



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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NEWS RELEASE

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Humanities Council awards grants totaling \$127,334

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) recently awarded an \$18,662 grant to the **Nebraska Chapter of the United Nations Association of Lincoln**, for "Meet Eleanor Roosevelt," a series of Chautauqua-style presentations by Elena Dodd for audiences in schools, community and faith-based groups and civic groups. Dodd presents historically accurate information in the persona of Roosevelt, who was instrumental in developing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, now celebrating its 60th anniversary. The appearances will be scheduled Oct. 18-Nov. 1 and April 14-28, 2009.

The NHC announced 25 grants totaling \$127,334. Other grant recipients and the amount of each grant: **Nebraska Independent Film Projects**, Lincoln, \$16,000 media grant for "Madison County," a documentary film that examines a small community's lost sense of security in the wake of a deadly crime. Madison County residents were stunned when a bank robbery in 2002 resulted in the deaths of five innocent people in the small town of Norfolk.

NET Foundation for Television, Lincoln, \$12,000 for discussion and website development of "1968: The Year Nebraska Mattered," a documentary telling the history of Nebraska's role in the 1968 presidential election. The project includes studio production of a follow-up discussion program featuring analysis of 1968 and its events.

Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival, Seward, \$10,000 for the 2008 festival, a three-day literacy event that enables children and accompanying teachers to interact with nationally known authors, illustrators and storytellers. The festival will be held Oct. 9-11 at Concordia University in Seward.

Great American Comedy Festival, Norfolk, \$9,615 for a youth camp June 16-21 at Northeast Community College in Norfolk and the Johnny Carson Theatre at Norfolk High School. An estimated 30 students will participate under the direction of staff from the Brave New Workshop's school of acting and improvisation in Minneapolis.

The Great Platte River Road Archway, Kearney, \$7,466 for Dancers of the Plains Pow Wow June 20, 2009, at the archway. The inaugural event will focus on the Pawnee tribe. Themed food will be available throughout the event, which will follow the design and timeframe of a typical pow wow.

Sheldon Art Association, Lincoln, \$6,750 for activities related to the exhibition "Poets on Painters" and for a poetry contest and writing workshops entitled "Nebraska Poets on Sheldon Paintings" at Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery through June. Students will write poetry and both children and adults will engage in creative writing.

University of Nebraska at Omaha, Teacher Education Department, \$6,498 for a series of events examining Latino history and culture through the artistic works of David Diaz and Diego Rivera. Programs will be held Nov. 17-22 at Joslyn Art Museum, El Museo Latino, and the W.T. Thompson Alumni Center in Omaha.

Panhandle Resource Conservation and Development, Scottsbluff, \$6,457 for "Preserving Our Traditions Through Dance, Drum and Song," the Ninth Annual Friends of the Intertribal Gathering, June 13-15 at Fort Robinson. The annual family-oriented event helps to strengthen American Indian culture.

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Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, \$5,000 for the 2008 Great Plains Theatre Conference May 24-31 at the Fort Omaha Campus, the Omaha Community Playhouse and Creighton University. The third annual event emphasizes the work of new and emerging playwrights and includes workshops, symposia and discussion panels.

Durham Museum, Omaha, \$5,000 for a Teachers' Institute Oct. 13-14 at the museum. Teachers will learn how to use resource materials on the National Archives website to enrich lesson plans.

Battalion Chief Herbert L. Davis Foundation, Omaha, \$4,641 for "Courage Under Fire," a lecture and pictorial history of Omaha's black firefighters presented in historical context.

Creighton University, Omaha, \$3,245 for the 19th Annual Women and Health Lecture, featuring Jeannette Walls, author of "The Glass Castle," 7 p.m. Sept. 7 at Joslyn Art Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall.

Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Omaha, \$3,000 for a series of workshops, pre-show seminars, scholars' forums and the Anne Dittrick Sonnet-Writing Contest.

Homestead National Monument of America, Beatrice, \$2,000 for "Homestead Days: Exploring the Cultural Impacts of the Homestead Act of 1862 through Dance," June 13-15 at Homestead National Monument in Beatrice.

McCook Arts Council, \$1,500 for the Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival, May 30-31 at several venues in the McCook area. Storytellers Andy Offutt Irwin and Barbara McBride-Smith will headline the festival.

Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation, Red Cloud, \$1,500 for the 53rd Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference, June 5-7 in Red Cloud. The theme is "Willa Cather and Her Contemporaries."

Sunrise Communications Inc., Lincoln, \$1,430 for a three-month outreach initiative to inform the public and work with them to develop radio programming for Lincoln residents for whom English is a second language.

Opera Omaha, \$1,000 for a poetry contest in advance of the company's September world premiere of "The Blizzard Voices" by Paul Moravec with text by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Ted Kooser.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha, \$1,000 for "Women's Centennial Archive Project: Telling the History of UNO One Woman at a Time," a digital collection of stories about women connected with UNO.

White Buffalo Club, Chadron, \$1,000 for the 2008 Pow Wow, a one-day event in November at Chadron State College. The event includes dancers and traditional food.

Lincoln Quilters Guild, \$1,000 for "A Quilter's Compass: Turning Freely on a Pivot," the guild's 2008 Biennial Quilt Show, May 23-25 at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, \$920 for workshops Nov. 1 at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. The workshops are designed to connect women to the prairie through the arts and humanities.

Nebraska Writing Project, Lincoln, \$850 for "Celebrating Poetry of Place," a public reading by Twyla Hansen and selected middle school and secondary school students May 2 in the Warner Chamber of the State Capitol.

University of Nebraska History Graduate Students' Association, \$800 for the James Rawley Graduate Conference in the Humanities. The theme of the April 12 conference was "Imagining Communities: People, Places, Meanings" and featured keynote speaker Joan Jensen.

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.

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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