

National Endowment for the Humanities

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

**Georgia O’Keeffe Museum
217 Johnson Street,
Santa Fe, NM 87501**

CHA 268762

BACKGROUND

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awards grants and cooperative agreements to support research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. The proposed activity is supported with financial assistance authorized under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-209) to enable infrastructure development and capacity building, including through the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities needed for humanities activities and historic landscapes.

Proposed Action

NEH has offered a \$750,000 grant to the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum (GOKM) in April 2024, to fund excavation and archaeological recovery activities for the construction of a new GOKM. GOKM submitted a Condensed Environmental Assessment (EA) that documents the impacts of the Proposed Action. The Condensed EA for GOKM is incorporated by reference into this FONSI.

The intent of the new GOKM is to create a welcoming and accessible campus for visitors and communities through innovative presentations of Georgia O’Keeffe’s art, the northern New Mexican landscape, and the lived experiences of Georgia O’Keeffe within the region. The new GOKM building will augment the functions of the existing 18,430-square-foot, one-story, commercial structure at 217 Johnson Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Anchored by a new 56,288-square-foot exhibition, education, and collections facility, the campaign positions the GOKM as a world-class, visitor-centric, community-minded museum. The new GOKM will present more of the collection in its galleries, matching the caliber of recent national and international exhibitions, showcase diverse artists and voices, increase capacity for programming, engagement, and educational initiatives, and respond to the needs of a growing collection, providing state-of-the-art collections care and storage. The new GOKM will include a combined 18,000 square feet of gallery space, learning and engagement center with classrooms and lecture space, community green space open to the public, including pedestrian routes, state-of-the-art conservation lab, collections storage space, and photography studio for collection documentation.

Construction of a new facility adjacent to the O’Keeffe Research Center will provide enough space for the museum to present more of Georgia O’Keeffe’s collection for its galleries and will provide more opportunities for community programs and educational spaces for the public. In addition, the new GOKM will provide adequate storage space and will create a campus-type plan with an unimpeded flow between the two museum structures and a public garden space that will connect Grant and Sheridan Avenues. The GOKM will minimize impacts to natural resources while maintaining and preserving historical and cultural significance in the heart of downtown Santa Fe.

Mitigation

The mitigation is incorporated by reference and can be found in Part III of the Condensed EA.

Conclusion

NEH hereby adopts the Condensed EA prepared by the GOKM without modification for the Proposed

Action described above. After reviewing the assessment and the supporting materials provided by the grant applicant, NEH finds that the assessment properly documents the proposal's status of compliance with the environmental laws and requirements listed therein.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (44 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500 through 1508), and the National Endowment for the Humanities NEPA Implementing Procedures, NEH determines, with the mitigation measures described in Part III of the Condensed EA, that the Proposed Action will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Approvals:



*Federal Preservation and Environmental Officer
National Endowment for the Humanities*

July 19, 2024]

Date