



OKLAHOMA Connecting to Collections Initiative

Cultural Heritage Trust Feasibility Study

Final Report to the Institute of Museum and Library Services • 2/26/2010

Oklahoma Connecting to Collections Initiative

FINAL REPORT

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Program: National Leadership Grant: Connecting to Collections

Awardee: Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Partners: Oklahoma Museums Association
Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board
Oklahoma Historical Society

Project Name: Connecting to Collections: The Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust

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PREFACE:

With a \$40,000 *Connecting to Collections* grant award, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries worked with the Oklahoma Museums Association, the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Oklahoma Historical Society to assess the feasibility of establishing an organization to help cultural institutions protect and preserve valuable collections. It was envisioned that the partnering organizations, which represent the leading cultural heritage institutions in the state, would work to build strong public/private partnerships and collaborate on programs that include:

- Funding to support local and regional cultural projects and collaborations, as well as information about the availability of other funding opportunities;
- Marketing campaigns to increase public awareness of the needs of Oklahoma's cultural institutions;
- Comprehensive and consistent training in collection care practices, including technical assistance to develop collection care plans and policies.

Over the two years of the project, considerable dialog evolved between the partnering organizations, representatives of cultural institutions, elected officials, funders, state agencies with similar missions, tribal cultural institutions, and members of the public. Information was gathered through a Public Opinion Survey, an Oklahoma Collections Care Needs Survey and resulting Summary of Findings, two public meetings, six regional Cultural Summit Meetings in March 2009, a follow-up survey to prioritize needs and actions identified from Cultural Summit participants.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since 2003, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL), the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB), and the Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) have worked together to provide training, funding, and networking opportunities for Oklahoma's 650 museums, archives, and libraries. While it is recognized that these efforts have significantly strengthened the structure and collections-care practices of Oklahoma's cultural institutions, there remains a need to build sustainability and cohesiveness into the programs and services offered by the partnering institutions.

Various studies conducted since 2004 have found that Oklahoma's cultural institutions, and the collections entrusted to their care, are in serious trouble. Surveys conducted by OHRAB have found that 100% of organizations reported losing materials, either through theft, water damage, mold, pests, fire, or misplacement. The survey found that 50% of organizations do not have collection policies, 86% do not have disaster preparedness plans, and 74% do not have strategic plans.

When asked to identify and rank collection care priorities, institutions indicated their greatest priorities were to 1) improve preservation/conservation skills; 2) improve facility/storage conditions; 3) develop plans, policies, and procedures; 4) increase collections management through the use of technology; and 4) expand the size and scope of collections.

When asked to identify and rank organizational priorities, institutions indicated their key priorities were to 1) strengthen and diversify funding; 2) address all areas of marketing, from getting information out to the public to attracting visitors and reaching niche audiences; 3) improve the professional capacity of volunteers and staff members; 3) educate board members and donors on the workings of the museum and their roles; and 5) create a culture that appreciates and values archives, libraries, and museums.

Tied to each of the priorities is the need for funding, not only for collections care but for all levels of operation. As one survey respondent indicated, “While we want to be good stewards, right now every available dollar is going to pay the electric bill and to keep the doors open.” The respondent went on to indicate that there was a possibility the museum may close due to a lack of funds.

PLANNING PROCESS

With funding from the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services, the partners developed a plan of action to identify needs of Oklahoma’s archives, libraries, and museums and to assess the feasibility of developing a funding organization known as the Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust. It was envisioned that the Trust would:

- Establish a cohesive partnership with leading cultural institutions (ODL, OMA, OHRAB, OHS) for the purposes of providing resources to protect and stabilize Oklahoma’s museum, library and archives collections;
- Form a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations with an interest in culture who will be advocates for collection care, help create a united voice, and establish the critical mass that is necessary to achieve and promote large-scale, long-term change.
- Increase public awareness of the condition and needs of Oklahoma’s valuable collections and bring higher visibility to the work of the state’s cultural institutions; and
- Leverage public and private funds as a means of addressing the long-term protection, preservation, and care of artifacts, documents, records, and other cultural assets held in the collections of Oklahoma institutions.

