

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) has the following Mission Statement: *The Midwest Art Conservation Center is a non-profit regional center for the preservation and conservation of art and artifacts, providing treatment, education, and training for museums, historical societies, libraries, other cultural institutions, artists, and the public.* The Preservation Services program of MACC serves as a primary resource for education and training in practical preservation skills for the staffs of small- and mid-sized cultural repositories in the Upper Midwest region. The program serves many different types of humanities-based institutions, including those with historical, Native American, non-indigenous culturally focused, library, archival, and fine art collections. The program's service area includes Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin, covers over three hundred thousand square miles and a population of over fifteen million, and includes thousands of publicly held collections.

The Preservation Services program strengthens the care of cultural collections by offering training and educational activities tailored to meet the needs of this region's institutions. These activities cover a range of collection preservation issues for all types of materials. The program provides workshops, presentations, and one-on-one collections care assistance; helps in the development of long-range conservation plans and disaster response plans; conducts overall general assessment surveys; provides immediate emergency response services; trains on emergency preparedness, response, and salvage; provides collection consultations and technical information; maintains a website and a reference library; loans monitoring equipment; coordinates and shares information with regional and national organizations; assists institutions seeking funding for preservation-related projects by aiding in the identification, development, and review of grant applications; and performs regular evaluations of its activities and the region's needs to ensure effective programming.

The Preservation Services program provides high-quality, professional preservation assistance that is both practical and accessible for small- and mid-sized cultural repositories. The Upper Midwest's need for these services has been established through many national and regional assessments.

The program stays in contact with thousands of collection professionals from across the entire region. During this proposed grant period, hundreds of staff members at over 400 institutions will receive direct assistance from the Preservation Services program in the form of workshops, assessment surveys, inquiry response, and preservation planning assistance. In addition, thousands of collection stewards will access preservation information from the website, emails and conference presentations. A comprehensive database helps track progress on the region's improvements. Data is maintained on the characteristics of individual institutions spanning years of program assistance, including their specific collection materials, staff member training, general assessment survey recommendations, and disaster preparation and long-range conservation plan development. The Preservation Services program is dedicated to assisting individual institutions and accurately measuring the region's advancements in collections care.

Staffed by knowledgeable conservators and preservation experts, the program demonstrates successful outcomes. Keeping its programming accessible to even the smallest institutions in the region, the MACC Preservation Services program advances practices in cultural repositories throughout the Upper Midwest. MACC's Preservation Services program seeks support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue these services for two additional years, 2018-2019.