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director

VILLAGRA BUILDING
408 GALISTEO
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
87501

COMMISSION

ON

AGING

September 8, 1970

Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Miss Gilpin:

As the accompanying copies of letters (from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from Dean Springer of the University of New Mexico) imply, we have so far not been successful in trying to obtain federal funds to complete the photographic study of the Older New Mexican.

Because the Study could not be completed before June 30, 1970, we lost state and matched federal money, and were not able to carry it over into this fiscal year. The budget for this year is not large enough to enable us to continue with the project, and therefore the contract cannot be carried out as originally drafted, due to lack of funds.

We have one or two other possibilities which might produce needed funds, and will not give up trying until these have been tapped. Despite our disappointment in the reply from the National Endowment for the Humanities, it was encouraging to note that the chairman and the Endowment staff were impressed with the idea of the project and thought it a "resourceful use of an artistic medium to promote the cause of dignity and respect for New Mexico's elderly citizens---"

Under Item II of the Contract, on page 2, it was "expressly covenanted and agreed that the terms of this contract are contingent on sufficient appropriations and authorization being made by the Legislature of New Mexico for the performance of this contract". It can be broken as there is not a sufficient appropriation to finish the Study.

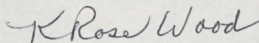
It was also agreed in Item I-3 on page 1, that the contract was to be completed by September 1, which of course it could not be.

Miss Laura Gilpin
September 8, 1970
Page 2

Should state funds become available, the contract will be re-drawn; but if private funds or non-state funds are obtained, we will make other arrangements as we hope to complete this publication whenever we can.

Thank you very much for your patience, your good cooperation, and especially for your belief in the value of the Study.

Sincerely yours,


(Mrs.) K. Rose Wood
Director
COMMISSION ON AGING

KRW:rts

Enc. (2)

cc: DFA
SPB
AG
SPO
UNM



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO | ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87106

VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
TELEPHONE 505: 277-2711

September 2, 1970

Dr. Wallace B. Edgerton
Acting Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Edgerton:

A note to express my great appreciation for the effort you and your colleagues have made on behalf of Mrs. K. Rose Wood and Miss Gilpin. It is not often that we find as sympathetic a hearing as that which you have given us in this matter and to receive a reply so promptly and so well put. I will, of course, pass your information along to Mrs. Wood. Perhaps we can find a way to accomplish the worthy objectives which she and her group are pursuing.

Again, thank you for your help and for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,

George P. Springer
Vice President and Dean

GPS/jg

cc: Mrs. K. Rose Wood

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



August 27, 1970

Dr. George P. Springer
Vice President and Dean
The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Dean Springer:

Your letter of August 11 and that which it enclosed, dated July 28, from K. Rose Wood, confronted the Endowment's staff and myself with something of a dilemma. On the one hand, we were quite taken with and deeply sympathetic to Mrs. Wood's resourceful use of an artistic medium to promote the cause of dignity and respect for New Mexico's elderly citizens. Your citation of Miss Gilpin at the university's Commencement last June strengthens our sense of the very useful contribution which Miss Gilpin might make. On the other hand, we sought in vain for authority, either implicit or explicit, in our Act--the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, as amended--which would allow us to support Mrs. Wood's project.

Under the definition of the humanities contained in Section 2 of that Act the Endowment is authorized to "support studies...of the practice of the arts," but a careful reading of Mrs. Wood's letter leads our General Counsel to consider it outside the definition. As a direct contribution to the visual arts, Miss Gilpin's photography might qualify for assistance through the National Endowment for the Arts, this Endowment's counterpart within the Foundation. I might note, however, that the Arts Endowment awards to individual artists are rather limited and, as I understand the program, normally made through nominations by juries.

I recall being approached by a crotchety old scholar at a meeting of a Southern humanities society a few years back who asserted that the Endowment did not know the difference between "humanities" and "humanitarian." He argued that our concern for relevance in the humanistic subjects smacked of the latter term. Mrs. Wood's letter and yours lead me to wish that our statute did occasionally allow us to support humanitarian work of such obvious worth and merit as that which Mrs. Wood proposes.

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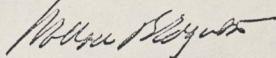
AUG 31 1970

GRADUATE OFFICE
University of N. M.

2.

We will be publishing a new program announcement within the coming weeks. I'll send you several copies of that in the event you wish to send some on to Mrs. Wood and Miss Gilpin. Perhaps it will suggest to them ways in which the Endowment might within its legal restrictions support some aspect of Miss Gilpin's work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wallace B. Edgerton", written in a cursive style.

Wallace B. Edgerton
Acting Chairman