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2011 Nebraska Chautauqua Application
“Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties”
Preferred Date: June 22-26
Application Deadline: October 1, 2010

“Bright Dreams, Hard Times” will feature scholars portraying the following historical characters:

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945):** The 1930s and the nation’s response to the Depression revolved around Roosevelt who enacted federal programs that blended traditional works projects with nontraditional projects for artists, writers, architects, musicians, and young people. His New Deal did not end the Depression, but in hard times FDR personified bright dreams and restored a measure of hope to millions of Americans.
- **Huey Long (1893-1935):** Like FDR, Huey Long affected the social and political landscape of America. As a young governor eager to help, Huey Long cowed legislative opposition and implemented public works programs, putting Louisiana to work, all the while acting in more and more dictatorial ways.
- **Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944):** The critical state of the nation turned many Americans to the growing Pentecostal Movement. McPherson became not just a popular preacher who challenged the long-standing tradition of women remaining silent in church, but also provided food and shelter for the unemployed in Los Angeles.
- **Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960):** A prolific writer and folklore collector, Hurston captured the human voices she interviewed and imagined, and offered authentic African American voices of the Thirties through her fictional characters as well as through her anthropological work.
- **Will Rogers (1879-1935):** As the Chautauqua moderator, Rogers will set the tone for “Bright Dreams, Hard Times” with his homespun humor and down-to-earth philosophies as he provides context for and introduces each historical figure.

Each evening of the 4-day Chautauqua begins with approximately 20 minutes of entertainment related to the 1930s (Will Rogers on Thursday and Sunday, local entertainment on Friday and Saturday). Will Rogers then introduces the evening’s scholar who speaks to the audience as the historical figure followed by an opportunity for the audience to question the historical figure. The audience then has the opportunity to question the scholar, who can provide an historical corrective to any self-serving responses that the historical character may have given or answer more contemporary questions that the historical character could not explore. The program also provides daily adult workshops during Chautauqua week conducted by our scholars, programs/workshops for youth, and a traveling exhibit of Dust Bowl photographs.

Primary Expectations of the Community

Financial

Your community will be expected to contribute toward program costs of the 2011 Chautauqua.

- **Community fee due May 1, 2011.**
 - Communities under 1,500 are required to contribute \$3,500
 - Communities over 1,500 are required to contribute \$5,000
- **Local advertising and publicity** is the responsibility of the host community (except materials provided by the Nebraska Humanities Council), as well as costs of community events to complement Chautauqua.

Community and Volunteer Support

Your community will be expected to provide the following:

- Steering committee and sub-committees to assist the project coordinators
- A grassy, well-protected site for the tent
- Electric lines and sufficient power near the tent to operate the equipment
- Arrangements for sound and security at the tent
- Six rooms of lodging, including one room donated by the community
- One loaner car for local use by the cast and crew during Chautauqua including transportation for scholars to the tent every evening and to their workshops
- Volunteer coordinators for youth workshops and pre-Chautauqua book and film discussions
- Site and volunteer coordination for traveling Dust Bowl photographic exhibit

More comprehensive information detailing expectations is available in the 2011 Host Community Guide.

Application

Host Community _____

Sponsoring Organization _____

Project Coordinator

Name _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Secondary Contact

Name _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Proposed Site for Chautauqua Tent _____

Application Narrative

On a separate page (typed) please answer the following questions:

1. What is your vision for Chautauqua in your community?

- *Who will be involved?*
- *What other events and activities will complement it?*
- *How will you promote it?*
- *How will you involve schools, community organizations and community leadership?*
- *What programs and activities will you have leading up to Chautauqua to build community interest and prepare people for full participation?*

Include as much detail as possible—a general advertising plan, who will raise the funds, who you have in mind to be on the steering committee, who will supply the vehicles, electric power, and sound equipment, as well as organizations that will provide volunteers.

2. Why should the NHC select your community as a Chautauqua site?

- *What will be the benefits for your community and region?*
- *Why would your community be a successful site?*
- *How much support (monetary and other donations, volunteers, in-kind, etc.) do you expect to get?*
- *What would be unique about the “Bright Dreams, Hard Times” Chautauqua in your community?*

Enclosures

Please enclose the following in your application packet:

- 1. Confirmation Letter:** A letter from the sponsoring organization(s) confirming that your community can meet the “financial” and “community/volunteer support” requirements for hosting Chautauqua.
- 2. Letters of Support:** Evidence of **broad community support**—from the mayor and other community officials, outstanding volunteers, businesses and arts organizations, chambers of commerce, tourism organizations, senior centers, service clubs, libraries, historical societies, age groups, newspapers and radio stations. **Include letters from as many people and organizations as you can enlist in collaborating on a successful Chautauqua.** Your proposal will be more competitive if they describe specifically how they will contribute to Chautauqua.

Please submit two (2) copies of the application form, narrative and enclosures as soon as possible.