

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Sarah Dalton
916/654-1483
sdalton@library.ca.gov

California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board to Convene at the California State Library

SACRAMENTO — The California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board will convene January 14, 2004 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 500 of the California State Library at 914 Capitol Mall in Sacramento. The meeting of the Endowment board is the first step toward distributing \$122 million earmarked by voters to reveal and preserve the history and culture of California's underrepresented cultural groups.

State Librarian of California, Dr. Kevin Starr will open the historic meeting during which the Endowment Board will commence a search for an executive officer, and discuss a process for developing program guidelines. Members of the public may address the Endowment Board on individual agenda items, and there will be a general public comment period. The agenda is available at

http://www.library.ca.gov/CCHE/pdf/agenda_20040114.pdf.

Through a competitive grant application process, the Endowment, a division of the California State Library, will distribute approximately \$122million in **Proposition 40** (California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002) funds to government entities and non-profit organizations dedicated to preserving historic and cultural resources.

Senator John Burton, a strong supporter of the Endowment and member of the board says, "California history is more than an amazing ride of missions and miners and movies and microchips. It is also the stories of what happened to real people along the way. The

Endowment will be an important tool to help us appreciate our history in a way that includes all Californians and that never flinches from the truth."

"The convening of the board will ensure that California's past has a place in California's future," says **Majority Floor Leader Marco Antonio Firebaugh**, author of the AB 716, which created the Endowment in 2002. "California's cultural organizations and museums help celebrate our diversity by preserving and interpreting our state's historical and cultural heritage. The creation of the board elevates the importance of honoring our diverse cultures and promotes the ability of remembering our collective California history."

State Librarian of California, Dr. Kevin Starr says, "The convening of the California Cultural and Historic Board is a significant step in California's journey to identity. The Endowment will ensure that the story of all Californians will be told.

The California Cultural and Historical Endowment Act, which established the California Cultural and Historical Endowment [AB 716, Firebaugh, Chapter 1126, Statutes of 2002] dictates that Endowment make grants and loans to preserve 1) "Culturally significant aspects of life during various periods of California history including architecture, economic activities, art, recreation, and transportation" and 2) "unique identifiable ethnic and other communities that have added significant elements to California's culture." A priority of the Endowment is to fund projects that preserve aspects of California's history that are absent or underrepresented in existing historical parks and museums.

Endowment Board Members:

Chair: State Librarian of California, Dr. Kevin Starr

Secretary of the Resources Agency, Mike Chrisman

Director of the Department of Finance, Donna Arduin

James Swinden

Melinda Murray

Jennifer DiNapoli

Betsy Reeves

Marie Acosta

Georgette Imura

Gayle Roski

Senator John Burton, Senator Richard Alarcon, Assemblymember Marco Firebaugh and Assemblymember Jerome Horton will serve as ex-officio members.