These goals were built around four key themes:

- Oklahoma’s unique history is documented in records and artifacts held by hundreds of institutions throughout the state.
- These records and artifacts serves as a way to pass on traditions, enhance learning, and engage the community.
- Ensuring the proper care of these items, and increasing public access to them, will raise awareness of Oklahoma’s cultural offerings, will build appreciation for cultural institutions, and will enhance Oklahoma’s image in the state and beyond.

- Significant efforts must be undertaken to preserve Oklahoma’s cultural assets, which are being lost on a daily basis.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Identify Model Programs

The first step was to research and analyze model programs in other states to determine if the models might be applicable to Oklahoma. Eight model programs were identified, with the Minnesota Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the Oregon Cultural Trust ranking at the top of the list.

- Minnesota voters passed a constitutional amendment creating a new 3/8-cent sales tax to support recreation, arts, history and cultural heritage projects, and other activities. Of the total proceeds from the sales tax, 19.75% are dedicated to the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. It is estimated that more than \$1.2 billion in programs and projects will be funded over the 25 year life of the tax.
- The Oregon Cultural Heritage Trust is supported by progressive enabling legislation (HB2923) that provides funding for Oregon’s Trust. Sponsored by a bi-partisan group of legislators, it established a tax credit for direct contributions to the Trust. Additional funding comes from revenue for the same of a “cultural” license plate and from the sale of state-owned surplus assets. The Trust distributes funds to local communities through competitive grants for projects of regional and statewide significance. www.oregonculturaltrust.org
- The New York State Program for the Conservation and Preservation of Library Research Materials was developed through library legislation in 1984, and further developed in 1986 and 1990 into one of the nation’s leading programs. Key to the success of the project is a discretionary grant program which provides funding up to \$30,000 annually for projects preserving research materials in cultural institutions. Funded projects include institutional preservation surveys, collection microfilming, improvement in collections storage areas through environmental monitoring, conservation treatments, and training. www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/cp/
- Nebraska became the first state to enact legislation establishing a cultural endowment to support the arts and humanities. In 1998, the Nebraska

Legislature set aside \$5 million to stabilize and enhance cultural programs. The income from the fund is available for cultural programs when it is matched with new money.

<http://www.nebraskaculturalendowment.org/donors.asp>

- The Ohio Preservation Council's long-standing efforts focus on education, with bi-annual workshops and symposia, as well as a strong advocacy program, keeping preservation in the public eye through vehicles such as posters publicizing preservation activity. <http://opc.ohionet.org>
- The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners program emphasizes the importance of environmental monitoring and control, offering loans of environmental equipment to all types of collection-holding institutions. Program provides training opportunities and emergency assistance, preservation needs assessments, and site surveys. <http://www.mass.gov/mblc/advisory/preservation>
- The North Carolina Preservation Consortium sponsors annual conferences and workshops. <http://web.grinnell.edu/individuals/stuhrr/icpc/about.html>
- The Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium provides preservation information and education for libraries and museums.
- The Washington Preservation Initiative offers preservation workshops and funds grant projects. Librarians have hailed the program as one of the most effective Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funded programs in the state's recent history. <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/libraries/projects>

2. Engage a planning consultant

Prior to commencing the project, partners sought to engage a consultant to help guide the process, assist in the development of surveys and interview questions, facilitate meetings, help analyze information, assess funding feasibility, and help write the strategic plan. The partners originally identified a consultant with ArtsMarket, Inc., the consultant who was responsible for helping develop the Oregon Cultural Trust. The final proposal received from ArtsMarket was for \$55,000 which far exceeded the \$40,000 budgeted for the entire project. After several attempts to identify a planning consultant, it was determined that the partners would assume responsibility. Susan Feller, the Development Officer for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the

project manager for the Connecting to Collections grant has 20 years of experience in planning large-scale projects, with an emphasis on developing statewide or regional initiatives. The Oklahoma Museums Association accepted the responsibility for planning the meetings. All partners participated in the development of the surveys and interview questions and the development of the strategic plan. Sherelyn Ogden, project director for the Minnesota Connecting to Collections project served as a volunteer consultant, helping draft meeting agendas and the collections care needs assessment survey.

