



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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NHC to host first national conference

The Nebraska Humanities Council and Foundation will host the 2009 National Humanities Conference Nov. 5-8 in Omaha, in collaboration with a broad variety of local cultural organizations. It is the first time that a Nebraska site was selected in the conference's 37 years.

Board and staff members from the 56 state and territorial humanities councils, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution and other national partners will have an opportunity to take cultural tours exploring Nebraska's railroad history, the ethnic geography of Omaha, philanthropy and culture, the city's architectural treasures, the ecology of the Missouri River, and species preservation at the Henry Doorly Zoo.

Omaha's cultural attractions are detailed www.Omaha09.org, a website designed for the conference by Bailey Lauerman.

Visitors will be able to attend Tony Kushner's "Brundibar," produced by Opera Omaha in collaboration with the Center for Holocaust Education. Throughout the month of November, Film Streams Ruth Sokolof Theater will feature the eight best documentary films funded by the state humanities councils during their nearly four decades of support for filmmakers.

The conference also will feature two Nebraskans as keynote speakers on the conference theme, "Landscapes of the Heart: Renewing Public Life Through the Humanities." Former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser will give a joint presentation with Oregon poet Kim Stafford to open the conference. Former U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey will give the Capps Lecture on the importance of the humanities to civic life, presented annually at the national conference in honor of Walter Capps, former chair of the Federation of State Humanities Councils and a member of Congress before his death in 1997. The lecture has another Nebraska connection. Capps was born in Omaha and graduated from Benson High School.

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