1968’S WATERSHED MOMENTS & THEIR LASTING IMPACT
23rd ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S LECTURE BY PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR JON MEACHAM PGS 2-3

Robert Kennedy appeared in Lexington during a whistle stop campaign tour less than two months before he was assassinated. Image courtesy of History Nebraska.
IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 23RD ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES, IN WHICH PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR JON MEACHAM WILL FOCUS ON THE TUMULTUOUS YEAR OF 1968, WE ASKED HISTORIAN AND NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL CHAIRMAN JOHN SCHLEICHER TO REVIEW THE CRUCIAL EVENTS OF 1968 THAT HAVE HAD A LASTING EFFECT ON OUR STATE, OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.

"OUR AMERICAN FAITH"*

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION DURING THE 1968 CAMPAIGN

By John Schleicher, Chair

The year 1968 was an important milestone in the history of our country as well as the history of Nebraska. The whole country, including Nebraska, was grappling with many divisive issues throughout the year: a presidential election, the on-going struggle for civil rights, the continuing war in Vietnam, anti-war protests, and political protests such as those at that summer’s Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

In the presidential election, every primary vote was crucial; every delegate to both the Democratic and Republican national conventions was critical in a field with many candidates.

Nebraska, despite its low population and small number of electoral votes, was in contention in 1968, as described in ‘68: The Year Nebraska Mattered, an NET documentary that was funded in part by Humanities Nebraska in 2008. NET will be re-airing this fascinating documentary on September 3 at 7 p.m. central, and on September 8 at 7 p.m. You can also watch it online at netnebraska.org.

But back to the election. Several of the leading presidential contenders from both parties visited the state: Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, Richard Nixon, Eugene McCarthy, and Nelson Rockefeller. Some of them spent considerable time here.

Nebraska’s May 14 primary election played an even greater role after President Lyndon Johnson declared he would not be a candidate for another term.

On March 31 at the end of a nationally televised speech, he said: “...I shall not seek, and I will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as your president.”

Robert Kennedy, younger brother of and advisor to the late President John F. Kennedy, spent a considerable amount of time visiting and campaigning in many parts of Nebraska.

On April 27 Kennedy, his wife Ethel, many key supporters and members of the press took a special Union Pacific train on a whistle-stop tour from...
Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Omaha. The trip included 11 stops along the way at Kimball, Sidney, Ogallala, North Platte, Lexington (see cover photo), Kearney, Grand Island, Columbus, Schuyler, and Fremont, before coming into Omaha in the evening.

It was estimated that 31,000 Nebraskans were in crowds across the state who saw Kennedy that day.

On May 10, Kennedy and numerous campaign volunteers and reporters piled into two buses and visited several towns in the southeast corner of the state. Starting in Beatrice with a crowd of 3,000, Kennedy's tour that day also took him to Tecumseh, Auburn, Nebraska City, and Plattsmouth before ending up in Bellevue. In the evening, he addressed a crowd of 2,000 at the Southroads Shopping Center.

Earlier that day, a large crowd gathered on Main Street in Plattsmouth to hear Kennedy speak. Among the people assembled that day were many individuals and families, both Democrats and Republicans, who wanted to see and hear the presidential candidate.

One family among the crowd could have been held up as an example of the typical small-town Nebraska family of the 1960s: white, middle class, Protestant, Republican. Dad was a World War II veteran who worked as a civil servant for the publicly-owned electric utility. Mom worked at home taking care of her family. They had four children, two girls and two boys (in that order) ages 12, 11, 10, and the three-year-old tag-along. They were patriotic, civic-minded, church-going citizens of their native state who came out to see the presidential candidates regardless of which party or state they came from.

Fifty years on, there are many parallels both in Nebraska and the nation between the events taking place in 1968 and 2018: deep philosophical and political divisions, struggles over racism and civil rights, student protests over school shootings and gun control, as well as many others.

