

January 22, 2016

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jane Chu  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Arts  
400 7th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Chairman Chu,

We write to express our strong support for the Vermont Archive Movie Project's application to the National Endowment for the Arts' Art Works I: Promotion of the Arts program (CFDA # 45.024). We are pleased to bring this proposal to your attention.

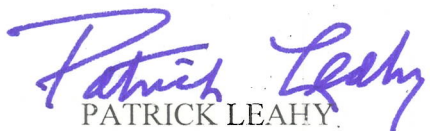
The Vermont Archive Movie Project (VAMP) is a new program of the Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF), a non-profit organization that has worked since 1985 to enrich and preserve Vermont's cinematographic landscape and culture.


Despite being home to a thriving filmmaker community, Vermont lacks a central database of films made in Vermont, or a repository to store and view these films. Additionally, since many Vermont films and videos have not been conserved properly, many are deteriorating and some are already lost forever. While the Vermont Historical Society, the University of Vermont Special Collections, and the Vermont State Archives house limited film and video collections, these collections only contain a handful of finished films by Vermont filmmakers.


VAMP has begun the work of creating this necessary database, and restoring and archiving films produced in Vermont by Vermont filmmakers and about Vermont subjects. With support from the NEA, VAMP will create a robust, digitally accessible presentation platform for this new film and video archive in an effort to enhance the visibility and appreciation of Vermont's rich cultural heritage. Working with several local educational and historical institutions – including the Vermont Department of Libraries – VAMP will ensure these films will be available to current and future generations of filmmakers, researchers, and the general public.

We believe the VAMP project is very well suited for this grant and we appreciate you giving the application the serious consideration it deserves. If we can provide further evidence of our support for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator

  
BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator

  
PETER WELCH  
United States Congressman