

Disability, 1331 F Street, NW., Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004; 202-272-2004 (Voice), 202-272-2074 (TTY), 202-272-2022 (Fax), mquigley@ncd.gov (E-mail).

AGENCY MISSION: The National Council on Disability (NCD) is an independent federal agency composed of 15 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Its overall purpose is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all people with disabilities, including people from culturally diverse backgrounds, regardless of the nature or significance of the disability; and to empower people with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Those needing sign language interpreters or other disability accommodations should notify NCD at least one week before this meeting.

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION: In accordance with E.O. 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, those people with disabilities who are limited English proficient and seek translation services for this meeting should notify NCD at least one week before this meeting.

MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY/ ENVIRONMENTAL ILLNESS: People with multiple chemical sensitivity/ environmental illness must reduce their exposure to volatile chemical substances to attend this meeting. To reduce such exposure, NCD requests that attendees not wear perfumes or scented products at this meeting. Smoking is prohibited in meeting rooms and surrounding areas.

Dated: May 2, 2003.

Ethel D. Briggs,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 03-11404 Filed 5-2-03; 4:01 pm]

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Leadership Initiatives Advisory Panel

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Leadership Initiatives Advisory Panel, AccessAbility section, will be held by teleconference from 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2003 in Room 528 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20506.

This meeting is for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendations on financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of May 2, 2002, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(4), (6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Panel Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC, 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: April 29, 2003.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,
Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations,
National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 03-11145 Filed 5-5-03; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment of the Arts; Determination of the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts as to Certain Advisory Committees: Public Disclosure of Information and Activities

The National Endowment for the Arts utilizes advice and recommendations of advisory committees in carrying out many of its functions and activities.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (Pub. L. 92-463), governs the formation, use, conduct, management, and accessibility to the public of committees formed to advise and assist the Federal Government. Section 10 of the act specifies that department and agency heads shall make adequate provisions for participation by the public in the activities of advisory committees, except to the extent a determination is made in writing by the department or agency head that a portion of an advisory committee meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with subsection (c) of section 552b of title 5, United States Code.

It is the policy of the National Endowment for the Arts to make the fullest possible disclosure of records to the public, limited only by obligations of confidentiality and administrative necessity. Consistent with this policy, meetings of the following Endowment advisory committees will be open to the public except for portions dealing with

the review, discussion, evaluation, and/or ranking of grant applications: Combined Arts, Fellowships, Leadership Initiatives, Partnership, Special Projects, and the Federal Advisory Committee on International Exhibitions.

The portions of the meetings involving the review, discussion, evaluation and ranking of grant applications may be closed to the public for the following reasons:

Information and data are furnished to the Endowment by grant applicants with the expectation that such information will be treated on a confidential basis and not necessarily disclosed to the public until such time as a final funding decision has been rendered. This information may include such matters as details relating to the type of design or work to be performed, adequacy of the applicant's facilities, competence of the applicant's staff, proposed budget, personal biographical data, and other material which would not otherwise be disclosed. If the process were not to continue on a confidential basis, grant applicants would not supply sufficiently detailed information so essential for complete and effective review of their proposals.

Further, public discussion of the merits of proposals not recommended for funding could subject unsuccessful grant applicants to negative speculation about the quality of the applicants' work. Additionally, premature public disclosure might adversely influence or prejudice the decisions of other funding sources in connection with their review of similar proposals.

Endowment consultant-experts are chosen from among persons recognized for their expertise in the arts. These experts review and evaluate applications for financial assistance submitted to the Endowment by their peers and colleagues in the respective cultural fields. As a result, public participation in panel meetings involving application review, during which negative criticisms of an applicant's work are expressed, undoubtedly would affect a consultant-expert's willingness to express his or her full and frank opinion regarding the merits of the proposed project or activity. Accordingly, the Endowment's capacity effectively to carry out its statutory mandate and maintain the highest possible standards of quality with respect to funding recommendations would be seriously impaired by its inability to conduct the application review process in a confidential atmosphere conducive to the candid and honest exchange of ideas. Thus, such public participation