/1981 - "Baltimore: The Arts in a Proud City"
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts - Five Year Planning Document - Draft 01/16/1984 (Binder) (1)-(7)
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts Local Programs
OPEN	National Endowment for the Arts: National Council on the Arts (1)-(3)
OPEN	National Heritage Fellowship Awards (1)(2)

**Box 9**

Status	Title
OPEN	Old Post Office / Nancy Hanks Center (1)(2)
OPEN	Presidential Design Award Program, November 1983 (1)(2)
OPEN	Presidential Design Award Program, December 1983-February 1984
OPEN	Presidential Design Award Program, March 1984
OPEN	Presidential Design Award Program, April 1984-November 1984
OPEN	Presidential Design Awards - Event, 01/30/1985 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Special Partnership Projects / Private Sector Initiatives

**SERIES IV: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

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scheduling requests, and events sponsored by the Endowment for the time period 1982-August 1984.

**Box 9, cont.**

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

**Box 10**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	National Endowment for the Humanities, 08/11/1983-October 1983
OPEN	National Endowment for the Humanities, November 1983-April 1984
OPEN	National Endowment for the Humanities, 05/01/1984-05/23/1984
OPEN	National Endowment for the Humanities, 05/24/1984-August 1984
OPEN	"In the News: Recent Stories about the National Endowment for the Humanities," Spring 1984 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Walter Anderson - NEH Employee

**SERIES V: PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

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.

**Box 10, cont.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	President's Task Force, May 1981-07/10/1981
OPEN	President's Task Force, 07/11/1981-August 1981
OPEN	President's Task Force, September 1981-December 1981
OPEN	President's Task Force Report - First Draft, 09/0/1981
OPEN	President's Task Force Report - Second Draft, 09/10/1981