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HBCU Library Alliance Awarded \$88,500 Grant

ATLANTA (September 20, 2019) — The HBCU Library Alliance was recently awarded an \$88,500 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This grant will help fund Year One of the HBCU Library Alliance’s project, *Building Capacity for Humanities Special Collections at Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. In partnership with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, this project will create the delivery of collections care services and training opportunities for members of the HBCU Library Alliance, in order to strengthen stewardship of special collections documenting the African American experience.

“This is such an important time in our nation’s history to engage with humanities collections at HBCUs,” said Sandra Phoenix, Executive Director. “The HBCU Library Alliance is so pleased to receive this funding that will support infrastructure of the recently awarded NEH Challenge Grant. We look forward to implementing this project and its impact on humanities collections.”

“This funding is very timely in support of HBCUs and their ongoing efforts to preserve special collections,” said Monika Rhue, Board Chair. “I am especially pleased about the partnership with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts and their role to provide conservation training. These partnerships are essential and will enable HBCU institutions to share unique stories from their archives that contribute holistically in telling American history.”

Through this project, the HBCU Library Alliance will offer a menu of regrant opportunities, including preservation planning documents, collection surveys, treatment and rehousing services and educational programs to its 71 member libraries.

The HBCU Library Alliance will assist the libraries in building capacity for fundraising for special collection initiatives, documenting cultural heritage materials, increasing accessibility of special collection items, and promoting the humanities significance of their broad collections of rare materials and their irreplaceable cultural heritage artifacts.

This grant will activate the first infusion of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which awarded the HBCU Library Alliance a \$365,000 challenge grant. The NEH grant will be released over a five-year period, pending the HBCU Library Alliance’s ability to match funds, dollar for dollar, in new nonfederal contributions.

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About the HBCU Library Alliance

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. Additional information about the HBCU Library Alliance is available at hbculibraries.org.