

Kansas Humanities Council Call for Proposals
New Speakers Bureau for 2012-2013

Application Deadline

March 2, 2012

Overview

In September 2012, the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition, *The Way We Worked*, begins a 9-month tour of Kansas. Using the resources of the National Archives, the exhibit explores the remarkable stories and images of the American worker from the past 150 years. In response, KHC is creating a special speakers bureau catalog that will tell the story of "the way we work" in Kansas. KHC is seeking new Speakers Bureau presentations that address this theme.

In "Let America be America Again," Langston Hughes asks "Who Made America/ Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain/Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain/Must bring back our mighty dream again." Work is central to the way we identify ourselves. It assumes, for right or wrong, that what we do reveals something about who we are as individuals, as Kansans, as Americans.

KHC's *The Way We Work* Speakers Bureau will explore these stories of work and how they help define us: our way-of-life, our sense of who we are, and the values we hold important. How has work changed over time and across generations? *The Way We Work* Speakers Bureau will bring humanities scholarship to one of the most relevant issues in today's current events.

Getting Involved

KHC Speakers Bureau presentations are designed for an out-of-school adult audience and are commonly used by cultural organizations like museums, historical societies, public libraries, art centers, and other civic organizations. KHC depends on speakers who enjoy interacting with the general public across the state, are skilled in public speaking, knowledgeable about the subject matter, use a humanities approach to the topic, and are able to answer questions through scholarship and experience.

Important Considerations

- Presentations are informal: 30 minutes "lecture" with ~15 minutes for discussion.
- Speakers should be available from July 2012 through July 2013.
- The ability to travel statewide is preferred, but not a requirement.
- Speaker information will be made available through an online speakers bureau catalog that will include the speaker's name, contact information, brief biography, photograph, description of each presentation, and a sample press release specific to each presentation.
- Speakers get paid an honorarium plus mileage reimbursement. 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 adherence to the theme, plus the topic and speaker criteria outlined below. The process is competitive and not every submission will be selected.

- The topic fits within the "the way we work" theme.
- 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 and (what, where, when) to interpretation and analysis (Why is this important? How can we learn from this?).*

Preference will be shown to applicants who 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

A. For individuals currently in KHC's Speakers Bureau or TALK program, please:

1. Submit a cover sheet stating 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. Hint: *Some topics currently in the statehood speakers bureau catalog could convert into a work-focused presentations.*
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.*
4. Email application materials to Deborah Pomeroy, Resource Center Coordinator, deborah@kansashumanities.org or call 785/357-0359.

B. For individuals new to KHC, please:

1. Submit a cover sheet stating your name, mailing address, work and home phone, email, and travel restrictions (if any).
2. List names, phone numbers, and emails for 2 references with knowledge of your speaking skills.
3. Include the title(s) and a 250-word description of each proposed talk.
4. 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.*
5. Provide a resume or abbreviated CV, along with a current photo of yourself.
6. Email application materials to Deborah Pomeroy, Resource Center Coordinator, deborah@kansashumanities.org or call 785/357-0359.

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Contact

Deborah Pomeroy, KHC Resource Center Coordinator
785-357-0359 or deborah@kansashumanities.org

This catalog will replace the current Statehood Speakers Bureau catalog created as part of the Sesquicentennial commemoration of Kansas statehood and offered to the public from January 2010 through June 2012.