

Press Release

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Idaho Humanities Council awards 32 grants at February meeting

The Idaho Humanities Council, the non-profit, state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, awarded **\$78,984** in grants to organizations and individuals at its recent board meeting in Boise. Thirty-two awards include 26 public humanities programs and six Teacher Incentive Grants, including seven projects funded through the NEH *We the People* program exploring American history and culture. The following projects were funded:

Northern Idaho:

Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries, Hayden, received **\$1,490** for a collaborative project between the Rathdrum Library, the Rathdrum/Westwood Historical Society and Lakeland High School students. The project will catalogue and provide public access to an archive of historical photographs from the area. The project director is **Sandy Burnett**.

City of Plummer received **\$1,950** to help develop a temporary exhibit of historical photos for display at the centennial celebration July 16-18. The project director is **Donna Spier**.

University of Idaho Dept. of Philosophy, Moscow, received **\$1,996** to support a public forum titled "Civil Language in Public Discourse," as part of the 13th Annual Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference (INPC), slated to take place at Moscow's University Inn on Friday evening, April 30. **Michael O'Rourke** is the project director.

Idaho Association of Museums, Statewide, was awarded **\$2,000** to help support its annual conference to be held in Nampa on April 16 and 17. The conference theme is "Full Speed Ahead: Practical Guidelines for Developing Interpretive Exhibits" and will focus on exhibit research, interpretation, and planning for small museums. The project director is **Mary Reed** (Moscow).

Museum of North Idaho, Coeur d'Alene, was awarded **\$2,000** to collaborate with several Kootenai County libraries for a series of 11 free public lectures from March through December. The lectures will focus on topics exploring the history of Coeur d'Alene, Northern Idaho, and the Inland Northwest. **Skip Kuck** is the project director.

Boundary County Historical Society, Inc., Bonners Ferry, was awarded **\$2,000** for an oral history project coinciding with the May/June visit of the Smithsonian traveling exhibition *Journey Stories*. The project includes digitizing earlier taped oral histories and conducting new interviews of residents, exploring reasons why people came to and stayed in northern Idaho. **Gini Woodward** is the project director.

Greater Wallace Community Development Corp., Wallace, received **\$3,000** to bring acclaimed journalist Timothy Egan to Wallace this summer to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great 1910 fire that destroyed millions of acres of forests in Northern Idaho and Montana. Egan is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*. **Jim See** is the project director.

Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston and Surrounding Area, was awarded **\$3,000** to help support its regional Speakers Bureau comprised of several speakers and Chautauqua-type presentations exploring the Lewis and Clark story, Nez Perce history, regional history, and other topics. The project director is **Deborah Snyder**.

Confluence Press, Lewiston, was awarded **\$3,500** for its tenth year of “Everybody Reads,” a program encouraging and promoting the reading of the same book throughout the local region. *The Hearts of Horses* by Molly Gloss is the book chosen for 2010. Gloss will lead discussions and make presentations at local libraries and schools. The project directors are **Heather Stout** and **Jennifer Ashby**.

Museum of North Idaho, Coeur d'Alene, received **\$5,000** to complete a video documentary called *Ordeal by Fire*, about the history of the 1910 fire that raged through three million acres of forests, destroying the town of Wallace and other towns and taking the lives of 78 people. The film will be shown at public events commemorating the centennial of the fire. The project director is **George Sibley**.

Southwest Idaho:

Alma Mater, Inc., Fruitland, received **\$1,500** to develop a local exhibit of artifacts to complement the Smithsonian exhibit tour of *Journey Stories* in October. Items will focus on farming and profile the people who settled Fruitland. The project director is **Kevin Tams**.

Cambridge Community Library, Cambridge, was awarded **\$1,800** to produce a self-guided walking and driving tour brochure listing some of the historic buildings, cemetery, and other structures in Cambridge. **Nina Hawkins** is the project director.

Idaho Botanical Gardens, Boise, received **\$1,960** in support for the 2010 summer lecture series focusing on topics of historical interest in Idaho. Featured speakers include Linda DeEulis, Herman Ronnenberg, Gary Eller, Kathy Deinhardt Hill, and Susan Stacy. **Elizabeth Dickey** is the project director.

Women of Color Alliance, Boise, was awarded **\$2,000** to help complete the editing of a video documentary on the history of a “war” the Kootenai Tribe declared against the U.S. Government in the fall of 1974 to draw attention to the plight of the Kootenai people at the time and to gain federal designation as an official tribe. **Sonya Rosario** is the project director.

Adams County Historical Society, New Meadows, was awarded **\$2,000** to create a series of interpretive exhibits at the Depot Community Center. Themes include logging, transportation, ranching/homesteading, Native American history, and community events. The project director is **Marla Krigbaum**.

Friends of Kelly's Whitewater Park, Cascade, received **\$2,500** to create a rotating exhibit of historical photos and interpretive text related to early settlers, transportation, timber, ranching, mining and recreation with tourists, visitors and locals. The exhibit will be on display at the new visitor center gallery that will open in June. The project director is **Wayne Brown**.

City of Boise, Department of Arts & History, Boise, was awarded **\$3,000** to help support the Fettuccine Forum, a monthly lecture series that runs October through May each school year. Held in the Union Block Rose Room in downtown Boise, the series features lectures by scholars in the humanities and provides an opportunity for civic engagement and thoughtful public dialogue. The project director is **Mark Baltes**.

