



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 14, 2002

To The National Endowment for the Humanities Board of Directors:

The intent of this letter is to state my support for a project well underway by Jeffrey Clark, Brian M. Slator and Eunice Johnson. This is : "An Immersive Virtual Reconstruction of the Like-a-Fish-Hook Village and Fort Berthold Site Complex to Support Learning-by-Doing in the Humanities." It is an exciting melding of ethno-history, Indian materials, historical archeology, and computer science to develop an unusual learning experience for students and the general public.

As a Historical Archeologist for the State Historical Society of North Dakota, I made archeological excavations at Like-a-Fishhook Village and Fort Berthold in 1952 and 1954. In the late 1960s I researched and wrote an extensive ethnohistorical report on the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Indian tribes who lived at or near this great earth lodge village from 1845 to 1890. This report was prepared for the Indian Claims Section, Land and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice. And in the early 1980s, I participated in the preparation of a large traveling museum exhibit, "The Way to Independence," and an impressive exhibit catalog with the same title. Much of it was funded with NEH grants.

Throughout my professional career, I have been associated with large state historical societies such as the Minnesota Historical Society, and heartily endorse educational programs that reach and involve a broad public audience. The present project is unquestionably such an undertaking and enables visitors to participate in a remarkable learning experience.

I am eager to participate in this immersive virtual reality project as a consultant and as a member of its advisory board.

Sincerely,

*Alan R. Woolworth*

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Research Fellow Emeritus