

March 5, 2025

Dear Professor Mithlo,

Thank you for following up - I hope things are better or improving.

In case it's helpful, and as you may have seen, the NEA updated its FY 2026 grant guidelines and covered the changes in a February 18th webinar. It's available on [YouTube](#) and you can [access the webinar slides here](#).

Best,

*Funding Opportunities Officer*  
Research Enhancement Office (REO) | UCLA Office of Research & Creative Activities (ORCA)

- - - - -

Dear *Funding Opportunities Officer*,

Thank you for your kind assistance. I have reviewed the [grant requirements](#) and learned that due to President Trump's new mandates listed under "[Assurances of Compliance](#)," I am ineligible for the "NEA Grants for Arts Projects LSO," due to my role as faculty with Gender Studies and American Indian Studies.

**RE: "In accordance with the President's Executive Orders, the NEA will not fund projects that include DEI activities. Applicants must certify that they do not operate any programs promoting DEI that violate federal antidiscrimination laws, including programs outside the scope of their NEA project."**

**Also: "The applicant understands that federal funds shall not be used to promote gender ideology, pursuant to Executive Order No. 14168, Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government."**

Because my current project directly addresses Indigenous feminisms and the environment in the arts, I cannot pursue my research under the National Endowment of the Arts due to the agency's recent restrictions to my field of study.

Please note that I have published three peer review articles with my co-researcher Dr. Aleksandra Sherman,

Associate Professor of Cognitive Science, Occidental College under our prior [NEA Grant](#) awarded in 2015: "NEA Research: Art Works project Seeing American Indians" (Grant # 15-3800-7003).

The "Seeing American Indians" project trained dozens of undergraduate and graduate students over the past ten years and has been presented in conferences as varied as the American Anthropological Association's Visual Research Conference, the Terra Foundation for American Art, the National Academy of Sciences and most recently in the boardroom of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2024). Our planned future work with LACMA and UCLA is now jeopardized due to our ineligibility of support for our very training and teaching in our subject matter, stunting the public's enhanced understanding of empathy and bias using cross-cultural communication tools.

Please feel free to share my message with your supervisors.

Yours,

Nancy

Nancy Marie Mithlo [\[pronounce\]](#)  
[www.nancymariemithlo.com](http://www.nancymariemithlo.com)

Professor, Gender Studies and American Indian Studies  
University of California Los Angeles, 1120G Rolfe Hall  
Box 951504  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1504

UCLA Gender Studies strongly believes in the principle of *academic freedom* and insists on our duty as ethical scholars to teach, discuss, and research wherever inquiry leads. Our interdisciplinary field was forged to recover and build knowledge that is systematically marginalized, discredited, or disappeared by systems of power. We value academic freedom because it supports an environment for a rich exchange of ideas and interventions, including those that may be critical of existing power relations, deemed controversial or provocative, or vulnerable to being targeted by doxing, censorship, and repression. As scholars whose work collectively interrogates various forms of power, violence, and repression, we are committed to defending and advancing the rights of faculty, staff, and students to produce dissenting knowledge and voice dissenting opinions, both in the classroom and out.

[Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's Colleges and Universities in Responding to Immigration Issues](#)