

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of Anchorage Library Foundation's Alaska Room Project

Post: 04/28/2021-05/05/2021

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered Anchorage Library Foundation, a grant to renovate and create a new Alaska Room on the 3rd floor of the Loussac Library. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

In Anchorage Library Foundation's grant application, the renovations include creation of the new Alaska Room, restoration of the Ann Stevens Room and Galleria, and purchase of equipment (microfilm readers, scanners, etc.). The project will occur at the Loussac Library, located at 3600 Denali St, Anchorage, AK 99503. Although the library was construction in 1986 and work is primarily interior renovation, because of the potential involvement of some exterior work, this project was determined to be an undertaking subject to Section 106 regulations.

On March 9, 2021, Liz Ortiz, Archaeologist II - Review and Compliance for the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, advised that there are no historic properties within the proposed project area of potential effects, as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties.

Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov.
The deadline for submitting comments is May 5, 2021.