



The
**Archivists
Round Table**
of Metropolitan
New York,
Inc.

P.O. Box 151
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January 27, 2016

Kathleen Williams, Executive Director
National Historical Publications and Records Commission
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 114
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Ms. Williams,

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (A.R.T.) welcomes the opportunity to follow up on the revised strategic plan for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Founded in 1979, A.R.T. is a not-for-profit organization representing a diverse group of more than 650 archivists, librarians, and records managers in the metropolitan New York area.

We are gratified to note the inclusion of several references to training and professional development opportunities for archives professionals. The NHPRC's commitment to training and best practices is critical towards sustaining and strengthening our profession. In expressing this commitment, the NHPRC will help ensure archivists possess the specialized skills and knowledge required to carry out our responsibilities towards preserving and providing access to the nation's historical record.

We are also pleased at the NHPRC's goal of fostering collaboration to achieve long-term sustainability of digital resources, as well as ensuring strategic partnerships are possible to address emerging challenges, in particular electronic records management.

Finally, we are encouraged by the move to enhance the capacity of smaller repositories, especially by streamlining the application and review process. Widening the pool of applicants will hopefully result in a more diverse set of award recipients, which in turn will increase the public's access to a more diverse array of historical materials. Furthermore, funding tools specifically aimed at the needs of smaller archives and underserved communities is a welcome addition to the NHPRC's stated mission.

Sincerely,



Janet Bunde
President