One final note. History matters to us all whether we were there to witness it or not. The three-year-old boy who was there to witness history on May 10, 1968 in Plattsmouth, even though he was too young to remember it, was this author.

Footnotes:
Thanks to: Cass County Historical Society, NET, History Nebraska, Omaha World-Herald, and Beatrice Daily Sun.

WATER/WAYS EXHIBITION STREAMING ACROSS THE STATE

After closing in Valentine on August 3, the “Water/Ways” exhibition continues its Nebraska tour. Custer County Historical Society Museum opened the exhibition on Saturday, August 11.

Water/Ways is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. The exhibition is devoted to water and its importance to all facets of society. Water/Ways is available free to the public in the following locations, thanks to sponsorships from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Valley, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Brown Transfer:

**Broken Bow**
August 11 – September 21, 2018
Custer County Historical Society Museum

**David City**
September 29 – November 11, 2018
Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art

**Holdrege**
November 17 – December 21, 2018
Nebraska Prairie Museum

**Alliance**
January 5 – February 15, 2019
Knight Museum and Sandhills Center

**Gering**
February 23 – April 7, 2019
Legacy of the Plains

Please join HN at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, for the 23rd Annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities, when Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential biographer Jon Meacham will explore “Tumult, Tragedy and Hope: America in 1968 from a Half Century’s Perspective.” For tickets and sponsorships, please call 402.474.2131.
PAMELA HILTON SNOW NAMED 2018 SOWER AWARD RECIPIENT

Humanities Nebraska is pleased to announce Pamela Hilton Snow as the recipient of the 2018 Sower Award in the Humanities. She will be honored on October 9, 2018 at the benefit dinner at Lincoln’s Embassy Suites preceding the 23rd Annual Governor’s Lecture.

In his nomination letter, 2014 Sower Award recipient Robert Nefsky referred to Ms. Snow as “among those Nebraskans whose contributions...have made a real difference.”

A founding board member (1999-2006) and former executive director (2006-2014) of the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Ms. Snow’s long history as a champion of the humanities includes serving as a board member (1996-2006) and chair (1999-2000) of the Nebraska Humanities Council, and board member (1999-2006) of the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities. She was also instrumental in bringing the Great Plains Chautauqua to Grand Island, and planning and consulting for the Nebraska Book Festival.

Ms. Snow also served on other boards and is currently on the board of the Cooper Foundation. While helping strengthen many Nebraska institutions, she travelled to other state humanities councils as a National Endowment for the Humanities site visitor and consultant.

Edythe Manza, retired director of the National Endowment for the Humanities’ (NEH) Federal-State Partnership division, wrote, “During my time at NEH, I worked with dozens of site visitors. Pamela Hilton Snow was one of the best...She represented NEH in the highest professional way while bringing distinction to Nebraska, its cultural institutions generally, and Humanities Nebraska in particular.”

According to Kim West Dinsdale, “her name is synonymous with the Humanities...It is out of respect for Pam and all that she has done that people are eager to say, ‘Yes!’”

Pamela Hilton Snow is credited for her leadership, organization, philanthropy, knowledge and love for the arts and humanities. Her hard work in Nebraska, specifically the Grand Island area, has led to the creation and enhancement of many institutions of the humanities that have benefitted countless communities.

Table sponsorships and tickets to the reception and dinner where Ms. Snow will be honored are still available. Please call 402.474.2131 to make your reservations.

NEBRASKA WARRIOR WRITERS RESUMES WORKSHOPS THIS FALL

Nebraska veterans and active duty military personnel in the Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha areas are invited to participate in Nebraska Warrior Writers beginning in August. These writing workshops are facilitated by professional writing instructors and presented by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Writing Project with support from the VA Nebraska/Western Iowa Health Care System. Each workshop meets for six sessions. Participants gain the skills and understanding to write any genre they like. In previous workshops, writers have explored fiction, memoirs, essays, and poetry on various topics.

