

EXHIBIT 29

TALKING POINTS FOR 4/9/25 NCH MEETING

1. Introduction:

NEH has been in the news quite a lot since the March 21 Council meeting three weeks ago.

The media reports have been largely accurate in a “big picture” sense, although some inaccuracies.

I wanted to use this meeting to keep you informed, as promised, at the Council meeting and to answer your questions.

Please treat my remarks as confidential.

2. Termination of open awards

At the direction of the White House, as communicated to us through DOGE, and as conveyed to grantees through DOGE on April 2, we have terminated about roughly 1400 grants to individuals, institutions, and the State Humanities Councils.

3. Justification for the award terminations:

At the direction of the WH/DOGE: NEH was required to repurpose its funding allocations in a new direction in furtherance of the President’s agenda: American Greatness, no DEI, etc.

Termination was necessary to address the Administration’s fiscal priorities.

The President has stated he has constitutional authority to refuse to spend taxpayer money that Congress has appropriated for things that the President does not like.

4. Lawsuits

There was one lawsuit against the agency while Shelly was still Chair.

More are likely on the way.

There is the example of IMLS lawsuit announced on April 4, 2025 by over 20 state Attorneys General.

The agency will be represented by US attorneys working through the Justice department in the jurisdiction where the suits are filed.

5. Reduction in the NEH workforce.

We have begun the process of downsizing the agency.

At the direction of the WH, as transmitted by NEH’s DOGE Team, on April 2, we were instructed to consider eliminating up to 95% of the workforce.

We worked to limit the reduction to 70%: Will go from 183 to roughly 50 employees.

Working to comply with all civil service protections.

Everyone will be back in the office on April 21.

We will be consolidating programmatic and administrative offices.

6. Phase-out of old programs/phase-in of new programs.

We have begun terminating a large number of agency programs.

Here is a list of programs that have been suspended or retired to date:

- Challenge: Climate Smart, Workforce Support
- ODH: Digital Humanities Advancement Grants, Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, Dangers and Opportunities of Technology (with AHRC)
- Preservation and Access: Cultural and Community Resilience, Research and Development, Preservation Assistant Grants, DEL
- Public: Digital Projects for the Public, Humanities Discussions
- Research: Summer Stipends, Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research, HSI Awards for Faculty Program, TCU Awards for

We will create a few new programs to replace them and will concentrate on making large grants through cooperative agreements.

Will go from over 35 programs to under a dozen.

Many new programs will focus on the 250th of the Declaration.

7. Commissioning statues/humanities programming for the National Garden of American Heroes.

We continue to meet as part of the WH Task force on the Garden.

We will be entering into an MOU/IAA with NEA to work together.

8. Miscellaneous

Still a skeletal crew running NEH; No political appointees.

I do not know the Administration's timeline to appoint a new chairman or political team for NEH.

I do not know what the Administration's intentions are regarding the holdover Obama and Biden appointees to the Council or regarding the possible appointment of new Council members.