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STATE OF MAINE

MEMORANDUM

August 24, 2009

To: Sen. Bill Diamond, Senate Chair; Rep. Emily Ann Cain, House Chair; Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: John M. Rohman, Chair, Maine State Cultural Affairs Council

Subject: The Initiative to Streamline State Government – Priority Programs

The Maine State Cultural Affairs Council (Council) was established to ensure a coordinated, integrated system of cultural resource programs and projects and to ensure the support of cultural heritage institutions and activities of the State. Members of the following cultural agencies comprise the Council: the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine Library Commission, the Maine State Museum Commission, the Maine Humanities Council, the Maine Historical Society, and the Maine State Archives. Staff assistance is provided to the Council by the directors and personnel of the cultural agencies.

The functions of the Council are to:

- Coordinate budget requests
- Provide a forum for interagency planning
- Serve as the principal liaison for distribution of agency-wide notices and instructions from other governmental administrative agencies
- Prepare a joint annual report and planning documents for the agencies
- Meet with the Maine State Film Commission and the State Law Library and others as appropriate to exchange information and coordinate statewide cultural planning
- Administer the New Century Community Program fund.

The state budget shows the New Century Community Program as the Council's only program. In the current fiscal year, the New Century program is supported with a General Fund appropriation of \$40,922. In the past, these funds have been subgranted to municipalities or non-profit organizations through the respective agencies.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or members of the Committee have any questions about the function and activities of the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council.