No previous writing experience is necessary and family members are welcome to attend. Participants will learn to generate ideas and revise and edit their work. Opportunities for publishing and public readings will be addressed during the program. Some NWW participants have already been published.

For dates, locations, times, samples of writing produced by vets and other details, please consult www.NeWarriorWriters.org.
The “World War One: Legacies of a Forgotten War” Chautauqua made its final appearances to enthusiastic audiences in Wayne and Sidney last June.

In each community, middle-school students under the tutelage of Ride Into History learned about local people from the WWI era and created first-person narratives to present to the public. Daily workshops led by the Chautauqua scholars inspired adults to consider The Great War’s impact on civil rights, literature, equality for women, religion in politics, and technology and industry.

Humanities Nebraska thanks the many Chautauqua committee members, sponsors, and volunteers who helped bring this classic form of “edu-tainment” to more Nebraskans. Major funders include the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. In Wayne, Chautauqua was sponsored by Wayne State College, the City of Wayne, Wayne Public Library, and many other organizations and businesses. In Sidney, the event was sponsored by the Cheyenne County Tourism/Visitor Center, Sidney High School, Cheyenne County Community Center, Sidney Public Library, and numerous other contributors. The youth camp in Wayne was also sponsored by The Johnny Carson Fund at the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Next summer, Humanities Nebraska will introduce a new Chautauqua theme, with a fresh variety of workshops, evening events and other opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy. Stay tuned!
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Many donors make multiple gifts throughout the year. Donors are listed at the level of their cumulative giving for the year in our annual report.

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We thank these generous individuals who helped ensure a vibrant cultural life in Nebraska with annual gifts of $1,000 or more made between April 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. To learn more about the Patron’s Circle, please contact Heather Thomas at 402.474.2131 or heather@HumanitiesNebraska.org.

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www.HumanitiesNebraska.org

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Thank you, Lincoln!

More than 70 donors gave an impressive $19,363 to Humanities Nebraska during the month of May for Give to Lincoln Day, exceeding last year’s total of $11,237. Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF), nearly 20,000 donations for 404 Lincoln nonprofits totaled a record $4.6 million in the event’s sixth year.

Most gifts to Humanities Nebraska were designated to help expand Prime Time Family Reading Time in the capital city, making a real impact on quality of life for many families. HN is grateful to the many donors, match fund sponsors, media sponsors and to LCF for helping us achieve such a successful drive. Thank you!

Community Services Fund (CSF) connects donors to causes they care about. It is a coalition of 62 diverse non-profit organizations, some of whom provide services statewide. Humanities Nebraska is a proud member agency.

For more than 30 years, CSF has been helping make Lincoln and Nebraska a better place to live. CSF celebrates the arts and humanities, protects our environment and creates green spaces, provides health care to those who cannot afford it, provides education and advocacy, and works to protect at-risk children.

HN greatly appreciates donors who designated gifts to us through CSF workplace giving campaigns in 2018, listed here. For more info, contact CSF at 402.489.4332 or visit www.communityservicesfund.com.

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STRENGTH IN DONOR CHOICE

Thank you, Lincoln!
Last spring, students who participated in the 20th Capitol Forum on America’s Future voted on their choices for U.S. foreign policy. Out of four “Futures” platforms presented in the Choices curriculum, “Build a More Cooperative World” was the option chosen by most students (46%).

The issue students most often cited as cause for concern was “Nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons will proliferate and end up in the hands of terrorists” (47%). The second most cited concern (44%) was “Billions of people worldwide will continue to suffer from poverty, hunger and disease.”

On July 23, Capitol Forum teachers gathered for their annual summer workshop at the Barrett Family Alumni Center at Hastings College. In addition to discussing the student ballot results, they debriefed, reviewed evaluations, and brainstormed new ideas for next year’s Capitol Forum Day, as well as classroom strategies to prepare students for next year’s program.

Dr. Satoshi Machida, Professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, gave the teachers a special educational program, sharing some about U.S./China relations and outlined some of the emerging issues between the two countries.