Mujeres Unidas de Idaho, Boise, received **\$3,500** to help fund a corrido-writing workshop in May for young Hispanic musicians. A public presentation of the corridos in the fall will be open to the public. Corridos are a Latino musical tradition, as they put into music and lyrics stories from history and news from the day that is conveyed to public audiences. The project director is **Ana Maria Schachtell**.

Boise State University, Boise, received **\$3,682** to develop, in conjunction with the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, three permanent, outdoor interpretive signs that tell the story of three Boise structures important to the history of Basque culture in Boise. The signage would identify and tell the story of the former Church of the Good Shepherd (corner of 5th and W. Idaho Street), the former Star Rooming House (512 W. Idaho), a former Basque boarding house, and the Basque Mural, which is on the wall at 619 Grove. The project director is **John Bieter**.

Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, was awarded **\$4,335** for a traveling exhibit and summer educational program focusing on “Rock Art.” The “Rock Art Perspectives” exhibit was produced by the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, and explores current interpretations, including new ideas about the meaning of prehistoric rock art. **Jody Ochoa** is the project director.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received **\$5,000** to help support the 2010 season of *Shakespeareance*, an educational touring program reaching about 20,000 students in schools throughout Idaho. For *Shakespeareance*, ISF condenses a Shakespeare play into a 50-minute performance and presents it to school classes and assemblies with post-performance workshops. *Othello* will be presented in 2010. **Mark Hofflund** is the project director.

Central/Eastern Idaho

Community Library Association, Inc., Ketchum, was awarded **\$2,500** to help support the Ernest Hemingway Symposium on September 30th and October 1st. This year’s theme is “The Hemingway Touch” and will include literature scholars and creative writers discussing Hemingway’s influence on contemporary writing. **Colleen Daly** is the project director.

College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, received **\$3,000** to support speakers at the 2010 Civil Liberties Symposium held in Twin Falls on June 24-25, 2010. The conference is associated with an annual pilgrimage to Hunt Camp where 10,000 Japanese were interned during World War II. The 2010 symposium will explore the role of art in the internment experience and in civil liberties and human rights conflicts that have involved artists. The project director is **Russ Tremayne**.

Cassia County Historical Society and Museum, Burley, received **\$3,450** to overhaul its historical displays and retell the Cassia County story with a new interpretive plan. With the help of ISU History Professor Laura Woodworth-Ney, the museum will focus on new themes and redesign its exhibits accordingly. The project director is **Valerie Bowen**.

Trailing of the Sheep, Hailey, was awarded **\$3,500** to help support speakers for the October 8 kickoff to the weekend festival. The 2010 festival is focusing on a timely and popular topic—sustainability. Funds will enable planners to bring to the festival Alisa Smith and J. B. MacKinnon, authors of *Plenty: Eating Locally on the 100-mile Diet*. The program also will highlight the sheep industry’s contribution to Idaho’s history and economy and its place as a healthy, renewable food source. The project director is **Tibby Plasse**.

Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls, received **\$5,000** to support an upcoming museum exhibit entitled “Decoding Da Vinci” that will run from September 23–December 4, 2010. The exhibit consists of reproductions of paintings and models of machines, as well as reproductions of Da Vinci’s original sketches and personal notes. **Rod Hansen** is the project director.

Teacher Incentive Grants:

The IHC awards grants of up to \$1,000 twice a year to K-12 teachers and educational organizations to enhance teaching of the humanities in the classroom.

Jamessa Williams, Lapwai Elementary School, Lapwai, received **\$500** to support a kindergarten project profiling students’ families and cultures. The project includes compiling a book made from photos of students’ families and answers to a questionnaire, describing family traditions, cultures, and memories.

Nancy L. Gray, Initial Point High School, Kuna, received **\$600** to provide a workshop by the Idaho Shakespeare Festival’s Theater for Youth program. Teachers will also prepare study guides, presentation materials, and conduct collaborative workshops with students and parents to encourage student love of literature and history.

Siimone Mansfield, Hawthorne Elementary, Boise, received **\$500** for an end-of-year field trip bringing history alive for 3rd and 4th graders. “Wagons Ho! of Idaho” provides a hands-on experience complementing the Idaho history curriculum.

Shirley Ewing, Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, Boise, was awarded **\$750** to help support the “Rock Party” at the museum September 19, 2010. The museum presents the mining history of Idaho, and this event includes several hands-on activities for children.

Luke D. Waldron, Malad Middle School, Malad City, was awarded **\$975** to help fund a two-day field trip to historical sites and activities around Malad City. Students will prepare a brochure for tourists and a website about these local sites, and will make several public presentations.

David Badger, Burley High School, Burley, was awarded **\$996** for an innovative pilot project to enhance reading for sight-impaired students at Burley High School. The school will acquire two new electronic book devices. They will allow students to listen to the book while reading along, allow font size adjustments, and allow access to hundreds of titles and other content.

The Next Deadline for IHC Grants:

The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is **September 15, 2010**. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before writing their proposals. Applicants also are strongly encouraged to submit a rough draft of their proposal for staff critique by mid-August 2010. Grant guidelines and application forms, as well as information about IHC grants and activities, are available on IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

For an electronic version of this press release contact Rick@idahohumanities.org