3. Develop a comprehensive database of Oklahoma Cultural Institutions

Databases were gathered from the Oklahoma Museums Association, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation. The databases were merged and purged of duplicates. Two comprehensive surveys now exist, one with over 3,000 names and email addresses of individual staff members of archives, libraries, museums, and historical societies and one with 568 unique cultural institutions. An added value of the cultural institution database, which also includes a brief description of the organization and its holdings, is the production of a Directory of Oklahoma Archives, Libraries, and Museums that is being provided to public and tribal libraries in hard-copy format and made available through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and Oklahoma Museums Association websites free of charge.

4. Plan and implement a public awareness campaign

To generate awareness of the project, statewide media releases were distributed to 1,200 print and broadcast outlets in Oklahoma. Collateral materials consisted of a banner stand, 1,000 postcards, 5,000 posters, and 10,000 bookmarks. Materials were distributed in white mailing tubes to 1,000 organizations and were available at the 2009 Cultural Summit Meetings. To maintain a cohesive image with the national Connecting to Collections program, graphic elements for the project were aligned with those found on the Heritage Health Index Report. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries provided graphic services valued at \$3,200. Marketing materials may be found in Appendix 1.

The Oklahoma Connecting to Collections project was one of the first projects honored by Creative Oklahoma, Inc., an organization of government, business, education, cultural, and civic leaders who are working to transform education, commerce and culture to meet 21st century challenges. In certifying the Oklahoma Connecting to Collections campaign as a "Great Inspiration Project," Creative Oklahoma Board Chair

Burns Hargis (President of Oklahoma State University), indicated the project was spotlighted because it “showcases Oklahoma’s creative abilities and accomplishments and has the potential to increase the quality of life in our state.”

To further promote the project, a dedicated website was developed and is available at www.culturalheritagetrust.org. During the early project development period, the website served as a central point for the public to learn about the goals and objectives of the project, provide input, volunteer, track progress, learn about regional meetings, and learn about what other states are doing to preserve cultural heritage. There is a possibility that the website will eventually be a clearinghouse for information on the care of collections, including information for individuals who wish to gift collections or items to cultural institutions. The University of Central Oklahoma contributed web development services equal to \$5,000.

5. Conduct a public opinion survey

To assess public support, a public opinion survey was available on the project website and was distributed at two public meetings. Results from the survey revealed there was strong support for an organization such as the Trust, with 86% of respondents supporting the concept, with 12% indicating they needed more information, and 2% being undecided. There was no opposition. Most revealing, 100% indicated a belief that state government should provide support of at least \$1 per Oklahoma resident on an annual basis. Public comments include:

"To allow the depredations of time and exposure to destroy a link to our past cheats us all. It is time to take action."

"Funding for preservation of collections is important to developing vibrant communities that appeal to visitors. Our state history, as well as our personal histories, is the foundation of our being; without a link to the past, we are but mere nomads in quest of fulfilling an unquenchable thirst."

"Historical collections excite and motivate each succeeding generation as to their place and contributions to Oklahoma. A consistent and sizable pool of funds should be made available."

"Oklahoma’s rich variety of libraries, museums, and archives are not only a valuable resource for visitors and non-Oklahomans to learn about the state but also allow life-long residents to discover new things in their own backyard. These are treasures that must be preserved, not only for us but for the generations to come."

"History is who we are as a people and guides us to who we become. Objects connect us with the past. Oklahoma has a varied and colorful history. It should be kept for generations to come."

The public opinion survey may be found in Appendix 2.

While responses are no longer being sought, the survey instrument is available at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WjrXLItzewVaAUmiW8oW1Q_3d_3d.

6. Conduct an "Oklahoma Collections Care Needs Survey"

For the purpose of identifying, confirming, and evaluating needs of Oklahoma's collection institutions, a 28-question survey was developed and distributed to the 650 cultural organizations previously identified. The survey was based on past collections care needs surveys conducted by the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board in 2004 and 2006, with a few questions related to the "Heritage Health Index Report" included. The final survey was closely modeled on the Minnesota Connecting to Collections survey.

A total of 275 institutions responded. Notable comments regarding the need for a dedicated source of funding include:

"By having a dedicated source of funding available for use in the care of tribal collections the state of Oklahoma will contribute to preserving one of its greatest treasures, the Native peoples. The conservation, preservation, identification, and ultimately the accessibility for all need to be in the forefront of strategic planning when looking at the next hundred years of Oklahoma history."

