

August 29, 2016

Pacifica Foundation
1925 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

RE: Preserving and Protecting the Pacifica Radio Archives

Dear Pacifica Foundation Board,

The National Federation of Community Broadcasters represents almost 200 community radio stations across the land. From culturally abundant rural areas to diverse metropolitan cities, across Native American lands and inspiring multilingual communities, NFCB member stations provide essential voices of our diverse American society. They preserve the histories, broadcast the memories, and are loyal to the ideal that media should also be grounded in our local neighborhoods, issues, and vibrant arts and culture scenes. NFCB is an organization committed to people telling their stories through the medium of community based radio.

Today, NFCB stands in support of the Pacifica Radio Archives, whose rich pageant of impactful voices and moments belong to the American people. Many of our members are Pacifica affiliates and have been supporting the Pacifica network since its inception. We value the listener supported legacy of Lew Hill and our member stations carry on the legacy of amplifying the voices of voiceless every day in communities across this country.

On Aug. 17, Dr. Josh Shepperd, director of the Library of Congress's Radio Preservation Task Force, [wrote publicly](#) about the peril this precious collection faces. Years of financial tumult and institutional neglect, he wrote, have pushed the Pacifica Radio Archives to the edge of extinction. Its demise would be an unfathomable tragedy. The Pacifica Radio Archives contains the largest collection of U.S. movement history. From Civil Rights to protest music, early modern feminism to environmentalism, the Pacifica Radio Archives holds thousands of hours of recordings illuminating our past and present. Moreover, the Pacifica Radio Archives offer a unique and rare snapshot of our collective pain, and our triumph, in a nation that rises to leave behind its darkest past to elect its first African-American president. Such historic magnitude cannot be left to chance, but to intention and action.

NFCB believes every effort must be made to protect these recordings, and to make them publicly available for future generations. We believe an educational institution is the best avenue. A university with the resources to archive the many hours of recordings in boxes and yet to be unearthed is the only true and correct option. NFCB believes that privatizing or selling off the Pacifica Radio Archives would be a fundamental betrayal of the values and spirit embodied in these recordings, which have always served an educational purpose and our an inextricable part of the whole story of our nation's history and experience.

For all of us, the Pacifica Radio Archives epitomize the most essential role of producers, media makers and journalists: to serve as a democratizing element and uphold the promise of the First Amendment.

NFCB urges Pacifica to act quickly and in the public interest that it has dedicated itself to serving over these many years. The Pacifica Radio Archives are a national treasure and they deserve to be protected and preserved for all of us. An educational institution with capacity to do this critical work is the most responsible path forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Kane". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Sally Kane, Chief Executive Officer
National Federation of Community Broadcasters

CC: Josh Shepperd, Director - Radio Preservation Task Force