



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) Receives Two Grant Awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) is pleased to announce that the organization has been awarded two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for activities to take place in 2017 and 2018. A Preservation and Access Research and Development grant (one of eight awarded) of \$75,000 will support the project “Planning a Life Cycle Analysis Library of Preventive Conservation Methods” and a Preservation and Access Education and Training grant (one of six awarded) will support the project “Training for Emergency Preparation and Response for Humanities Collections.” The Education and Training grant provides up to \$175,000 in outright funding, and an additional \$25,000 that must be matched.

Research conducted for the project “Planning a Life Cycle Analysis Library of Preventive Conservation Methods” will lay the groundwork for an online Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) library and tool that assesses the environmental and human health impact of sustaining a humanities collection. At present, professionals must make too many treatment and collection management choices with little or no information about the potentially harmful impacts of such choices.

LCA reports result from the data and conclusions gathered during an in-depth exploration of processes and materials for their economic, human health, and environmental impacts. The project investigators will produce three representative Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) reports; document the most prevalent activities, products, and events that are part of collections care and access work in museums and historic sites; produce a beta version of a tool for evaluating LCA; and develop a plan for next steps to create a robust LCA library and online tool. These new resources will allow custodians of cultural heritage to evaluate materials and approaches used to maintain collections, and enhance decision-making for care of all forms of material culture.

The “Training for Emergency Preparation and Response for Humanities” project represents NEH’s continued support of the national “Alliance for Response” (AFR) initiative. Begun in 2003, AFR aims to connect local cultural heritage institutions with their emergency professionals. The grant will support the efforts of the existing two dozen networks through webinar programming and online resources. Current networks exist in major cities such as New York City and in regions like the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The project will organize a new AFR network in Washington, DC, which will serve to protect the wide range of cultural institutions in the nation’s capital.

In addition, this project offers AFR the opportunity to expand its scope by offering regional training opportunities. Existing AFR networks in Miami and Seattle will develop response teams that can provide immediate assistance to the cultural institutions in those disaster-prone areas. Updates on the progress of both projects will be posted on the FAIC website: www.conservation-us.org.

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About FAIC

FAIC, the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that increase understanding of our global cultural heritage. Learn more about FAIC at www.conservation-us.org/foundation.