



foundation
for advancement
in conservation

**Protecting Cultural
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PRESS RELEASE

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FAIC Receives Federal Funding from NEH and NEA to Support Conservation Initiatives

WASHINGTON, DC— The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) has been awarded a total of \$570,000 in grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), creating opportunities for growth and education in the field.

FAIC has been awarded two grants from NEH, supporting professional development for conservation professionals and life cycle assessment for conservation and preservation.

The \$200,000 Preservation Education and Training grant will allow FAIC to develop and implement eleven in-person workshops, two online courses, and provide scholarships for workshop participants over the next two years. The workshops will take place at cultural heritage organizations across the United States.

The \$350,000 Research and Development grant will fund the creation of a life cycle assessment tool and library of preventive conservation methods. The tool and library will be online resources that will support cultural heritage institutions in evaluating the environmental and human health impacts of not only conservation and preservation activities, but collection management, storage, loans, and exhibitions. The research project will be carried out collaboratively by FAIC, Northeastern University, and the Pratt Institute. Principal investigators are Matt Eckelman, Sarah Nunberg, Eric Pourchot, and Sarah Sutton.

FAIC President Peter Trippi notes “We are truly grateful to NEH for funding critical professional development initiatives for those working in conservation, as well as special projects that advance the field, such as life cycle assessments.”

The NEH approved \$30.9 million in grants, supporting 188 grant projects in 45 states and the District of Columbia, with a further \$48 million awarded to humanities councils. Only nine Preservation Education and Training grants were awarded, with a funding total of \$2.5 million, and four Research and Development grants were awarded, totaling \$1.1 million.

FAIC has also been approved for a \$20,000 Art Works grant from the NEA to support TechFocus4. The grant will support development and presentation of a two-day workshop scheduled to take place at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in the fall of 2020. TechFocus4 will address the challenges of conserving the physical and digital components of 3-D printed artworks including the material degradation and the inevitable technological changes of these highly complex works.

“As artistic media and technology expand over time, those who care for works of art must continue to identify new preservation methods,” said FAIC Executive Director Eryl Wentworth. “FAIC is proud to administer the TechFocus series to expand the preservation knowledge of professionals who work with new media.’

Overall, NEA approved 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million in the first round of fiscal year 2020 funding to support arts projects in every state in the nation, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Art Works funding category supports projects that focus on public engagement with, and access to, various forms of excellent art across the nation; the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence; learning in the arts at all states of life; and the integration of arts into the fabric of community life.

“The arts are at the heart of our communities, connecting people through shared experiences and artistic expression,” said NEA chairman Mary Anne Carter. “The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support projects like TechFocus4.”

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The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation’s (FAIC) mission is to save cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction. We advance research and education, lead treatment and collection care initiatives, and deploy conservation expertise to where it is most urgently needed. Our work empowers conservation professionals, strengthens cultural institutions, and engages stakeholders, including public audiences, as we work together to protect cultural heritage for humanity.