

## BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

“... one of the few with strong international interests.” “... sought to identify, and address at their source, the causes of human suffering and need.” “Together, these [nine core] strategies constitute the Foundation’s commitment to help define and pursue a path toward environmentally sustainable development consistent with individual rights and a more equitable sharing of the world’s resources.”

Board of Trustees: Alice Stone Ilchman, Alan Alda, Ela R. Bhatt, Johnetta B. Cole, David De Ferranti, Peggy Dulany, Frances FitzGerald, Daniel P. Garcia, Peter C. Goldmark Jr., Ronald E. Goldsberry (George, do you know him? I think he has a Penn connection.), Stephen Jay Gould, Linda A. Hill, Karen N. Horn, James F. Orr III, Alvaro Umana.

“The Foundation is a proactive grantmaker... seek out opportunities that will help further the Foundation’s long-term goals.”

“...factors considered in evaluating grant proposals... project’s relevance to Foundation programs and strategies, the applicant’s qualifications and record of achievement, and the applicant’s ability to secure additional funding from other sources.” “... Foundation **does not** ... personal aid to individuals, contribute to ... local hospitals, churches, schools, libraries, or welfare agencies, finance altruistic movements involving private profit, **SUPPORT ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION**, provide general institutional support, or fund endowments.”

Re: Affirmative Action... “important issues of underrepresentation of minorities and women remain unresolved in our society... The Foundation expects grantee organizations to engage in [systematic investment in the professional development of minorities and women and their promotion into leadership roles].” “...we may ask... data on the gender and minority composition of the leadership of the institution.”

“No special form required to apply for a grant... include the following:

- a description of the proposed project, with clearly stated objectives and plans
- a comprehensive plan for the total funding of the project during and, where applicable, after the proposed grant period
- a listing of the applicant’s qualifications and accomplishments and, where applicable, a description of the institutional setting.”

**Building Democracy** is most likely where CEM’s proposed Digital Initiative fits. “1996 appropriation of \$530,000 to create a corps of 21st-century American leaders with a sense of common purpose and the capability required to build a society committed to fairness and democratic principles, and with the confidence and skills to bring together others in pursuit of these goals.” However, **Building Democracy** is not one of the nine core strategies ((African Initiatives, Agricultural Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Health Sciences, Equal Opportunity/ School Reform, Global Environment, Population Sciences (some program areas have more than one strategy associated with them)) and the Foundation itself does not seem to be clear about how it relates technically. “Still in development”

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Page Two

Described under the section, New Explorations, they say, " During 1996, in an effort to respond to challenges posed by changing demographics, feelings of economic insecurity, and a declining sense of national and local community, the Rockefeller Foundation began exploring ways to engage the American people in reinvigorating democracy." "... focused on: developing 21st-century leadership committed to democratic principles, enabling people to engage in honest dialogue on race and ethnicity, and linking urban reformers into a national alliance that can strengthen community-building efforts." Other buzz words used by them: "broad community well-being and advocacy for the whole" "work across differences and divisions in society" "building a more equitable and inclusive American society" "overcome their discomfort with discussions about race and ethnicity" "align public policy with the goals of equity and fairness" "expanding the reach of community building beyond the inner city"

### Building Democracy Grants

Three Foundation-administered projects totaling \$151,000 for Next Generation Network in exploration of the Building Democracy initiative and in designing an online communications network. And, six grants totaling \$444,346 for administrative costs associated with the Building American Democracy initiative.

American Documentary – \$25,000 in support of High Impact Television project race initiative.

American Leadership Forum – \$19,400 toward the costs of planning a Leadership Roundtable and \$40,000 toward implementation of its Initiative for Leadership in Action in the 21st Century's Roundtable

Bay Area Institute – \$50,000 for use by its Pacific News Service toward planning for a cross-cultural communications project.

Community Renewal Society – to support expansion of coverage of metropolitan Chicago area issues in its monthly publication, The Chicago Reporter

Mediators Foundation – \$75,000 in support of its Campaign for Common Ground bipartisan citizens' project to raise the level of political dialogue in America.

National Academy of Sciences – \$140,000 toward the costs of the Working Group on Civic Consciousness and Governance.

Omega Boys Club of San Francisco – \$50,000 toward a project to syndicate its "Street Soldiers" radio call-in program nationally.

Real Movies, Inc. – \$50,000 toward preproduction costs of its documentary, "Family Stories"

San Francisco State University – \$50,000 to support the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism's News Watch project.

Urban Strategies Council – \$150,000 to support membership and communications expansion of the National Community Building Network

Youth Law Center – \$129,500 for the planning phase of an initiative to protect the rights of minority youth in the juvenile justice and adult criminal justice systems.