



South Dakota Humanities Council
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Become a Humanities Scholar

Communities across South Dakota want to bring the humanities close to home. The South Dakota Humanities Council helps make this happen.

We're now accepting applications for scholars to carry the humanities across South Dakota. Our humanities scholars present with our Speakers Bureau, lead reading discussions with our Reading Group Toolkit and One Book South Dakota programs, and can participate in the 2018 Initiative **Democracy & the Informed Citizen**. More details are listed below.

Applications are due Monday, Dec. 1, 2017, to be considered for 2018 programs. Successful applicants will be listed in the printed 2018 SDHC Program Catalog and on the SDHC website. Our committee will review applications in early January, and the catalog will be distributed in February 2018.

To apply online, visit <http://sdhumanities.org/programs-and-events/speakers-bureau/how-to-become-a-scholar/>

For a paper application, send your mailing address to Kyle Schaefer at kyle@sdhumanities.org or call (605) 688-6113.

Scholars accepted into the Speakers Bureau will be able to list one program description in the printed catalog and up to five programs on the website.

OUR PROGRAMS

NEW FOR 2018 – Democracy and the Informed Citizen

The initiative for 2018 will be “**Democracy and the Informed Citizen**.” The SDHC’s 2018 programming may revolve around this topic and feature a second round of programming based on the work of Pulitzer Prize winning authors – especially journalists.

Background:

“Since the nation’s founding, the humanities have been seen as essential for educating citizens to understand their history, think creatively, and form reasoned judgments and decisions. The Pulitzer Prizes Centennial Campfires programs that took place throughout 2016 allowed participants to draw on the humanities to address some of the

most challenging questions we face as a society, including immigration, race relations, freedom of speech, civil rights, the environment, and the impact of war.

The Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative will pursue three main goals:

- 1) Deepen the public's knowledge and appreciation of the intimate connections between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry, including the following:
 - A healthy democracy requires an informed citizenry.
 - The humanities and journalism play a vital role in fostering an informed citizenry.
 - Informed citizens are media literate.
- 2) Increase media literacy by engaging the public in discussions with Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists in journalism, other respected journalists, and scholars about reliable and unreliable sources of information.
- 3) Explore obstacles to sustaining high-quality journalism, especially local journalism, and potential solutions. ” -From the Federation of State Humanities Councils

Potential programs include:

- Community conversations on news, or the history or future of news
- A community book discussion based on a text that examines important current events – democracy, immigration, justice, communications or context
- A symposium or conference meant to foster news literacy
- A public lecture on the role of humanities in public discourse, information literacy, or civil discourse on current events

We will host community programming throughout the state through a series of public forums and keynote events, culminating in conversations at the South Dakota Festival of Books. We will utilize local journalists, editors, bloggers, thought leaders, religious leaders and scholars -- to engage the public in conversation on fake news and public trust in the media. We will encourage ecumenical and interfaith conversations on how faith translates into understanding of information. We will explore the unique methods South Dakotans pursue to obtain news and information. Finally, we will seek to find common ground for South Dakotans to begin conversations from.

As with all programs funded through the South Dakota Humanities Council, programs should be informed by humanities materials and scholarship. Programs may not advocate for a specific political view or agenda, and the conversations should actively engage South Dakotans in sharing ideas and information.

Speakers Bureau

A collection of humanities scholars who present on a variety of topics comprising the humanities – including, but not limited to, history, culture, language, literature, philosophy, arts and sciences, heritage and traditions, and beyond. Through the council’s Speakers Bureau, community groups can easily host a humanities scholar at a local event.

One Book South Dakota and Reading Group Toolkit

These programs pair local reading groups with a discussion leader and a supply of up to 30 books for the group from our lending library.

2018 One Book South Dakota

The SDHC has not yet selected the 2018 One Book South Dakota. We will notify you as soon as a selection has been made. We anticipate a selection being made during the scholar solicitation period.

