

May 2008: Nevada Humanities awards \$74,100 in grants to 18 organizations

Nevada Humanities recently awarded eighteen grants for a total of \$74,100 to community organizations for exhibits, public forums, radio programs, lectures, book discussions, youth activities, and teacher institutes. Through its grant program and its own projects, Nevada Humanities strives to bring history and the humanities alive—not just the past and what we can learn from it, but to offer perspectives for looking at the problems and aspirations of our generation as voiced by its leading thinkers and doers. The grant projects help bring these voices to audiences throughout the state.

Lied Discovery Children's Museum, \$5000

The grant supports the creation of a Teacher's Guide for the traveling exhibition, *Torn from Home: My Life as a Refugee*, which provides 8–12-year-old children with a balanced introduction to the plight of refugees.

Contact: Linda Quinn, 702-382-3445 x 102

The Clark County Education Association Community Foundation, \$3500

This grant will provide partial funding for the production of the Spanish language segment of *Read to Me*, a program intended to develop early literacy skills in children ages 4-9. Children listen to stories over the phone or watch, listen, and follow along to children's stories being read to them on the web.

Contact: Julia Grambo, 702-273-7475

Community Chest, \$2500

A building will be wrapped with a mural depicting the faces of many people with mouths wide open. They symbolize those living in the margins, the silenced who are "screaming." The grant funds conversations with the South African artist and humanists about social justice in Northern Nevada— what's working and how it's working.

Contact: Shaun Griffin, 775-847-9311 x 105

First United Methodist Church, \$3000

A series of three weekend events will celebrate publicly the full range of Dr. Martin Luther King's thoughts and actions. Questions raised in Dr. King's last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* will undergird discussions on just immigration, intercultural relations, children's rights, and grassroots community-building. The series will end in January 2009, the 80th anniversary of Dr. King's birth.

Contact: Rev. John Auer, 775-322-4564

Great Basin College, \$5000

Great Basin College will present programming that provides historical background on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the struggle for civil rights. It culminates in an event where students throughout the service area share their dreams and their visions of empowerment through film, speech, music, dance or other type of creative performance.

Contact: Lynne Owens, 775-753-2152

Henderson District Public Libraries, \$2500

One Book Henderson is a program to unite this diverse community by initiating a common literary experience. The title selected for the 2008 One Book program is *Marley and Me* by John Grogan. Programs hosted by the library will include book discussion groups as well as other programs that relate to topics covered in the book.

Contact: Thomas Fey, 702-492-7252

Nevada Public Radio, Las Vegas, \$5000

Nevada Public Radio will produce and broadcast 13 editions of the long running radio series *Nevada Yesterdays*, written by Michael Green and presented by Senator Richard Bryan. It will air on the stations of Nevada Public Radio, reaching communities throughout southern Nevada.

Contact: Florence Rogers, 702-258-9895

Nevada Bar Association, \$3600

The grant provides honoraria for noted professors to interact with teachers of history and government at the 2008 *We the People* Summer Institute. In this Institute, teachers are brought together for an extensive study of the U.S. Constitution and issues which faced the Founders who developed the document. Contact: Marcia Ellis, 702-317-2878

Nevada Opera Association, Reno, \$5000

The Nevada Opera Youth Chorus (NOYC) is presenting a staged production of Hans Krasa's opera *Brundibar* during Artown's summer festival. *Brundibar* is a children's opera that was performed by the children at Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust. Using *Brundibar* as a spring board for discussion, Nevada Opera Association will host group discussions centered on the themes of tolerance and acceptance. Ela Weissberger, one of the only survivors from the original performances, will speak about her experiences as a member of the cast of *Brundibar*.

Contact: William Russell, 775-786-4046

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, \$2100

The Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas will present two evenings of stories, conversation, and reminiscences of the work and fun times that created today's Las Vegas. Two panel-discussions, one with entertainers and the other with members of long time Las Vegas business families, will give the view from inside the professions during the image- and city-building era of Las Vegas.

Contact: Barbara Slivac, 702-486-5205 x 227

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, \$5000

The grant provides funding for speakers for the 2008 Art + Environment Conference at NMA. The conference will explore the emerging social consciousness of art and environment and the complexity of creative interaction between human beings and their environments.

Contact: Daryn Glassbrook, 775-329-3333 x230

Nevada Rock Art Foundation, \$2400

Polly Schaafsma, a leading expert on rock art, will present public lectures on pre-Hispanic Puebloan rock, mural, and ceramic arts with reference to additional rock art in present day Utah and Nevada. Lectures will be given in Las Vegas, Reno, and Elko.

Contact: Angus Quinlan, 775-323-6723

Sage Ridge School, \$5000

The grant partially supports a 2008-09 Speakers Forum, which features eight scholars and two forums with topics including Pakistani girls' schools, the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Muslim women, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the Holocaust, Spanish-English storytelling, and the 2008 presidential election. Sage Ridge will be collaborating with public schools as well.

Contact: Kelli Anastassatos, 775-852-6222

The Nevada Public Education Foundation, \$5000

This is an interactive, educational outreach program on the appreciation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, designed to benefit the students and staff of Clark County middle and high schools.

Contact: Pamela Poster, 702-371-9246

University of Nevada School of Medicine, \$3000

This pilot-program is based on the Maine Humanities Council *Literature and Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care*® program. This scholar-led humanities reading and discussion program gives health care professionals an opportunity to reflect on their professional roles and relationships with patients through plays, short stories, poetry, fiction, and personal narratives.

Contact: Marin Gillis, 775-682-7725

English Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, \$2500

The grant provides stipends for a moderator and three poets to participate in readings and panel discussions about environment and identity at the Vegas Valley Book Festival. The poets will also work with students at UNLV in the Creative Writing Department.

Contact: Claudia Keelan, 702-895-4801

Western Folklife Center, \$5000

The Western Folklife Center requests \$5000 from Nevada Humanities to bring two speakers to Elko, Nevada to participate in lectures and discussions during the 2009 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Both speakers will address life in the West.

Contact: Tamara Kubacki, 775-738-7508, x 223

Nevada Hispanic Services, \$5000

Nevada Hispanic Services, Hispanic Youth Image will implement a project called *Teach and Learn: Our Hidden History/Latinas in History*. Middle and high school students will hold weekly research and practice meetings during which students will research, discuss, choose, and present women characters.

Contact: Uliana Chavez, 775-232-9323

Nevada Humanities is a nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of 17 members. It is one of 56 state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. It creates and supports projects that help build a more informed and engaged citizenry, and that do what the humanities have done historically—provide a beneficial foundation for life and thought.

The next grant deadline is October 10, 2008.

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