



TO: Cultural Education Committee

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

SUBJECT: Creating New Knowledge through Archival Research

DATE: October 19, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Elin*
SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The Research Residency program of the State Archives has provided support to over 100 scholars who have conducted research in the collections of the State Archives to produce new knowledge including books, doctoral dissertations and scholarly publications.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information: Arts and Cultural Affairs Law section 57.05(1) mandates the State Archives to make available for research the records it preserves.

Background Information

The State Archives, with the financial support of the Archives Partnership Trust, has supported Research Residencies since 1996. The Research Residency program supports applicants from a variety of backgrounds with awards for advanced research in New York State history, government, or public policy. Previous residents have included academic and public historians, graduate students, independent researchers and writers, and primary and secondary school teachers. Research projects must draw on the holdings of the New York State Archives. Projects may involve alternative uses of the Archives, such as research for multimedia projects, exhibits, documentary films, and historical novels. The Residency Program is made possible by private contributions and special grants to the Archives Partnership Trust.

Over 100 individuals have been awarded research residency grants since 1996. Awards are intended to defray costs of travel, lodging, meals, photo duplication, and other research-related expenses. Award amounts range from \$100 to \$4,500 depending on the length of stay at the State Archives and research expenses. Research visits range from a few days to several weeks depending upon the nature of the research. Staff will review the selection process as well as highlight some of the more significant or notable research projects that have been completed.