



foundation
for advancement
in conservation

**Protecting Cultural
Heritage**

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAIC Receives NEH American Rescue Plan Grant

Washington, DC – The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant from American Rescue Plan funds in the amount of \$62,894. The grant will support the continuation of core preservation and outreach activities, including [Conservation OnLine](#) (CoOL) and [National Heritage Responders](#).

“The ongoing COVID pandemic has seriously delayed in-person professional development training opportunities, greatly increasing the need for professional networking provided by communities such as CoOL’s Global Conservation Forum,” said FAIC Executive Director Eryl Wentworth. “Similarly, institutions that were temporarily closed and had reduced onsite staff faced unexpected threats to their collections. FAIC’s National Heritage Responders are providing remote assistance to institutions that have been impacted by hurricanes, flooding, pest infestations, HVAC soot deposits, and other disasters. With the support of NEH, we look forward to continuing to manage and adapt these key programs in preserving humanities collections in the United States.:

FAIC’s Conservation OnLine (CoOL) and the associated Global Conservation Forum are free online resources that allow preservation specialists from around the world to share resources, discuss new materials and treatments, and ask and respond to questions as they arise. These virtual resources became even more important during the pandemic, with 688 new registered users and 975 new threads posted to the Forum in the past year. The grant will support website maintenance and the contracted moderator, Scott Devine, who reviews, screens, and edits posts before releasing them to the forum.

FAIC’s National Heritage Responders (NHR) is a national network of volunteers who are specially trained to respond to emergencies involving cultural collections. Initial training was supported by grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and NEH, but FAIC relies on donations and sponsorships to maintain the team’s readiness. The new NEH grant will help support a portion of the expenses for the FAIC Emergency Programs Coordinator, Elaina Gregg, and the NHR Coordinator, Rebecca Elder, to help ensure that in-person, phone, and email support is available for all collecting institutions in need.

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Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at neh.gov.

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. More information can be found at culturalheritage.org.