PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities’
Section 106 Review of
Taft Museum of Art’s Bicentennial Love This House Capital Campaign

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded the Taft Museum of Art (TMA) a grant (CHA-268747) to install a new HVAC system and to repair the envelope of its 200-year-old historic house. 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 its grant application, the TMA, located at 316 Pike Street, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio 45202, proposes to: 1) retain, stabilize and remediate significant historic elements; and 2) update the building’s systems to protect those elements and improve operation of the museum. The project requires the complete exterior rehabilitation of the historic house, including work on the cornice, exterior walls, windows and window trim, sashes, sills and shutters, iron window grilles, foundation and limestone steps. The scope also includes a new HVAC system. There will be excavation along the front of the house to waterproof the foundation wall and install a new footer drain flanking each side of the portico. The area to be excavated is estimated at 3’-0” +/- wide and 5’ to 7’ deep for around 110 linear feet along the foundation. There may also be excavation associated with a cistern structure in the front yard.

The TMA is listed in the National Register of Historic places, is a contributing building in Lytle Park Historic District, and is designated a National Historic Landmark. The TMA building comprises a former historic house and a 2004 rear addition. The original dwelling, known as the Baum-Longworth-Sinton-Taft House for the influential former owners who built and shaped it, was begun circa 1820, enlarged in the 1830s, 1887, and 1910, and repeatedly redecorated. The conversion to a museum during the years 1931-1932
removed many of the alterations made over time with the goal of recreating a Federal-style house.

In correspondence dated August 30, 2019, Joy Williams, Project Reviews Manager, Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, advised that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effects.

NEH has determined that the project will have “No Adverse Effect” pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5. The project shall meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties. If there are any significant changes in scope or unanticipated effects on the property subsequent to completion of the Section 106 review, the Taft Museum of Art shall stop work on the project and will immediately notify the NEH Federal Preservation Officer, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b).

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 **Wednesday, June 10**.