



Statement on NEH Grant Termination

April 3, 2025

The DOGE-driven tsunami defunding and dismantling federal agencies that improve the lives of Americans has now slammed into the National Endowment for the Humanities, cancelling grants for cultural groups across the U.S. That has hit home here, as NEH today terminated a “Climate Smart” grant for Madison Children’s Museum.

As of this moment, we have received 0% of the \$268,202 promised in the award. We are owed all of it. The museum has been incurring expenses since the beginning of the project in September 2024.

In an email sent at 11:38 pm on Wednesday, April 2, acting chairman of the NEH Michael McDonald informed MCM's grants & corporate giving officer that the grant was terminated effective April 2, 2025.

The email read: “We regret to inform you that your NEH grant has been terminated. Please see the attached grant termination notice.”

The email notice, sent from the address “Grant_Notifications@nehemail.onmicrosoft.com,” initially landed in a junk folder. Messages from NEH have always come through their website grant portal. Official NEH employees have previously used email addresses that end in “.gov.”

The attached memo read in part, “The termination of your grant represents an urgent priority for the administration, and due to exceptional circumstances, adherence to the traditional notification process is not possible.” [See the full memo.](#)

The grant, one of only five Climate Smart grants awarded by the NEH in 2024, provided \$268,202 in matching funds to support MCM and other members of the [Caretakers of Wonder](#) consortium—a national collaborative led by Madison Children's Museum—in developing climate action plans for their institutions.

Madison Children's Museum is committed to completing this project and spending the money—federal, illegal attacks will not deter us from upholding our responsibilities to the partners, organizations, and communities we are serving in this project and in the Caretakers of Wonder cohort.

MCM asks its friends and other concerned citizens to contact their representatives and urge them to reinstate all cancelled NEH grants.

Senator Tammy Baldwin

Madison: (608) 264-5338

Washington: (202) 224-5653

Senator Ron Johnson

Madison: (608) 240-9629

Washington: (202) 224-5323

Representative Mark Pocan

Madison: (608) 258-9800

Washington: (202) 225-2906

Resources

- [Termination Memo from NEH](#)
- [MCM press release announcing the grant award \(4/25/24\)](#)
- Information on Caretakers of Wonder: caretakersofwonder.org