

Kansas Humanities Council Call for Proposals

- Book Discussion Leaders for *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and
- *Standing Together* Speakers Bureau

Application Deadline

5:00 PM Thursday, July 10, 2014

Overview

In September 2014, the Kansas Humanities Council will launch a statewide initiative, *Standing Together*, that explores the homecoming experiences of combat veterans. The initiative will begin with a series of book discussions and events focused on *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien in partnership with the NEA Big Read program.

KHC is looking for **TALK book discussion leaders** to facilitate community conversations focused on the book, and **Speakers Bureau topics** that explore the homecoming experiences of veterans. Discussion leaders and speakers receive an honorarium for each presentation event.

The Kansas Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization that connects communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civic life. For more information about our mission and programs, please visit www.kansashumanities.org.

KHC Speakers Bureau and TALK programs are designed for an out-of-school adult audience and are commonly used by cultural organizations like museums, public libraries, historical societies, art centers, church groups, and other civic organizations. KHC scholars are respected for their knowledge of their topic, humanities perspective, and ability to answer questions through scholarship and experience. 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.
- Traditional culture bearers. Scholarship and knowledge gathering are defined differently in different cultures, and KHC respects such diversity of training and preparation.

Important Considerations

- *Standing Together* scholars must be available September 2014—June 2015.
- The ability to travel statewide is preferred, but not a requirement.
- Speaker information will be made available through an online *Humanities* catalog.
- Speakers are paid an honorarium between \$300 and \$500 per event, dependent upon distance traveled.

TALK ABOUT LITERATURE IN KANSAS (TALK)

TALK scholars will facilitate book discussions of *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. KHC's TALK program provides books, discussion leaders, and publicity materials for host organizations. Discussions open with informal comments by a TALK discussion leader, who may provide background information about the author and the book, and then raise questions for discussion. The questions provide a point of departure for open discussion among the participants. Program time is between 60 and 90 minutes. The process is competitive and not every applicant will be selected.

To apply to be a TALK Discussion Leader, please submit the following:

1. Your name, mailing address, phone number, email address, and travel restrictions (if any).
2. Names, phone numbers, and email addresses for 2 references.
3. A resume or abbreviated CV (up to 3 pages).
4. A 1-page document that answers the following questions:

- Please describe your interest in this topic: What intrigues you about the war or Tim O'Brien's work?
- Do you have study, research, or experience related to the Vietnam War era, particularly the homecoming experiences of combat veterans? If so, please explain.
- Do you have experience teaching veterans?
- As you know, war is complicated and people often passionately disagree. Please describe a discussion that became heated, and how you handled the situation.

Email application materials to Leslie Von Holten, leslie@kansashumanities.org.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

KHC's *Standing Together* Speakers Bureau topics will explore the varied and dynamic experiences of combat veterans and their communities as they return home from war. Presentations are informal: a 30-minute "lecture" with approximately 15 minutes for discussion or demonstration. Audience participation is key. The process is competitive and not every submission will be selected. Topics will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- 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?).*

Some topics of special interest include—but are not limited to—the following (we are open to new ideas):

- Society's responsibility to combat veterans
- Women soldiers and/or women in war
- Experiences of injured and disabled veterans
- Caregivers of wounded veterans
- Military service and ethnic minorities
- Community traditions in veterans' homecoming experiences
- Adjusting and adapting to changing roles after combat tours
- Literature of war and/or telling war stories
- Music, visual arts, and/or theater and war
- Family relationships for returning veterans
- Honor and memorializing

To apply for the KHC Speakers Bureau, please submit the following:

1. Your name, mailing address, phone number, email address, and travel restrictions (if any).
2. A concise, 250-word description of each proposed talk.
3. Names, phone numbers, and email addresses for 2 references.
4. A resume or abbreviated CV (up to 3 pages).

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