Reading Group Toolkit

Scholars are needed to facilitate reading groups throughout South Dakota for Reading Group Toolkit programs. The South Dakota Humanities Council has many reading programs available for book clubs organized by individuals, libraries, book stores, museums and other non-profit organizations. The SDHC especially encourages reading group toolkit programs from our “Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys.” The books in this collection explore Muslim culture, including its relationship to Christianity and Judaism.

You can read more about the titles in our lending library here:

<http://sdhumanities.org/programs-and-events/reading-group-toolkit/titles-a-f/>.

Please note that some titles in our lending library only have a limited number of copies available. Questions about book availability can be directed to our office at 605-688-6113.

Groups that participate in a reading program will receive up to 30 copies of any title and can have a scholar lead their book discussion. Scholars will be sent the book chosen by the group (and agreed on with the facilitating scholar) about a month before the program begins. Over forty titles are available for loan; for a full listing of those titles, please visit the SDHC website.

Suggestions for books to be added to our lending library on can be emailed to kyle@sdhumanities.org. If you have suggestions for a One Book or Festival author please fill out the brief form (5 questions) here:

<https://sdhumanities.wufoo.com/forms/one-book-south-dakota-festival-of-books/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the Humanities?

"The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

(From: www.NEH.gov) --National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended

What constitutes a “Humanities Scholar”?

This is a person trained in one of the humanities disciplines, having earned an M.A. or a Ph.D., or an individual whose career and personal history shows commitment to the humanities.

The SDHC especially encourages journalists and media professionals to apply for Democracy and the Informed Citizen topics.

What does an SDHC scholar do?

SDHC scholars travel throughout the state to present Speakers' Bureau programs and/or host reading discussions. Scholars can lead book discussions about the One Book SD (<http://sdhumanities.org/programs-and-events/obsd/>) or choose a book from our Reading Group Toolkit library (<http://sdhumanities.org/programs-and-events/reading-group-toolkit/>).

Speakers Bureau scholars present programs on a wide variety of topics suitable for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Chautauqua speakers make history come alive by replicating characters such as first South Dakota governor Arthur Calvin Mellette, President Theodore Roosevelt, the daughter of Sitting Bull and many others.

Our speakers also present traditional programs in several humanities disciplines. They explore topics such as traditional Lakota spirituality and the role of ceremony in today's ever-changing world; the high-profile criminal trials presided over by Peter C. Shannon, Chief Justice of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court; the history of stained glass in South Dakota and more.

Organizations apply to host a scholar through the South Dakota Humanities Council. Typical applicants include libraries, museums, historical sites, historical societies, parks, tribal entities, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, as well as community centers and agencies that are open to the public. Applicant organizations do not need to be located in South Dakota, but programs must take place within the state.

We encourage SDHC scholars to advertise and promote their programs.

What does an SDHC scholar get paid for doing a program?

The typical stipend for one day, for one program is \$150. South Dakota Humanities Council pays the state rate for mileage (0.42/mile) and lodging (\$55.00 plus tax per day from check-in on September 1 through check-out on June 1; \$70.00 plus tax per day from check-in on June 1 through check-out on September 1) when necessary. If a scholar conducts more than one program in one day OR travels more than 200 miles (round-trip), the stipend increases to \$200. The scholar is awarded an extra \$75 for each additional day of presentation. SDHC no longer pays for meal costs. If you have questions about payment guidelines, please contact Kyle, kyle@sdhumanities.org or 605-688-4530.

Can I apply to be an SDHC scholar if I do not live in South Dakota?

Yes. However, SDHC only pays mileage for scholars while they are in state. For example, if an SDHC scholar were traveling from Nebraska to South Dakota, SDHC would pay mileage from the state border to the location of the program and then mileage on the return from the location of the program to the South Dakota state border. All programs sponsored by the South Dakota Humanities Council must take place in South Dakota.

Additional Questions?

Please contact Kyle Schaefer, Program and Development Officer for the South Dakota Humanities Council, at kyle@sdhumanities.org or 605-688-4530.