The teachers also visited Hastings Museum to have a “behind-the-scenes” tour of the facility and were able to see some great pieces of their vast collection that are not currently on public display.

The Hastings Museum staff also showcased some of their upcoming education programs for the teachers and invited feedback as to what future programs would be beneficial for their classrooms.

Complete ballot results are available online on the Capitol Forum page at HumanitiesNebraska.org.

**HN AWARDS 20 GRANTS TOTALING $31,743**

Humanities Nebraska recently awarded the following grants:

- **Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival**, McCook, $1,000 for the “Buffalo Commons Storytelling and Music Festival” exploring the roots of the community.
- **Crane River Theater Company**, Kearney, $2,000 in support of “Page to Stage 2018,” a series of 9 outreach programs at area libraries.
- **Great Plains Black History Museum**, Omaha, $1,645 for an exhibit titled, “Selma 50 Years Later.”
- **Meadowlark Music Festival**, Lincoln, $1,550 in support of “Frank Proto, Cincinnati Symphony Composer In Residence,” a pre-concert lecture on the subject of music and provocative social issues.
- **Metropolitan Community College**, Omaha, $2,000 in support of the “Creative Writing Forum 2018,” a two-day event that offers readings, writing advice, time to write, and discussion.
- **Nebraska Archaeological Society**, Seward, $500 for the 2018 Nebraska Artifact Show on August 18.
- **Nebraska Library Association**, Lincoln, $1,225 for “Unwritten but Relevant: Using Oral History to Engage Your Community and Document its History.”
- **Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Inc.**, Omaha, $1,250 in support of the “Shakespeare On The Green Scholars Forums,” a series of 15 educational scholar forum/discussions.
- **Nebraska StoryArts**, Ashland, $1,750 for the 2018 Moonshell Storytelling Festival.
- **Omaha Girls Rock, Inc.**, Omaha, $2,000 in support of “Omaha Girls Rock: HerStory/OurStory” as part of their summer camps.
- **Omaha Jitterbugs**, $1,665, for a live, historical presentation commemorating Benny Goodman’s 1938 concert at Carnegie Hall.
- **O’Neill Public Library**, $2,000, for “A World of Music” with Todd Green.
- **Trinidad Center**, Lexington, $2,000 for the United by Culture Festival on September 9.
- **University of Nebraska at Kearney Board of Regents**, $1,200 for a bike tour on Kearney’s agricultural and industrial history; and $2,000 for “The Orphan Train: An Interdisciplinary Colloquium.”
- **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Board of Regents**, $2,000 for a “New Farmers” photo exhibition opening in November 2018.
- **University of Nebraska at Omaha Board of Regents**, $1,750 for Cinemateca 2018 on September 11, 2018.
- **Valentine Community Schools**, Valentine, $2,000 in support of “Summer School Sessions at VCS.”
- **The Village of Oak**, Oak, $849 in support of “Oregon Trail Re-enactments,” a living history demonstration.
- **Yazda**, Lincoln, $1,361 for a Yazidi Genocide Memorial on August 3 at Lincoln Lutheran School.
Humanities Nebraska (HN) is seeking nominations for its Council board by Friday, October 12. Board members are selected statewide from those who show a strong interest in the humanities and the cultural life of Nebraska.

HN makes every effort to find community leaders from the state’s diverse geographic, occupational and ethnic constituencies. The selection committee also seeks those who have a balance between involvement in the humanities and other professional, business or community pursuits.

Nominations for the Council board must be postmarked on or before October 12. Find nomination forms and a complete list of board obligations at HumanitiesNebraska.org. Or, contact HN at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330, Lincoln, NE 68508; call (402) 474-2131; or e-mail your request for more information to info@humanitiesnebraska.org.

Sheldon Art Museum in Lincoln presented a new exhibition of rarely seen items from its permanent collection with the help of a grant from Humanities Nebraska.