"Although a price tag cannot be placed upon an invaluable item, the cost of preserving the item is often pricey! A funding source makes it possible to "do it right" and ensure its perpetuity."

"A dedicated source of grant funding will help by providing monies to improve archival materials and equipment, including planning, and modifying records storage environments to meet acknowledged standards."

"On-going funding is essential--every year a significant proportion of our budget goes to purchase supplies and materials needed to catalogue and add to our growing collection of artifacts and historical and genealogical materials. Increasingly we are becoming known

for our historical and genealogical resources--but ongoing funding is essential to maintain and hopefully expand the current (entirely voluntary) efforts."

"Funding would provide more opportunities to train staff in creating policies and procedures and provide resources to assist with collecting, developing, assessing and caring for our collections. It would provide needed resources and training to assist in preservation/conservation of its collections in the only state-level archives for higher education in the nation."

A full report may be found in Appendix 3.

While responses are not actively being sought, the survey instrument for cultural institutions remains available online at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=seqk_2fMbQoV8GJuIEbFm8w_3d_3d.

7. **Conduct a survey to prioritize initiatives identified by stakeholders.**

During two public meetings, and six Cultural Summits, and the Collections Care survey, more than 1,000 comments were received from representatives of archives, libraries, and museums. These comments were organized into nine areas and then distilled down to a manageable size. Key areas were:

- Funding
- Public Awareness/Marketing
- Staff/Board Development
- Institutional Partnerships
- Emergency/Disaster Preparedness
- New Media/Digitization/Technology
- Facilities
- Collections Care/Management

From the comments, another survey was developed and distributed to more than 3,000 representatives of cultural institutions. Respondents were asked to prioritize the needs, identify if an identified need was already being addressed, and asked to volunteer to help implement the need.

The survey closed on March 1, 2010 at which time a report will be produced and distributed to stakeholders prior to the late March Cultural Summit II meetings.

A copy of the preliminary information may be found in Appendix 4.

To view the survey, visit:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=moaHDCpKRDmCB3ArpOsIR8i8KRzad1FiSAbNIWc%2fDmo%3d&](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=moaHDCpKRDmCB3ArpOsIR8i8KRzad1FiSAbNIWc%2fDmo%3d&1FiSAbNIWc%2fDmo%3d&)

8. Host public meetings

Public meetings were held in western Oklahoma at the Southwest Genealogical Society meeting, in northeastern Oklahoma at the Oklahoma Museums Association annual conference, and in southeastern Oklahoma as a part of the reopening of the Museum of the Red River and at the Oklahoma History Museum in November. For the meeting in southeastern Oklahoma, Brenda Granger, director of the Oklahoma Museums Association prepared a presentation targeted to the general public. The presentation, entitled “Hold on to the Memories: Saving Family Treasurers” was presented by consultant Sheri Vance. A copy of the presentation may be found in Appendix 5.

9. Host stakeholder meetings

To assess needs of Oklahoma’s museums, libraries, and archives, in 2008 the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Oklahoma Museums Association sponsored six cultural summit meetings in strategic locations around the state. The purpose of the meetings was to gather input on threats/issues of concern to organizations and to collectively explore ways to most effectively start addressing identified needs. The meetings further informed stakeholders of national and state initiatives that may impact Oklahoma’s cultural organizations and encouraged dialog between diverse cultural organizations.

Meetings were held in Enid, Ada, Muskogee, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City. To seek input from tribes, an additional meeting just for tribal nations was held in centrally located Oklahoma City.

Most of the meeting was devoted to group discussion of threats, priorities, resources, and methods of working together. More than 1,000 written and oral comments were received from the 210 participants.

Meeting packets consisted of an agenda, roster of attendees, discussion questions, the Oklahoma Collections Care Needs Survey Summary of Findings, the Heritage Health Index Report, and data sheets on the Preserving the American Historical Record Initiative, the Federal Formula Grants for Museums Initiative, and the Oklahoma

Connecting to Collections Initiative. Materials from the meeting may be found in Appendix 6.

Participants in the Summit Meetings placed a high value on the opportunity for libraries, archives, and museums to convene around common issues. The Summit Meetings represented the first time many of the people were in the same room together, even though they served the same community and had common goals. One of the most important outcomes of the meetings was to facilitate this interaction.

