



Crosby Kemper  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
955 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Suite 4000  
Washington, DC 20024-2135

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Director Kemper:

Our professional associations of archivists are pleased to see that the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) is coming together quickly under the leadership of Tsione Wolde-Michael. At this critical time for the arts, the humanities, and cultural heritage in the United States, the Committee's charge of advising the President on policy objectives, philanthropic and private sector engagement, and efforts to enhance federal support for the arts, the humanities, and museum and library services is more important than ever.

The leadership of the PCAH will have profound and positive impacts across the country for cultural heritage programs at the state and local level, as well as for the public at large. Our organizations staunchly support these aims, and we believe that the experiences and viewpoints of archivists can play a valuable role in contributing to the PCAH's work.

Archives are at the heart of the most fundamental human pursuits in the arts and the humanities: people create information, people preserve and steward that information, and people interact with that information to make sense of the world we live in. As information professionals with vast scopes of expertise, archivists hold valuable perspectives on how materials held by cultural heritage institutions can be repurposed to expand knowledge, innovation, and creativity. From inspiring artists in their creative processes, to helping teachers use primary sources in K-12 classrooms, to providing access to historical music, recipes, literature, photographs, motion pictures, and all kinds of documentary materials of enduring cultural value, archivists engage the public with the arts and humanities in a manner unlike any other profession.

The archival community strongly recommends the appointment of archivists to the PCAH to contribute our expertise about connecting communities across the US with the essential evidence of our humanity. As stewards of culture, archivists relish being the champions and partners of artists, humanists, creators, and researchers of all kinds. In serving the PCAH, archivists are well-positioned to offer insights and information that empower individuals and groups to improve our society.

Our organizations look forward to working with you and Ms. Wolde-Michael in fulfilling the mandate of the PCAH by seizing opportunities to connect the arts and the humanities with the archives and cultural heritage institutions our members represent.

With anticipation of a productive relationship,

Jacqueline Price Osafo  
Executive Director | SAA

Johnny Hadlock  
Executive Director | NAGARA

Joy M. Banks  
Executive Director | CoSA

cc: Maria Rosario Jackson, NEA; Shelby Lopez, NEH