

Kansas Humanities Council Call for Proposals
New HomeTown Teams Speakers Bureau for 2014-2015

Application Deadline

5:00 PM Friday, June 6, 2014

Overview

In January 2015, the Kansas Humanities Council will launch *Hometown Teams*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition about sports and community. To complement the exhibit, we are seeking Speakers Bureau scholars for statewide presentations that engage the humanities in sports in a meaningful way. Speakers receive an honorarium for each presentation event.

Hometown Teams explores the ways that sports build and unite communities. This is an open call for all sports topics with a strong humanities theme. Some topics of special interest include—but are not limited to—the following (we are open to new ideas):

- Title IX and its impact on women athletes and society
- The culture of community sporting events, including but not limited to food, traditions, and celebrations
- Sports history and its impact on the broader culture
- History of segregation and integration of sports teams
- History and controversies surrounding sports mascots
- Important people in sports and their influence on society
- The economy of sports
- Architecture and sports
- Sports in literature, poetry, theater, and film
- Sports ethics, or the negative aspects of an overemphasis on sports in culture
- Alternative sports or sports from a bygone era

The Kansas Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization that supports community-based cultural programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to engage in the civic and cultural life of their communities.

Getting Involved

KHC Speakers Bureau presentations are designed for an out-of-school adult audience and are commonly used by cultural organizations like museums, public libraries, historical societies, art centers, and other civic organizations. Public service and engagement underlies everything KHC does, and this spirit of altruism is reflected in our speakers who enjoy interacting with the general public across the state and are skilled in public speaking. KHC scholars are respected for their knowledge of their topic, humanities perspective, and ability to answer questions through scholarship and experience.

Important Considerations

- Presentations are informal: 30-minute “lecture” with approximately 15 minutes for discussion or demonstration. Audience participation is key.
- Speakers should be available between January—December 2015.
- The ability to travel statewide is preferred, but not a requirement.
- Speaker information will be made available through an online *Humanities* catalog that will include the speaker’s name, contact information, brief biography, photograph, description of each presentation, and a sample press release specific to the presentation.
- Speakers are paid an honorarium between \$300 and \$500 per event, dependent upon distance traveled. Organizations interested in a topic will contact the speaker directly to arrange the time, date, location, and payment. Organizations will either pay the speaker directly or receive financial help from KHC to do so.

Selection Process

Selections are determined by the theme, plus the topic and speaker criteria outlined below. The process is competitive and not every submission will be selected.

- The topic appeals to a general, out-of-school audience.
- The proposal is grounded in current, quality scholarship.
- The presentation uses a humanities approach. *What do we mean by this? For KHC, a humanities program moves beyond facts (what, where, when) to interpretation and analysis (Why is this important? How can we learn from this?).*

Preference will be shown to applicants that fit within at least 1 of the following categories:

- Professionals whose main activity is teaching, research, and/or writing in one or more of the humanities disciplines.
- Individuals with a Masters degree in a humanities discipline and public speaking experience beyond the classroom. In some cases, a bachelor's degree in a humanities discipline is appropriate.
- Museum curators, librarians, or other skilled professionals with proven public speaking experience and knowledge of the specific humanities-centered topic.
- Traditional culture bearers. Scholarship and knowledge gathering are defined differently in different cultures, and KHC respects such diversity of training and preparation.

How to Apply

1. Submit your name, mailing address, work and home phone, email, and travel restrictions (if any).
2. Include the title(s) and a 250-word description of each proposed talk.
3. Mention plans to use PowerPoint or other visuals. *Securing equipment is the responsibility of each speaker, not KHC. KHC does not have equipment to loan.*
4. List names, phone numbers, and emails for 2 references, along with notes on their knowledge of your skills as a presenter.
5. Provide a resume or abbreviated CV (up to 3 pages), along with a current photo of yourself.
6. Email application materials to Leslie Von Holten, leslie@kansashumanities.org.

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Contact

Leslie Von Holten, KHC Director of Programs
785-357-0359 or leslie@kansashumanities.org