



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Humanities Council awards grants totaling \$94,159

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) recently awarded \$94,159 in grants to 19 Nebraska organizations.

Grant recipients and the amount of each grant:

Peru State College, College of Arts and Sciences, \$15,450 for “Trails and Tales VI: Conflict, Compromise and Coexistence on the Contested Plains,” an interdisciplinary history and literature institute and tour next June that will focus on Plains Indians in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Friends of Arts Are Basic, Lincoln, \$8,900 for “Exploring Our Heritage Through Oral Tradition,” a year-long project designed to incorporate storytelling, culture and history to teach students in Cherry County rural schools about their heritage. Participating teachers will learn how to identify elements of the storytelling process and how it fits into the curriculum.

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, \$8,020 for “National History Day: Nebraska,” a statewide humanities education program that will provide students in grades six through 12 the opportunity to learn historical content and develop research, thinking and communication skills.

University of Nebraska at Omaha, \$7,697 for “Death, Murder and Mayhem: Stories of Violence and Healing on the Plains,” the Center for Great Plains Studies’ 34th interdisciplinary symposium, April 16-19, 2008.

Opera Omaha Inc., \$6,800 for “Opera Insights,” a series of lectures, seminars and related essays for Opera Omaha’s 2007-2008 season, scheduled through next June at Lauritzen Botanical Gardens, Joslyn Art Museum, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Film Streams, the Rose Theater, Westroads Mall and the Orpheum Theater.

El Museo Latino, Omaha, \$6,700 for the “Latino Heritage and Culture” series of gallery talks, lectures, musical presentations and food samplings, with a focus on the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, through next February at El Museo Latino.

Nebraska Folklife Network, Lincoln, \$6,300 for the creation of Nebraska farm and ranch teaching kits, two sets of trunks that will illustrate the history and traditions of Nebraska agriculture. The trunks, which will target upper elementary and middle school youth, as well as adult community audiences, will be available on loan beginning in late 2008.

Willa Cather Pioneer, Memorial and Educational Foundation, Red Cloud, \$5,835 for “America: A Kaleidoscope of Worlds,” a series of presentations, films and performances addressing Nebraska’s new immigrants and examining the past, present and future of rural, urban and suburban America, throughout 2008 at the Red Cloud Opera house and the Cather Center.

MORE

Nebraska Writing Project, Lincoln, \$5,000 for events showcasing place-conscious teaching implemented by teachers who attended a writing institute this summer in North Platte. Events Oct. 13 and Nov. 3 at North Platte Community College and May 15 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will provide a public forum at which teachers will present their projects.

The Groundwater Foundation, Lincoln, \$5,000 for “Water Ways: Education for Rural and Urban Youth,” several interactive mini-camps for Nebraska youth to be scheduled through August in Nebraska City, Denton, Bellevue and other locations in the state.

International Quilt Study Center, Lincoln, \$4,950 for the “Quilts in Common” lecture series and gallery guide to accompany the inaugural exhibition in the new museum, scheduled to open in April at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Friends of Joslyn Castle, Omaha, \$4,000 to develop automated self-guided tours of the historic Joslyn Castle to allow more visitors to access information without relying on volunteer tour guides.

Center for Faith Studies at Countryside Community Church, Omaha, \$2,606 for “American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers and the Making of a Nation,” an Oct. 28 lecture at the church by Jon Meacham, editor of Newsweek magazine.

Norfolk Library Foundation, \$1,500 for “Christmas with Laura Ingalls Wilder,” as portrayed by Betty Jean Steinshouer, Dec. 8 in Kearney, Dec. 10 in Columbus, Dec. 11 in Norfolk, Dec. 13 in Fremont, Dec. 15 in Hastings, Dec. 16 in Omaha and Dec. 20 in Bellevue.

Omaha Public Library, \$1,446 for speaking appearances Oct. 30 by author Pete Hautman at Westside Middle School, Central Middle School and the Omaha Public Library. Hautman wrote “Godless,” winner of the 2004 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature.

Omaha Public Library, \$1,250 for a Chautauqua-style portrayal of the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell by Preston Love Jr., during the 2008 Black History Month in February at the W. Dale Clark Library.

John G. Neihardt Foundation, Bancroft, \$1,109 for the 27th Annual Spring Conference, April 26 at the J.G. Neihardt State Historic Site. The conference will explore how various authors, poets, performers and historians have, like Neihardt, gained inspiration from the Plains.

Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney, \$800 for “Prayers for the People,” a “presentation Nov. 16 by former U.S. poet laureate Ted Kooser celebrating Carl Sandburg’s songs, poetry and proverbs from the Great Plains and Nebraska.

Gage County Heritage Preservation, Beatrice, \$796 for a living-history weekend Nov. 2-3 at the Mission School in Barneston and Nov. 4 at the Homestead National Monument and the First Mennonite Church in Beatrice.

Major grants are for more than \$1,500 and there are two grant cycles a year. Applications must be postmarked by March 1 or Aug. 1. Mini grants are for \$1,500 or less and there are six grant cycles a year. Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1 or Nov. 1.

Through its grants, the NHC works with non-profit groups statewide to create high-quality programs that add to the understanding and appreciation of Nebraska and the world, and that foster a better understanding of the humanities. The NHC staff is available for consultation and will read proposal drafts. Contact the NHC office if you need assistance with a project idea.

For details on applying for a grant, call Mary Yager at (402) 474-2131 ext. 103 or Erika Hamilton at ext. 104, or visit the NHC website at www.nebraskahumanities.org.

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