Focusing on 1968, a year of worldwide political upheaval and burgeoning social movements, Sheldon director and chief curator Wally Mason mined objects from the museum’s permanent collection to create six gallery installations that were on display through July 29.

Mason told the Lincoln Journal Star that the impetus for this exhibition was the Prague Spring Conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “We started working with history professor James Le Sueur and that led us down this path,” he said.

One gallery featured psychedelic rock posters that promoted shows at two major venues in San Francisco between 1966 and 1968. Another titled Josef Sudek: Poet of Prague focused on the lyrical photography of this renowned Czech artist.

Chicago Imagists presented a selection of works representing a group of artists who showed work together on the South Side of Chicago in the mid ’60s and similarly used vibrant color and distorted figuration to challenge artistic convention of the period. Artists and Writers Protest Against the War in Viet Nam included a number of contributions from 16 visual artists and 18 poets, originally published as a cohesive portfolio objecting to U.S. actions overseas.

The collection called 1968 Venice Biennale was based on an exhibition organized by Sheldon’s founding director Norman Geske for the 1968 Venice Biennale’s United States Pavilion, and Revising the Future was guest-curated by Dr. Bridget R. Cooks, professor of art history and African American studies at the University of California, Irvine.

Grant funding from HN helped bring Dr. Cooks to Sheldon in April to deliver a public talk. She examined ways that Black art, and by extension, Black activism have been misrepresented or excluded from mainstream American art museums. Dr. Cooks encouraged the community to consider how we all need to see ourselves represented in visual culture to feel connected.
National History Day fosters a combination of creativity and scholarship. Competing within five categories — historical paper, exhibit, performance, documentary, or website — this year’s students in grades 6-12 crafted their submissions around the theme, “Taking a Stand in History.”

Three years ago, Ainsworth student Vanessa Taylor was doing research for a National History Day project that would eventually touch the lives of the Pieper family of Creston, Nebraska, 166 miles away.

Vanessa, then a sophomore at Ainsworth High School, and her teacher, Nichole Flynn, were among 15 student-teacher teams selected to participate in National History Day’s “Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom” Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute. The task was to research a “silent hero” from their home state whose story hadn’t been told.

As Vanessa was looking for her “silent hero,” she stumbled across two Nebraskan WWII Navy seamen who had the same last name. She soon discovered they were twins and decided to dedicate her project to them.

Louie and Henry Pieper were sons of German immigrants who joined the Navy in 1943. Trained as radio engineers, the twin sailors made two trips from England to the beaches of Normandy on their transport ship, LST 523. On June 19, 1944, their ship was ferrying supplies to Normandy beach when it hit a German mine and went down.

Of 145 onboard, 117 died. Louie’s body was recovered in the water and buried at Normandy American Cemetery. Henry’s remains were lost at sea, his name placed beside more than 1,500 others on the cemetery’s Walls of the Missing.

However, Henry Pieper’s body was not lost after all. It had been retrieved from the still-submerged wreck in 1961 by a French salvage group, along with other remains, though none of the bodies were identified. They were transferred to a grave marked “unknown” at the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium.

Vanessa’s research caught the attention of officials from the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency. The agency linked the teen’s research to the unidentified remains in Belgium and finally found the Pieper twin who had been missing for 74 years. After DNA testing, it was confirmed that Henry’s body had been found.

In June of 2018, Henry was given a proper burial with a marked grave. Louie’s remains were reburied right next to his twin. The Creston, Nebraska brothers were once again reunited after 74 years.

Vanessa won second place for her project in the National History Day competition, but nothing compares to the peace brought to the Pieper twins’ relatives in knowing they are together once more.

Humanities Nebraska is a proud sponsor of the National History Day: Nebraska program in cooperation with Nebraska Wesleyan University. HN thanks the Dillon Foundation for their sponsorship of this program.
WELCOME NEW INTERNS

Humanities Nebraska recently welcomed three new interns to our team, two of whom are completing short-term internships this autumn.

