



Call for Speakers

Humanities Kansas Invites Applications for the New Speakers Bureau

Application Deadline: Friday, July 30, 2021

Humanities Kansas (HK) seeks humanities scholars and experts to apply for the new Speakers Bureau, HK's statewide traveling scholar program that engages audiences with in-person and online humanities-based presentations. Topics must be non-partisan, rooted in humanities research, and appropriate for a general, adult audience. The catalog is scheduled to launch in 2022.

At the heart of the humanities are stories – stories that connect us, that tell us who we are, and what we've valued over time and across generations. Stories draw on insights from history, literature, traditions, and culture, and have the power to spark conversations, inspire new ideas, and connect us to one another. These connections strengthen communities and our nation's democracy. Join us!

Theme

As a member of the Speakers Bureau, you become an important part of HK's Movement of Ideas – sharing stories to spark meaningful conversations and inspire fresh insights. Humanities Kansas seeks a wide variety of engaging presentations and creative proposals that offer fresh perspectives on Kansas history and explore diverse stories through poetry, literature, food, art, and music.

Of special interest are topics that enhance the theme of *A More Perfect Union*, a national initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities. *A More Perfect Union* is intended to deepen the public understanding of the American experience – in all its complexities – and enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacities needed to sustain a thriving republic. These are important conversations as the nation prepares for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. In support of the *A More Perfect Union* initiative, HK is interested in presentations on civics and core principles of our nation's constitutional government and democracy, Indigenous perspectives on cultural traditions, treaties, and sovereignty, and the full and rich diversity of the Kansas (and American) experience.

Types of Presentations

Speakers Bureau presentations are one hour in length and always include time for discussion whether they are offered in-person or online. Presenters can choose a format that works best for them, but the two most popular are:

- Presentation followed by time for questions and answers
- Presentation and discussion throughout

Presenter Qualifications

Preference will be given to applicants that fit within at least one of the following categories:

- Individuals with an advanced degree or in the process of obtaining one, such as a M.A. or Ph.D., in a humanities or social science discipline.
- Museum curators, librarians, or other skilled professionals with knowledge of a specific humanities-centered topic.
- Professionals whose main activity is teaching, research, and/or writing in a humanities discipline.
- Traditional culture bearers. Scholarship and knowledge gathering are defined differently in different cultures, and HK respects such diversity of training and preparation.

In addition, all presenters must:

- live in-state
- commit to 1-year in the catalog, renewable for another second year
- be willing to give presentations online and/or travel across Kansas to give presentations in-person
- be responsive to email communications and enjoy public speaking
- agree to attend a mandatory orientation either in-person or online (date to be determined)

To Learn More

Wednesday, July 14, HK will offer a free online webinar and share more about *A More Perfect Union*, offer tips to writing a competitive proposal, and provide plenty of time for participants to ask questions. Register for the free webinar here: <https://bit.ly/3x6jebk>. *Please note the process is competitive and not every submission will be selected. Participating in the webinar does not guarantee selection.*

Checklist for a Successful Proposal

Please note the selection process is competitive and not every submission will be selected.

- The proposal tells a fresh, compelling story that is clear and concise
- The topic is timely and relevant, has connections to Kansas and/or connections to *A More Perfect Union*, and appeals to an adult, out-of-school general audience
- The proposal demonstrates deep expertise on the topic
- The proposal takes a strong humanities approach. What do we mean by this? A humanities program moves beyond facts and information (what, where, and when) to interpretation (Why is this important? How and why has this changed over time?)
- The proposal is non-partisan and does not advocate policy

To Apply

Fill out and submit the online application form:

https://form.jotform.com/Humanities_Kansas/speakers-bureau-application-for-202

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How does the Speakers Bureau catalog work?

HK's Speakers Bureau connects humanities experts with communities across Kansas to engage audiences with stories and ideas, spark conversations, and build community. Here's how the Speakers Bureau works at a glance:

- An in-state nonprofit organization invites an HK speaker to present at an event. Speakers manage their own schedules and can accept or decline the invitation.
- After the speaker and organization confirm a time, date, and location, the sponsoring organization requests financial support from HK to cover the speaker honoraria and travel for in-person and online events. Speakers receive:
 - \$250 for presentations conducted online
 - \$300 for presentations done in-person traveling up to 200 miles one way
 - \$500 for presentations done in-person traveling over 201 miles one way
- Speakers and organizations work together to determine equipment and technology needs.
- The catalog is available on HK's website with downloadable speaker bios, photos, and press release templates for the organizations to use.

Questions?

Contact Abigail Kaup, Program Officer, at abigail@humanitieskansas.org or (785) 357-0359.

About Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, HK's pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with partners and supporters, HK inspires all Kansans to draw on history, literature, ethics, and culture to enrich their lives and serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit humanitieskansas.org.

