



## Call for Speakers

### Humanities Kansas Invites Applications for Presenters for New Speakers Bureau Catalog Application Deadline: August 28, 2026

Humanities Kansas (HK) is looking for new presentation topics and presenters for the next Speakers Bureau catalog launching in January 2027. The Speakers Bureau is a popular statewide resource that engages Kansans with interesting and dynamic humanities-centered presentations. It's an important part of HK's movement of ideas.

#### Themes

Stories are at the heart of the humanities and the Speakers Bureau presentations too. Stories connect us with one another and help tell us who we are and what we've valued over time and across generations. They spark conversations that can inspire new ideas and strengthen our communities and our nation's democracy.

HK is seeking a wide range of creative and engaging new Kansas stories — new presentations — that expand our thinking through the lens of the humanities, including history, literature, culture, and ideas.

Topics could explore:

- history, heritage, or the built environment
- famous Kansans, notable events, or important milestones
- innovations and innovators
- lesser-known stories deserving our attention
- community festivals, food traditions
- natural landscape, the environment, natural disasters, weather
- famous authors, art, music, photography, poetry, movies, or books that tell us about our state
- cultural and folklife traditions through music, dance, storytelling
- the "American experience," civics, or core principles of our nation

*All presentations are non-partisan, rooted in humanities research, and appropriate for a general, adult audience.*

*Presentations that address the themes of [Kansas Folklife](#) require a separate application. Currently, HK is not accepting applications for Kansas Folklife.*

#### Application Requirements

*This is a competitive process and not every submission will be selected.*

Successful applicants:

- Have experience leading discussions with adults or multi-generational audiences
- Are available and able to travel across Kansas
- Live in Kansas
- Commit to one year listed in the catalog
- Have the needed credentials or experience. Presenters must have at least one of the following:
  - Hold an advanced degree, such as a M.A. or Ph.D., in a humanities discipline
  - Are a skilled humanities professional, like museum curators, librarians, or others with expertise and experience with a specific humanities-centered topic
  - Professionals whose main activity is teaching, research, and/or writing in a humanities discipline

- Traditional culture bearers. HK recognizes that scholarship and knowledge gathering can be defined differently in different cultures

### **Presentations and Compensation**

Speakers Bureau presenters handle their own calendars and are contacted directly by local event coordinators to schedule times and dates for the presentations. Presentations are approximately 45 minutes in length with 15 minutes for Q & A. Time for Q & A or discussion is required. PowerPoints or hand-outs are optional but preferred. Presenters receive between \$400-\$750 per presentation, depending on distance traveled. HK pays the presenter after the event occurs.

### **Current Presenters**

Presenters currently in the HK Speakers Bureau catalog are asked to apply with a new presentation topic. Presentations found in the current catalog are unlikely to be included in the next catalog “as is.” A new topic can be something completely different from what you currently offer in the catalog, or it could be a “new take” on a current subject. For example, if your current topic is an overview of Kansas quilts, a new application could be for a topic that explores stories of 19<sup>th</sup> century women through their quilts.

### **Preparing to Apply: A Checklist for a Successful Proposal**

- The proposal tells a compelling story that is clear and concise
- The proposal takes a strong humanities approach. What does this mean? A humanities presentation includes facts and information (who, where, and when) and expands into a broader interpretation (why does this matter? How has this influenced us? How does it compare to something else? How and why has this changed over time?).
- The presentation’s “story” can be told in completion in under an hour
- The topic has connections to Kansas and/or connections to themes listed above and appeals to an adult, out-of-school general audience
- The proposal demonstrates expertise on the topic
- The proposal is non-partisan and does not advocate for any political party, candidate, or office holder.

### **To Apply**

Fill out and submit the online application form:

[https://form.jotform.com/Humanities\\_Kansas/speakers-bureau-application-26](https://form.jotform.com/Humanities_Kansas/speakers-bureau-application-26)

**Application Deadline: August 28, 2026**

### **Questions?**

Contact Julie Mulvihill, Executive Director, at [julie@humanitieskansas.org](mailto:julie@humanitieskansas.org) or 785-357-0359.