



foundation  
for advancement  
in conservation

**Protecting Cultural  
Heritage**

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FAIC awarded \$350,000 NEH grant to expand Sustainability Tools in Cultural Heritage**

WASHINGTON, DC— The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) today announced that it is the recipient of a \$350,000 [Digital Humanities Advancement Grant](#) from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). With the two-year grant, FAIC will refine the [Sustainability Tools in Cultural Heritage](#) (STiCH) Carbon Calculator, an open-access digital tool designed to help practitioners make sustainable choices to lower the environmental impact of their work.

“FAIC is most appreciative of this support from the NEH and its continued commitment to the field of conservation,” FAIC Executive Director **Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe** stated. “STiCH advances FAIC’s mission, integrating sustainability throughout our endeavors while promoting climate resiliency through the use of sustainable resources. While the climate crisis threatens cultural heritage worldwide, positive change is achievable if we are willing to act boldly and lead for the sake of a better future.”

User-led evaluations will guide a redesign of the STiCH Carbon Calculator and new tutorials that educate and empower conservators and cultural-heritage professionals from across the globe to take climate action. The project will address one of the key findings of the recently released *Held in Trust* report: The existential threat posed by the climate crisis requires immediate action by all sectors of society, including professionals at cultural heritage institutions, collections, and sites. *Held in Trust* is a product of the partnership between NEH and FAIC to evaluate the state of preservation in the US and an important catalyst to address the effects of the climate crisis on the heritage sector as increasingly frequent and severe environmental and climate disasters, including wildfires and hurricanes, imperil museums, libraries, archives, historic structures, monuments, sites, and historic landscapes.

STiCH uses Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), a science-based environmental modeling tool, to calculate the carbon footprint of materials for the treatment, display, and transportation of cultural heritage. Past NEH Tier I and II Research and Development

Grants (2017-2022) supported building the STiCH calculator software, case studies, and website.

Sarah Nunberg (Principal of The Objects Conservation Studio, LLC and Adjunct Professor at Pratt Institute) and Matthew Eckelman (Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University) will serve as Principal Investigators, with additional support from Sarah Sutton (Co-founder and CEO, Environment and Culture Partners) and Henry McGhie (Consultant, Curating Tomorrow). A pilot group of fifteen cultural heritage professionals will work closely with the team to shape the redesign.

FAIC has hosted the STiCH website since it was launched in 2021 in response to a growing need among museums, cultural institutions, archives, libraries, and private practitioners to measure and reduce the environmental impact of their work.

For more information about FAIC's programs and initiatives, including emergency response work, visit <https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-us/foundation/programs>.

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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 supports conservation professionals, strengthens cultural institutions, and engages diverse audiences as we work together to protect cultural heritage for humanity.