

DE&I statement for NHF
6/23/2022

Northeast Historic Film, an archive dedicated to preserving moving images emerging from Northern New England, is committed to creating, maintaining and serving a diverse and transforming local community, as well as a broader professional and cultural community extending beyond its geographic location.

Founded in 1986, NHF strives to recognize the critical role of archives and museums to advance a more nuanced understanding of the historical record documenting Northern New England because museums and archives have traditionally advanced a narrow presentation of shared historical memories. Through its film holdings, educational programming, and community presence in Bucksport, Maine, NHF is dedicated to a comprehensive inclusivity that eliminates obstacles and barriers to individuals and groups that have been historically underrepresented and marginalized.

NHF recognizes that a plurality of voices and viewpoints enhances and enriches our archival holdings, challenges and celebrates our understanding of heritage, and promotes a participatory climate of engagement and membership built around common interests, differences and mutual respect.

Our operating assumptions and practices are as follows:

As an archive focused on collecting, preserving, and making accessible moving images of New England life and the larger world, we embrace a sense of *diversity* open to the wide range of values and perspectives, racial backgrounds, nationalities, cultures, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, languages and socio-economic status that inform the identities, heritages and experiences of individuals and groups.

Our aim is to be an organization that is *inclusive* by intentionally and purposefully creating a workplace and a public arena where expressions of difference and disagreement are encouraged and valued in the pursuit of a more vibrant cultural and community discourse.

We strive for *equity* in our acquisitions and access to the collections as guided by the mission of Northeast Historic Film.

From our home base in Maine, we aim to build a collection that is reflective of the diverse populations of Northern New England. Historically, Northeast Historic Film has a record [hyperlink to list below] of preserving access to collections featuring diverse creators and subjects. At the same time, we recognize how archives and film and video media reflect cultural biases, unequal power dynamics, and the privilege of those who had access to these technologies. Recognizing evolving social issues and emerging cultural critiques, we are committed to further open access to a wider range of audiences through digital technologies.

NHF: DEI activities

2003:

NHF's second annual Roundtable, held in conjunction with the Maine Learning Technology Initiative focuses on online Social Studies Maine content, with a panel on the Wabanaki Curriculum Commission.

2004:

Roundtable III includes Native Studies, metadata, and student rights, safety and privacy

2009:

The National Science Foundation awards \$260,935 to support Language Keepers, documentation of the Passamaquoddy language.

2010:

CLIR funds a grant Moving Images of Work Life 1916 - 1960 (AM note: I put this in because we have mentioned the concept of socioeconomic diversity. If I recall, there are examples in this footage of people working all types of jobs. We'd need to frame this the right way.)

2011:

NHF receives a second NSF grant for the Language Keepers project. Here is a link to the NHF page: <https://oldfilm.org/content/language-keepers>. The grant resulted in this portal: <http://www.languagekeepers.org/>. My understanding is that NHF was the fiscal sponsor and David was the P.I. on the grant. We need to make sure that this footage is actually at NHF.

2015

"The Film Life of Charles Norman Shay, Penobscot Elder" is part of the Camden International Film Festival, with Shay's 8mm film presented by the filmmaker, introduced by Jennifer Neptune.

2017:

Northeast Historic Film, the Chicago Film Archives, and the Lesbian Home Movie Project begin *The Woman Behind the Camera: Home Movies and Amateur Film by Women, 1925-1997*, an 18-month project to digitize and make accessible home movies and amateur film and video made by women. The project is supported by Digitizing Hidden Special Collections at The Council on Library and Information Resources, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

2021:

NHF Receives a CLIR grant for the WCVB collection, which includes local television programming from WCVB in Boston. Among the titles to be preserved are *Aqui*, a local public affairs program created by and produced for the Latinx community and other public affairs news stories documenting diverse communities in greater Boston.

2022:

Board member Sian Evans researches Franco-American content in the NHF collection for an upcoming documentary. In 2021 and 2022, NHF supported Pride Week in Bucksport and will be screening a film about David Weeda, a Bucksport resident, gay man, and social activist.

NHF distributes the following titles through Reference by Mail and the NHF store:

Anchor of the Soul

Wabanaki: A New Dawn

Our lives in Our Hands

Earth Medicine (a series of four programs)

Gabriel Women: Passamaquoddy Basketmakers

Penobscot Basketmaker, Barbara Francis

Song of the Drum