



TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R. Berlin*

SUBJECT: Statewide Services for Historical Records Preservation

DATE: September 1, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Elin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Information

The State Archives and State Library have recently initiated a new statewide service to provide training, technical support and support services to historical records repositories.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Education Law section 140 establishes the statewide Documentary Heritage Program. This program authorizes the Commissioner to provide advisory services to historical records repositories statewide. The Department has contracted with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) to provide a comprehensive statewide program of training, technical support and advisory services for institutions that preserve and make available historical materials. This program also integrates support for the conservation of materials, which is authorized under Education Law section 273.

Background Information

The Department conducted a competitive bidding process to select a qualified vendor to provide statewide services to institutions that hold historical materials. The Department selected CCAHA to deliver these services, which, for the first time, coordinates services supported by both the Documentary Heritage Program and the Conservation/Preservation Program.

Staff will review the current status of the program provide information on resources being developed and will review the overall rollout of the program to meet statewide needs.