At the request of participants, the partners intend to host regional Cultural Summit Meetings on an annual basis. Each meeting will disseminate national, state, and regional information of interest to archives, libraries, and museums, provide progress reports on the Cultural Heritage Plan, and feature a short training session addressing common issues. Cultural Summit II Meetings will take place in March 2010 in five Oklahoma communities.

URGENT NEEDS/PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Throughout the planning process, it became obvious that archive, library, and museum workers have a clear understanding of their needs and the obstacles that prevent them from being the best possible stewards.

While the scores of priorities and initiatives gleaned from the statewide meetings are in the process of being further distilled, 10 key needs were identified.

Finding Number One: The majority of Oklahoma's cultural institutions are staffed by people who are not trained in collection care or management. This lack of training results in problems going unaddressed, or worse, misaddressed. Proposed Solution: Help organizations build staff capacity through comprehensive and consistent training and technical assistance, offering a minimum of five training opportunities each year. Provide certificates of completion to enable attendees to demonstrate they have participated in activities that enable them to obtain new skills. Identified Providers: The Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Oklahoma Museums Association have a well-established track record in presenting low-cost, high-value workshops on subjects such as preventative conservation, emergency preparedness, threats to collections, basic cleaning and repair of materials, care of photographs, genealogy resources, developing community histories, fundraising, volunteer development, policies and procedures, working with the media, and other much needed information. Annual Budget: \$17,500 (\$3,500 x 5 workshops) to cover speaker and material costs. How funded: \$5,000 in registration

fees, \$5,000 from Trust, \$7,500 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Problem: Many cultural organizations are understaffed and cannot release employees to attend training sessions. Possible Solution: Create an online, self directed study program for collections care. A similar site exists for libraries at Web Junction.

Materials can be delivered through PowerPoint presentations, videos of workshops, links to other training opportunities available online, and downloadable materials.

Startup budget: \$37,000 for staff person to establish website and populate it with materials; \$7,500 for website development. Annual Budget: This is unknown, although a certain amount of staffing will be required for website updates and maintenance.

Problem: Necessary conservation of valuable materials is often left undone because there is a lack of trained conservators in the state as well as a lack of facilities.

Possible Solution: Renovate the conservation lab at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and equip it with state of the art equipment and materials. Hire a full-time *Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust Feasibility Study 2008*

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conservator to assist organizations throughout the state with conservation needs such as repair, cleaning, etc. Budget: \$65,000 to update the lab; \$54,000 for conservator (per year); \$36,000 for supplies per year. How funded: IMLS funding (2008) for lab updates; state appropriation for staffing; supply budget through the establishment of low-cost fees charged to outside organizations.

Problem: There is a general lack of awareness of the valuable documentary heritage held by Oklahoma institutions, primarily because there are no finding aids and no way for researchers to easily access documents. This lack of awareness is a factor underlying the apathy that has allowed the state's collections to deteriorate.

Possible Solution: Working with OklahomaHeritageOnline.org, provide a centralized portal for organizations across the state to promote their collections. Since most of the target organizations are small and not equipped to undertake scanning projects, establish a center for scanning at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries with state of the art scanning equipment for microfilm, photographs, books, etc. Budget: \$105,000 for equipment and lab setup, \$78,000 for staffing (2 x \$39,000); \$1,500 year for website maintenance. How funded: State appropriation.

Problem: The majority of facilities that house Oklahoma's most valuable collections are not secure, do not provide a suitable environment, and are in need of upgrades.

Possible Solutions: Develop guidelines for assessing facilities to prioritize needs. Establish a capital improvement fund to provide grants for facility upgrades.

Problem: While Oklahoma is prone to natural disasters, the majority of cultural institutions are not equipped to deal with problems that arise. Possible Solution: Establish regional disaster networks throughout the state that are equipped with a

cache of emergency supplies and a team of responders who are trained to deal with the aftermath of a disaster, similar to a Red Cross for collections.

