

Kansas Humanities Council Call for Proposals New Speakers Bureau for 2016-2017

Application Deadline

5:00 PM Friday, August 21, 2015

In January 2016, KHC will launch its new *The Common Good* catalog showcasing both traditional and innovative lectures and civic engagement opportunities for Kansans. We are seeking new presentations that engage the humanities in a meaningful way.

This is an open call for all topics with a strong humanities theme, but KHC is also interested in presentations that connect to upcoming KHC initiatives. Among these are topics that

- Give voice to undertold stories in Kansas history
- Explore freedom of speech and democracy in the 21st century
- Examine water and land stewardship and our relationship with the natural world
- Discuss immigration and changing demographics in U.S. communities
- Celebrate folklife traditions in Kansas

KHC also encourages new approaches to the talk format such as Culture Kitchen-style demonstrations, debates, and physical activities such as German heritage and Volksmarching. (*Please be mindful that the humanities must remain at the forefront. KHC staff is happy to assist in the development of your proposal.*)

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, art centers, and other civic organizations. KHC scholars are respected for their knowledge of their topic, humanities perspective, public service, and ability to answer questions through scholarship and experience. Speakers are paid an honorarium.

Important Considerations

- Audience participation is key. Presentations are generally informal, 30-minute lectures with approximately 15 minutes for discussion or demonstration.
- Speaker information will be made available through an online catalog that will include name and contact information.

Selection Process

Selections are determined by the topic and speaker criteria outlined below. Please note that 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 a humanities discipline.
- Individuals with at least a Masters degree in a humanities discipline and public speaking experience beyond the classroom.
- Museum curators, librarians, or other skilled professionals with proven public speaking experience and knowledge of the specific humanities-centered topic.

How to Apply

Submit the following information:

1. Name, mailing address, telephone number, email, and travel restrictions (if any).
2. The title and a 250-word description of each proposed talk.
3. Be sure to 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.*

For individuals new to KHC, please also include:

4. Names and contact information for two professional references, along with notes on their knowledge of your skills as a presenter.
5. A resume or abbreviated CV.

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

This catalog will replace the current Humanities Speakers Bureau catalog offered to the public from March 2014 through December 2015.

The Kansas Humanities Council connects communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civic life. For more information, please visit www.kansashumanities.org