Magdalena Benton is a short-term intern for Prime Time Family Reading Time. Employed as a bilingual Spanish liaison for Lincoln Public Schools, Magdalena has helped recruit Prime Time families for more than a decade and recently attended training to become a Prime Time storyteller and discussion leader. Born in Villa Juarez, Mexico, she moved to Nebraska at the age of 9 and raised five children here (the youngest four are all in college). Magdalena believes in the Prime Time program “because it is so beneficial to the kids.”

Sarah Parkin is the new communications intern. She is a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), majoring in journalism and global studies with a minor in political science. Originally from Aberdeen, South Dakota, she said she always wanted to work for a non-profit. Though she has only lived in Nebraska for a few years, she said, “I love to learn more about the state. I also am grateful for the experience HN gives me as far as working in a professional environment.” Sarah is a born explorer - in fact, she has been to more foreign countries (13) than states in the U.S (12).

Naomi Snyder was hired as a special projects intern for the Democracy & Journalism series (see back cover). She is a senior studying textiles, merchandising, fashion design and communications at UNL. The Murdock, Nebraska native said she is excited to be part of the Democracy and the Informed Citizenry initiative, established by the Federation of State Humanities Councils. “I am proud to be representing our state and such an amazing organization in the process.” Naomi has also trained in classical piano performance and accompaniment for more than 15 years.
SIX COMMUNITIES TO DISCUSS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND JOURNALISM

Seeking to engage the public in a discussion of the vital connection between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry, Humanities Nebraska is launching “An Issue of Trust: Democracy and the Future of Journalism,” a program series dedicated to community dialogue between the public and national and local journalists.

In partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Pulitzer Prizes, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and many state and local groups, these community conversations will be taking place this fall in Omaha, Lincoln, Norfolk, Kearney, North Platte, and Scottsbluff.

According to American Views: Trust, Media and Democracy, a Gallup/Knight Foundation Survey published in 2018, “the public divides evenly on the question of who is primarily responsible for ensuring people have an accurate and politically balanced understanding of the news—48% say the news media and 48% say individuals.”

In a new study released by the American Press Institute, 44% of those surveyed said their trust in the news decreased in the past year, but journalists and the public also largely agreed on how the media should report.

“An Issue of Trust: Democracy and the Future of Journalism” events will provide opportunities for Nebraskans to discuss these topics with Nebraska and national journalists.

“Our goal is to establish a comfortable dialogue between community members and journalists around some of these challenging topics about the future of journalism and democracy,” said Naomi Snyder, HN special projects intern. “By developing a base knowledge of media literacy, we are opening doors to future conversations about democracy, trust, and effects of the media.”

Partners on “An Issue of Trust” include local newspapers, the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, and the Nebraska Press Association. Sponsors include the James and Rhonda Seacrest Foundation and the Johnny Carson Fund at the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

This series is part of a national initiative with state humanities councils across the country.

“Thanks to the partnership with the Mellon Foundation, the Pulitzer Prizes, and state humanities councils, there is a real national dialogue taking place this year on issues of democracy and an informed citizenry,” stated Esther Mackintosh, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. “The programs taking place in Nebraska this fall will be an outstanding addition to this vital conversation.”

In addition to holding these and other events, HN is encouraging audiences of all ages to join in the conversation by attending, commenting on and following HN social media accounts, and helping to build awareness about media literacy.

For more information, please visit HumanitiesNebraska.org and click on the banner titled “An Issue of Trust” or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Use and follow #HumCitizen and #AnIssueofTrust for updates.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US FOR “AN ISSUE OF TRUST”

- October 16: Norfolk, Northeast Community College auditorium
- October 18: Scottsbluff, Midwest Theater
- October 30: Omaha, UNO Milo Bail Student Center
- November 14: North Platte, Prairie Arts Center
- November 15: Kearney, World Theatre
- November 28: Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Campus (tentative)