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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]

BILLING CODE 6820-MA-P

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

would be likely to significantly frustrate the implementation of proposed agency actions, *i.e.*, proposed funding decisions.

Consequently, in the interest of meeting our obligations of confidentiality in reference to matters submitted as part of grant applications, and in order to encourage and ensure, for the benefit of the Government's review and evaluation process, candid and uninhibited expression of views concerning the merits of grant applications and contract proposals:

It is hereby determined in accordance with the provisions of section 10(d) of the Act that the disclosure of information regarding the review, discussion, and evaluation of grant applications and contract proposals, as outlined herein is likely to disclose:

(1) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(2) Information of a personal nature the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and

(3) Information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action.

Therefore, in light of the above, I have determined that the above referenced meetings or portions thereof, devoted to review, discussion, evaluation, and/or ranking of grant applications, and contract proposals may be closed to the public in accordance with subsection (c)(4)(6), and 9(B) of section 552b of title 5, United States Code.

The staff of each committee shall prepare a summary of any meeting or portion not open to the public within three (3) business days following the conclusion of the meeting of the National Council on the Arts considering applications recommended by such committees. The summaries shall be consistent with the considerations that justified the closing of the meetings.

All other portions of the meetings of these advisory committees shall be open to the public unless the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts or a designee determines otherwise in accordance with section 10(d) of the Act.

The Panel Coordinator shall be responsible for publication in the **Federal Register** or, as appropriate, in local media, of a notice of all advisory committee meetings. Such notice shall be published in advance of the meetings and contain:

(1) Name of the committee and its purposes:

(2) Date and time of the meeting, and, if the meeting is open to the public, its location and agenda; and

(3) A statement that the meeting is open to the public, or, if the meeting or any portion thereof is not to be open to the public, a statement to that effect.

The Panel Coordinator is designated as the person from whom rosters of lists of committee members may be obtained and from whom minutes of open meetings or open portions thereof may be requested.

Guidelines

Any interested person may attend meetings of advisory committees that are open to the public.

Members of the public attending a meeting will be permitted to participate in the committee's discussion at the discretion of the chairperson of the committee, if the chairperson is a full-time Federal employee; if the chairperson is not a full-time Federal employee then public participation will be permitted at the chairperson's discretion with the approval of the full-time Federal employee in attendance at the meeting in compliance with the order.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Dana Gioia,

Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 03-11146 Filed 5-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7536-01-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Determination of the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts Regarding Potential Closure of Portions of Meetings of the National Council on the Arts

Section 6(f) of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 951 *et seq.*) authorizes the National Council on the Arts to review applications for assistance to the National Endowment for the Arts and make recommendations to the Chairperson.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (Pub. L. 92-463) governs the formation, use, conduct, management, and accessibility to the public of committees formed to advise the Federal Government. Section 10 of that Act directs meetings of advisory committees to be open to the public, except where the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports determines in writing that a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public

consistent with subsection (c) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code (the Government in the Sunshine Act.)

It is the policy of the National Endowment for the Arts that meetings of the National Council on the Arts be conducted in open session, including those parts during which applications are reviewed. However, in recognition that the Endowment receives as part of some grant applications non-public proprietary or financial information, I have determined to reserve the right to close limited portions of Council application reviews at which such protected information is specifically discussed. The purpose of closure is to protect the confidentiality of protected information. Closure for this purpose is authorized by subsection (c)(4) of section 552b of Title 5 United States Code.

Additionally, at one of its meetings, the Council will consider prospective nominees for the National Medal of Arts award in order to advise the President of the United States in his final selection of National Medal of Arts recipients. During this session information of a personal nature may be discussed. Disclosure of this information about individuals who are unaware that they are under consideration for the award would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Moreover, the premature disclosure of this information would significantly frustrate the nomination and selection of National Medal of Arts recipients.

Therefore, in light of the above, I have determined that the above referenced portion of the July 2003 Council meeting, devoted to consideration of prospective nominees for the National Medal of Arts award, may be closed to the public. Closure for these purposes is authorized by subsections (c)(6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code. A record shall be maintained of any closed portion of the Council meeting. Further, in accordance with the FACA, a notice of any intent to close any portion of the Council meeting will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Dana Gioia,

Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 03-11147 Filed 5-5-03; 8:45 am]

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