



# NEBRASKA STATEHOOD 150

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## **NE150 Commission announces first round of grant recipients** ***Grant program supports events, projects celebrating Nebraska Statehood in 2017***

(Lincoln, Neb.) The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission (NSC) today announced the first round of grant award recipients from the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Grants Program. The program provides funding to help support communities, organizations and others planning events, programs and projects in recognition and support of the Nebraska 150 Celebration in 2017.

Grant recipients, along with descriptions of their events/programs/projects, are:

- **El Museo Latino – Omaha: \$2,500**  
Funding will assist in the expansion of exhibitions that explore the role of immigrants and immigration in the creation of Nebraska. The exhibition series will be especially significant for students from throughout the region who are already discussing the role of immigration in the present day and should draw visitors from throughout the region.
- **Boys Town and the Midwest Theatre – Scottsbluff: \$2,000**  
Funding to assist with a community screening of the Oscar-winning 1938 film “Boys Town” on November 30, 2017 in Scottsbluff in celebration of Boys Town’s centennial and Nebraska’s sesquicentennial. The movie dramatizes the work of Father Edward Flanagan, who founded Boys Town in 1917.
- **“Convergence on Sacred Grounds” at Ash Hollow State Park – Lewellen: \$5,000**  
Funding to assist the Friends of Ash Hollow Steering Committee in presenting a weekend of events July 21-23, 2017 focused on educating attendees about what daily life was like for Native Americans, fur traders, pioneers, the military and cowboys 150 years ago. This convergence of cultures will provide an interactive educational experience focused on the struggle to survive and subsequently thrive in the sacred land of Ash Hollow.
- **A Sesquicentennial Traveling Photo Exhibit: “Bridges: Sharing our Past to Enrich the Future” by the Hildegard Center for the Arts – Statewide: \$5,000**  
Funding will help support a traveling photo exhibit featuring winning submissions from amateur and professional photographers of all 93 Nebraska counties. The exhibit will visit six regions of the state, including the Great Plains Art Museum in Lincoln, North Platte Prairie Arts Center, Norfolk Arts Center, Alliance Carnegie Arts Center and Durham Museum in Omaha. For more information, visit [www.hildegardcenter.org](http://www.hildegardcenter.org).
- **Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Curriculum Instruction and Assessment – Omaha: \$2,000**  
Funding to assist in the purchase of the book “Nebraska Simply Beautiful” by P. Michael Whye for elementary school libraries. The OPS project is designed to compliment the NE150 Statehood Initiative for both the 2016-17 and the 2017-18 school year. During the 2016-17 school year, the 63 OPS elementary schools will learn about Nebraska’s history and celebrate who we are as

Nebraskans through implementation of grade-level lessons centered around the theme "We Are Nebraska." All lessons were developed by OPS teachers during the summer of 2016 and align with the Nebraska State Standards for Social Studies and English Language Arts. Lessons were designed to encourage students' connections to Nebraska's history and heritage as well as to the cultural diversity represented by students in elementary classrooms.

- **St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska's "Welsh Song Fest" – Statewide Tour: \$2,500**  
Funding to assist in bringing a traditional Welsh band through Nebraska October 16-22, 2017. A five-piece band, called Moch Pryderi from Fredericksburg, Virginia, will perform traditional Celtic music in Scottsbluff, Lewellen, Central City, Valentine, Norfolk and Lincoln. The group will use authentic, rare instruments, including the Welsh triple harp, Irish bouzoukis and pibgorns, along with fiddle, bodhran (Irish hand drum), Great Highland pipes, small pipes, flutes and whistles. The Welsh were among the earliest European immigrants to arrive in Nebraska. St. David's Welsh Society was established in Omaha in 1910 and remains one of the oldest continuous cultural groups in Nebraska.
- **"Flat Places, Deep Identities: Mapping Nebraska and the Great Plains," A Symposium at the University of Nebraska Center for Great Plains Studies – Lincoln: \$3,000**  
Funding to assist in securing speakers for the symposium at Innovation Campus March 30-31, 2017. The symposium will explore what makes Nebraska unique, as well as the factors that led to the creation of the state, its cultural identity and its geography. The event will provide an educational framework for how Nebraskans see themselves and the state historically and in the future. For more information, visit [www.unl.edu/plains/2017-symposium](http://www.unl.edu/plains/2017-symposium).

Funding for the non-competitive grant program has been made possible through earned revenue from the sale of the Nebraska 150 commemorative license plate, which was unveiled last September. The plate costs \$70 and is available for purchase through 2022 at [www.clickdmv.ne.gov](http://www.clickdmv.ne.gov). To date, the Commission has earned \$28,127 and granted a total of \$22,000 during this round of the grant distribution.

NSC Chair Dr. Sara Crook said, "The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission is pleased to utilize the money generated from the sale of the specialty license plates to help Nebraska organizations and communities develop programs and activities. The Commission has always promoted the concept that some of the activities to commemorate our 150th anniversary of statehood should be 'homegrown' on the local level."

Grant applications will continue to be available online at [www.ne150.org/grants](http://www.ne150.org/grants) and will be considered in the order they are received. Funding for the program is limited and dependent on availability and the number of sesquicentennial license plates sold.

Grants, which may range in amounts from \$500 to \$5,000, are restricted to events and activities that originate and/or take place within the boundaries of the State of Nebraska. Unless otherwise requested and approved in advance, all grant funds must be used between of Sept. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2017. Applications must be made a minimum of 90 days in advance of the proposed date of the activity or event. Additional details and requirements of the program will be outlined at [www.ne150.org/grants](http://www.ne150.org/grants).

The Nebraska State Historical Society administratively manages the NSC Grant Program. Questions can be directed to Dee Ward at [dee.ward@nebraska.gov](mailto:dee.ward@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-0090.

Nebraska was granted statehood on March 1, 1867. The state will commemorate its 150th birthday beginning Jan. 1, 2017, with a yearlong celebration involving a wide variety of programs and projects across the state. Additional information about the Nebraska 150 Celebration is available at [www.ne150.org](http://www.ne150.org) on Facebook at [facebook.com/nebraska150](https://facebook.com/nebraska150) and Twitter @ne150.

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