Advocacy Committee supports level funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (ART) urges the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee to support level funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The following letter was sent to the Tom Udall, Chairman of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc.  
P.O. Box 151  
New York, New York, 10274

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Chairman of the Financial Services and  
General Government Subcommittee of the  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
110 Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Monday July 22, 2013

Dear Mr. Udall,

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. urges the Subcommittee to support level funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Founded in 1979, the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization representing a diverse group of more than 650 archivists in the New York City area.

As members of the professional community of archivists, we are concerned that NHPRC will be unable to support its ongoing programs and mission with the current
funding request of $3 million. The NHPRC has supported thousands of projects
documenting democracy, through small grants to archives, universities, historical
societies and non-profit organizations. These grants have facilitated nationwide
coordination and communication among archivists, supported documentary editions of
the papers of nationally significant individuals and institutions and have increased
access to significant collections through digitization.

In recent years, NHPRC grants have allowed numerous New York City institutions to
undertake and complete significant projects, including the establishment of an electronic
records repository at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the identification of
significant historical collections pertaining to Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews in the
northeastern United States, and the processing of and creation of finding aids for
records of the renowned Paul Taylor Dance Foundation. These projects have
successfully raised awareness about archival materials that were not otherwise
accessible.

NHPRC grants are used by the Archivist of the United States to provide national
leadership and encourage cooperation between state archivists on common issues. The
grants leverage state, local and institutional funding by requiring 50% cost sharing –
thus, NHPRC funding is central to most projects’ funding structures. Therefore, the
Advocacy Committee of the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc.
urges the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
to support level funding for the National Historical Publications and Records
Commission (NHPRC).

Sincerely,

Maggie Schreiner

Acting Chair, Advocacy Committee

Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc.