



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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# NEWS RELEASE

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For release: Oct. 9, 2008

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## Humanities Council awards grants totaling \$114,867

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) recently awarded a \$14,000 grant to the **Grand Island Public Library Foundation Inc.** for “The Quilted Conscience,” a video documentary that tells the story of a group of Sudanese American children whose refugee parents have made a new home in Grand Island—the birthplace of American’s great social justice pioneers Grace and Edith Abbott.

It is a celebration of African culture in Middle America that also relates the unending worldwide struggle for children’s and immigrants’ rights. It involves the creation of a “culture-blend” story-quilt by 20 Sudanese-American girls under the guidance of acclaimed quilt-maker Peggie Hartwell, a founding member of the prestigious Women of Color Quilters’ Network.

In all, the NHC recently awarded 23 grants totaling \$114,867. The other grant recipients and the amount of each grant:

**Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation**, Red Cloud, \$10,362, for “The end is nothing; the road is all,” a programming theme that will explore the social and humanitarian aspects of aging, quilts, Woody Guthrie and Roberto Clemente. The theme will continue throughout 2009 at the Red Cloud Opera House.

**Nebraska Wesleyan University**, Lincoln, \$10,350 for “National History Day: Nebraska,” a humanities education program that over the course of nine months provides students grades 6-12 the opportunity to learn historical content and develop research, thinking and communication skills. A state competition will be held in April 2009 at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**The Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara**, Flat Rock, N.C., \$9,750 for “The Day Carl Sandburg Died,” a one-hour documentary film about the life and work of the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet. It will revisit the impressive range of his work through modern-day scholars, artists, family and friends. Currently in post-production, the film is scheduled for release in 2009.

**Asian Community and Cultural Center**, Lincoln, \$9,503 for “Building the New American Community Initiative,” an effort to facilitate or enhance the successful integration of newcomers—refugees and immigrants—at a community level through arts, language, discussions, and cultural presentations.

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, \$8,960 for “Celebrating Darwin’s Legacy,” a series of events commemorating Charles Darwin’s 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of the publication of “Origin of Species.” Events include a lecture, an exhibit at the Great Plains Art Museum, educational programs for Lincoln Public Schools students and teachers and a Great Plains symposium.

**Heartland Center for Leadership Development**, Lincoln, \$7,480 for “Strengthening the Rural-Suburban-Urban Connection,” which will explore a historical context for considering cultural change within the framework of rural, suburban and urban communities in Nebraska.

**UNF Charitable Gift Fund**, Lincoln, \$6,800 for the 2009 Abe Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration, a series of events Feb. 12-15 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts and a Lincoln high school.

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**Opera Omaha Inc.**, \$5,848 for “Behind the Scenes / Behind the Lines,” a series of lectures and talks through June 2009 at Westroads Mall, the Orpheum Theater, Oak View Mall, Mall of the Bluffs, Oakview Barnes and Noble, Film Streams, The Blue Barn Theater, and the Urban Wine Co.

**The Public Media Foundation**, Northeastern University, Boston, Mass., \$4,750 for “Scribbling Women,” a one-hour, abridged audio dramatization of “The Letters of a Woman Homesteader,” by Elinore Pruitt Stewart, for broadcast on public radio stations and on a website.

**El Museo Latino**, Omaha, \$4,300 for the Frida Lecture Series, a series of lectures, discussions and presentations through November, with guest scholars exploring the writings and photographs of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

**Grand Island Multicultural Coalition**, Grand Island, \$4,290 for “The Road to Cultural Competence,” the coalition’s 4th annual conference Oct. 16 at the Midtown Holiday Inn. It will explore the full range of what diversity means and modes of diversity in real-life situations.

**John G. Neihardt Foundation**, Bancroft, \$3,820 for “Neihardt and Native Realities,” the 2009 Spring Conference, April 25 at the Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft. The event will address Native peoples and what survives and what does not a century after Neihardt wrote about them.

**Friends of the Libraries of UNL**, Lincoln, \$3,347 for two programs related to the national traveling exhibit “Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country.” The programs are Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, \$2,000 for “Real to Reel: Documenting Empowerment, Equality, Inclusion,” the second biennial Blacks in Film Festival April 16-24 at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center at UNL.

**The Norris Institute**, McCook, \$1,500 for “Commonalities—REA and Rural Broadband Internet,” the 2008 Norris Lecture by Laurence Malone, Nov. 17 in McCook.

**West Nebraska Arts Center**, Scottsbluff, \$1,500 for an Oct. 17 appearance by the Hugo Wolf Quartet of Vienna, Austria, at the Midwest Theater in Scottsbluff.

**Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council Inc.**, Plainview, \$1,500 for “Shootin’ the Breeze,” a celebration of cowboy poetry and Winnebago history, Oct. 18 at St. James Marketplace.

**Literacy Center for the Midlands**, Omaha, \$1,150 for a series of Family Fun Fairs in the next year to promote the love of reading by teaching parents how to instill literacy skills in their children.

**The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools**, \$1,032 for “Take a Stand: Moving Beyond Stereotypes to Achieve Your Academic Goals,” a Native American student leadership conference Oct. 10.

**University of Nebraska at Omaha**, \$1,000 for a lifelong learning event featuring speaker John Delaney, author of “Ireland,” May 1 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Omaha.

**Homestead National Monument of America**, Beatrice, \$1,000 for events at the Monumental Fiddling Championship and Acoustic Band Contest, May 23 in Beatrice.

**Omaha School of Music**, \$625 to explore the origins of “The Black National Anthem,” based on a poem by James Weldon Johnson, at the annual Nebraska Martin Luther King Holiday celebration and during Nebraska’s Black History Month celebrations in February.

Major and media grants are for more than \$1,500. Major grant applications must be postmarked by March 1 or Aug. 1; media grant applications must be postmarked by Jan. 15 or June 15.

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](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org).

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