Problem: Much of Oklahoma's historical documentation/artifacts are held by private individuals throughout the state who may not recognize the value of the items to interpreting the history of the state. Often, these individuals do not realize the significance of the materials to the heritage of Oklahoma, resulting in the items not receiving appropriate care or, because the items are believed to have limited monetary value, being tossed out by heirs or going on the auction block. **Possible Solution:** On the Oklahoma Cultural Trust website, provide information on donating materials to cultural institutions as well as information on caring for items in private collections. The website can also have a list of cultural institutions with a statement of what they are collecting. **Budget:** Can be covered as part of OCHT activities.

Problem: Few organizations in the state have funds for collection care. **Possible Solutions:** 1) Develop a "win-win" public/partnership that provides a pool of funding that is then re-granted to organizations through a peer-review process; 2) Establish an *Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust Feasibility Study 2008*

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endowment fund, based primarily on planned giving, for long-term collection care; 3) Sponsor one or two major fundraising events each year; 4) Establish a membership group; 5) Help organizations learn techniques to increase earned and contributed income.

Problem: Collections that are important to interpreting Oklahoma history are leaving the state, as exemplified by the recent movement of the Picher Minefield documents going to an out-of-state repository. **Possible solutions:** Legislation should be enacted to require organizations that hold Oklahoma documents or artifacts to offer them to Oklahoma repositories first. Similar legislation exists in other states.

CONCLUSION

The Connecting to Collections studies and meetings confirmed that Oklahoma does not have the infrastructure in place to help cultural institutions protect and preserve valuable collections held by Oklahoma archives, libraries, and museums.

While the primary purpose of this planning project was to assess the feasibility of starting an organization that would raise public/private funds for Regranting to collecting institutions, the current economic climate may make it difficult to launch such an effort. With this said, the information gathered through the Connecting to Collections project, and the enthusiastic support of the Oklahoma public, it is a good time to start sharing information with political leadership and funders.

Information gathered through the Connecting to Collections project will also be used to inform collaborative applications to be submitted to various federal funding agencies.

NEXT STEPS (post grant funding)

- Engage stakeholders at the Cultural Summit II in reviewing the results of the latest survey in which previously identified needs are prioritized.
- Analyze each recommendation and develop an action plan by identifying which partner (ODL, OMA, OHRAB, OHS) will take the lead and then make assignments, budgets, and timelines.
- Form workshops to start addressing the key initiatives. Members will be those who indicated a desire to work on a particular initiative through the Cultural Heritage Phase II survey. Other members will be recruited as needed and to insure statewide representation.
- Seek an official resolution from Governor Henry resolving that Oklahoma is committed to preserving its collections. Host a formal presentation, perhaps on May Day (May 1) as part of the national emergency preparedness awareness day.
- Engage and enlighten members of the public through the sponsorship of public programs such as a Preservation Road Show.
- Engage elected officials by calling upon them to appoint a statewide group of Cultural Heritage Advisors. The governor will be asked to appoint a representative from each of the five regions established by the Oklahoma Museums Association. Members of the legislature will be asked to appoint constituents from their districts. Representation will be sought from civic leaders, business leaders, religious leaders, corporate and foundation leaders, political leaders, educators, civic organizations, educators, and the media. The advisory council will form an advocacy network.
- Review actions that led up to the Minnesota Legacy Amendment and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Explore if the Oklahoma funding for cultural institutions initiative should be enacted through the legislative process or through a constitutional amendment by voters.
- Work with a major marketing and public relations firm to develop a pro bono public awareness campaign for the urgent needs of Oklahoma's collecting institutions. This step will depend on identifying a funding source to pay for the materials.
- Review other statewide Connecting to Collections projects, in particular, the Washington, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Carolina initiatives.
- Prepare and submit an IMLS Connecting to Collections Implementation Grant in support of top priorities (December 15)
- Continue hosting Cultural Summit meetings to hear recommendations from the work groups and to continue the current communication activities.

- While not an intended outcome of the proposed project, it quickly became obvious that stakeholders were concerned about disaster preparedness and placed a high priority on the development of a collaborative disaster response network. To build on the Oklahoma Museums Association's Disaster Area Response Team, the Oklahoma Department of libraries, with funding from the National Historical Records Advisory Board, purchased supplies and materials to equip five emergency response teams. Over the next few months, a program will be put into place in which team members are trained in disaster response. Participating organizations will be required to have emergency plans (training provided) and sign hold harmless contracts.

Respectfully submitted,

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