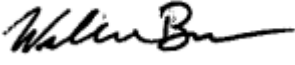




Inspector General

July 16, 2025

TO: Jim Byron
Senior Advisor to Acting Archivist of the United States

FROM: William Brown
Acting Inspector General 

SUBJECT: *Management Letter: Control Deficiency Identified During the Audit of NARA's Controls Over Grants Program*
OIG Report No. 25-R-03

The purpose of this management letter is to draw your attention to a control deficiency identified during the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) audit concerning National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) management oversight of two congressionally-directed spending grants which total \$16 million.¹ Specifically, NHPRC does not have staff with adequate experience to oversee grants for construction projects. NHPRC has raised this concern with the relevant external stakeholders and attempted to compensate by leveraging construction-related expertise from other NARA offices. Nevertheless, this lack of construction-related expertise within NHPRC creates serious challenges to effectively assure that Federal funds are used properly and efficiently. Effective oversight includes the timely monitoring of construction progress, ensuring grantees and subgrantees comply with government regulations, and reviewing regular financial reports on how funds are being spent.

Our concerns warrant alerting NARA leadership, so management has timely information to mitigate risks in the grant management process. The OIG suggests NARA assign agency staff possessing the expertise to oversee construction projects to assist NHPRC in its ongoing oversight of construction grants. The OIG believes continued assistance to NHPRC from agency subject matter experts is necessary to avoid potential construction overruns, spending irregularities, project delays, and to mitigate the risk of potential waste, fraud, or abuse.

Audit fieldwork is continuing and a final report with recommendations is anticipated. As with all OIG products, we determine what information is publicly posted on our website. Consistent with our responsibility under the *Inspector General Act, as amended*, we will provide copies of our reports to congressional committees with oversight responsibility over NARA.

Please contact me with any questions.

¹ The grants were awarded to support the construction of a research facility aimed at creating a public archive to house records, papers, and artifacts.