

## **New Mexico Humanities Council Program SPEAKERS BUREAU PROGRAM**

The New Mexico Humanities Council (NMHC) is seeking qualified individuals to serve as presenters for our statewide Speakers Bureau program. The application period opens November 18, 2019. **Deadline to apply is January 17, 2020.**

Since 1987, the Speakers Bureau has been NMHC's ambassador program. Known state-wide for diverse, engaging, low-cost, public humanities programs, the Speakers Bureau catalog offers a wide-range of topics presented by scholars and cultural experts that take place throughout the state. Through lectures, living history (Chautauqua) performances, storytelling and folk music "informances," speakers address a wide range of subjects that include history, art and literary criticism, environmental issues, archaeology, comparative religion, and the diverse traditions, cultures and stories that make up New Mexico.

### **PURPOSE OF THE SPEAKERS BUREAU**

The New Mexico Humanities Council Speakers Bureau selects speakers who have the expertise and ability to deepen people's understanding of the topics presented, inspire inclusive conversations and celebrate diverse human experiences. Speakers are chosen for their knowledge and passion for a subject, their ability to connect the relevance of the topic to the audience member's life and to engage the audience in meaningful conversation.

The Speakers Bureau program aims to create programming that:

- Provides context for contemporary issues relevant to New Mexicans, and encourages critical thinking about those issues
- Encourages civil dialogue
- Stimulates cross-cultural/cross-community discovery
- Provides opportunities for scholars and cultural experts to connect with audiences around the state
- Is accessible to audiences from a range of income levels, geographies, ages, and cultural backgrounds
- Provides creative, enjoyable, and compelling civic engagement through community members actively listening, learning, and responding to an important topic.

### **SPEAKER GUIDELINES**

Speakers Bureau program scholars are independent contractors with the New Mexico Humanities Council who will be selected through a proposal and audition process to present their program to nonprofit organizations, community groups, local/state/federal government

and schools (grades 5-12) throughout New Mexico. A speaker program is enlisted for a two-year period with the option to renew up to four years. Host organizations pay a small fee to NMHC for a program and NMHC, in turn, pays the speaker an honorarium, per diem and mileage reimbursement. The programs are free and open to the public.

### **General Qualifications**

- Expertise with the subject matter of the proposed presentation. This can include formal academic study (master's level or higher), stature as a tradition bearer within your cultural community, or other significant and varied experience.
- Experience guiding reflection and discussion with an audience.
- Demonstrated success speaking to and working with culturally, economically, geographically, and generationally diverse public audiences.
- Ability and willingness to travel to communities across the state.
- For lecture based programs, ability to create audio/visual enhancements such as a PowerPoint or a mobile exhibit
- Commitment to topic objectivity
- Passion for the topic

### **Speaker Expectations**

- The speaker will give a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10 programs per year.
- Provide a one-hour presentation that stimulates thinking and inspires discussion.
- Build opportunities for reflection and discussion into the presentation, including Q & A.
- Demonstrate and communicate relevance to New Mexico, national or global communities.
- Provide their own mode of transportation
- Promote program to potential hosts around the state
- Respond to speaking queries (via email or phone) from hosting organizations. Speaking engagements are not facilitated by New Mexico Humanities Council.

### **Compensation**

*These compensation amounts are subject to change*

NMHC compensates the speaker with a mileage dependent honorarium (\$200-250 per program), a per diem (up to \$115/day) and mileage reimbursement (current rate is \$0.50/mile).

### **Presentation Topics**

Presentations must be based in the humanities. The humanities explore the ideas, questions and disciplines that document and interpret the human experience. Disciplines include history, ethics, philosophy, identity, society and culture, religion, languages, law, and literature.

Topics of strong interest include those that provide context and analysis for contemporary issues, especially those important to New Mexicans. A sample of community issues that surveyed partners identified include water scarcity/climate change, literacy, quality of education, crime, economic growth, and immigration. As one host put it, they are interested in topics that “can help our communities deal with the changing nature of life throughout our nation and the world.”

Whatever topic you propose; it should be one for which you have passion!

### **Presentation Formats**

All presentation formats must invite audience interaction that involves critical and creative reflection about your topic. Programs must be 1-hour in length. It is essential that you allow time for discussion. Longer programs will be considered. Please indicate the length of time your program would be at its best if one hour is not ideal.

- **Lecture:** Lectures must include visual aids such as a PowerPoint, a mobile exhibit, or props.
- **Chautauqua:** Chautauqua presentations are costumed performances based on thorough academic research. NMHC will be selecting Chautauqua principally on scholarship, content and demonstration of how the character influenced history and why they are important to reflect upon today.
- **Field presentations:** Speakers are encouraged to think outside the box, as it were, and present their programs in places that are consistent with the topic. For example, a program about poet Mary Oliver may structure their program to take place outdoors in a natural setting. For field presentations, please outline the structure of the program.
- **Informances:** Informances include musical performances that offer context for and history about the songs.

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TIMELINE**

November 18:	Online proposal period opens
January 17, 2020:	Proposal period closes
February 21:	Applicants notified if they have been selected for auditions
March:	Auditions begin (a schedule including locations and dates will be included in the invitation letter).
April 1:	Applicants notified of final decisions
Late April:	Speaker orientation TBD

### **CONTACT**

For more information, contact Jodi Hedderig at [jodi@nmhumanities.org](mailto:jodi@nmhumanities.org) or 505/633-7371.