

National Humanities Council
New Orleans November 2018
Fletcher's notes

John Peede, NEH Chairman, address

Democracy demands wisdom and vision from its citizens
Jefferson – ignorance and freedom are mutually exclusive
Reference to Kurt V – Slaughterhouse 5
Humanities are not a luxury
Optimism
Neibert – history does not move casually
Education

Observation: Peede is one smart dude; had to read a lot of books to right that speech. He is practical as he is academic. Encouraging.

Rural Education in Georgia

Takeaway: **Professors select their own projects. Councils look for what audience wants/needs.** Tremendous disconnect between/among providers, academics and public.

How do we use a three-dimension printer to teach Plato and Aristotle? Technology vs. philosophy?

Civil-civic vs. safe places: places to have conversations that are not being had.

Arts and Humanities – panel of Georgia, Nebraska, Alabama and SC

What does Humanities bring to the table? Ability to interpret and understand.
Humanities interpret the Arts

Process is the outcome – asking the right questions.

Idea? partner with Florida Press Association. Partner with Dean Ridder of FPA and Leadership Florida. “Platform for civic engagement.”

Question? Is there a companion organization in the Arts that promotes the humanities? Chance for a coalition?

Observation: incredibly poor speaking skills among humanities “scholars.”

Idea? partner with multiple 4H groups and FF.

Keep showing up with Arts – build partnerships.

Wrong idea: a community has only one story to tell.

Historians and Developments

Understand *full* history of an area.

Community history workshops

“History Harvest” avoid social history & judgments. Build relationships.

UNC researched closed mill history in rural area. Parallel: many closed phosphate towns in central Florida.

State Funding – Wyoming

Focus on partnerships

Prove one finding before suggesting another

No \$ for advice

Convener of neutrality

What is the story?

Establish need and urgency; who can accomplish?

Focus on out-sourcing

Executive angle: encourage civic participation and practice of democracy

Make case over and over and over again.

Prove the need

FHC show up! What have you done for me? What have I done for you? Impact on local community.

What is the theme of our request? What new problem can we help with?

Contact with both staff and legislature to events

3-legged stool: federal, state and private; promote stability

Federal Update

2019 Appropriations Committee – five out of 12 returning
\$155 NEH, \$49 States

Auster budge for NEH and NEA

All “deals” expired. New House committee.

Ester: how to muster member to support legislation?

You tube: “We are the Humanities” and “Strengthening Humanities” and “Family Literacy(?)”

Louisiana Prime Time Head Start

Organization should have been braver.

Lack of professional development for PreK teachers – not available

Direct service model – in the school, full time programs

More an anti-poverty model than an education model.

Outsource fed/state function to local – Tocqueville model

Focus on environment – not trying to “fix” someone; active involvement of parents

“partnership vs provider”

LA does Head Start for one parish (four schools, 550 kids)

Business Meeting

Leadership succession planning, board assessment
Compensation benchmarks – market & merit
Long term budgeting
Carry forward 5-year plan
Employee handbook

Financial report: stable. ST and LT reserves

Hope to have \$250 million by 2026. Need to go deep on issues.

Budget: seems well-run, planned & analyzed. Multi-year thinking.

President's address (Ester)

Complexity promotes listening. Avoid yes-no
Gateway for rational sponsors: Mellon & Smithsonian
Focus on rural areas
Continue with National Humanities Alliance (professors)

Pre-school scholars – Prime Time

Bravery guarantees the lives of others – Aristotle
Homer & patriotism
Thucydides – have clear vision of what lies before us
Danger of sloth
Listen to all
Respectful thinking