



NEBRASKA STATEHOOD 150

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

(Lincoln, Neb.) The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission (NSC) today announced the second round of grant award recipients from the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Grants Program.

To date, a total of \$32,000 in financial support has been granted back to local entities planning events and programs in celebration of Nebraska's 150th anniversary in 2017. The most recent grant recipients, along with descriptions of their events are:

- **Cheyenne County Chamber of Commerce – Sidney: \$4,959**
Funding will support the Cheyenne County and City of Sidney Sesquicentennial Celebration, August 18-20, 2017.
Take a trip back to 1867, to the town once known as the “Toughest Town on the Western Frontier.” Attendees will experience period entertainment, cooking exhibitions, parades, school enrichment activities, historical reenactments and speakers. Overall, the celebration will provide a historical look at how the state, county and city were formed and at Nebraskans who helped shaped the past. A period concert in historic downtown Sidney on Friday night and Opera house show in period costume on Saturday night will give spectators a glimpse into the entertainment of 150 years ago. In addition, University of Nebraska Extension Youth Development and Cheyenne County Schools will include enrichment activities in their curriculum regarding Nebraska history and themed workshops throughout spring and summer 2017. www.cheyennecountychamber.com or www.cityofsidney.org
- **Springfield Days Committee – Springfield: \$2,500**
Funding will support Springfield Days, June 9-10, 2017
The Nebraska sesquicentennial will be the theme of the 2017 annual Springfield Days celebration. The event will feature children's activities at the public library, an outdoor movie, car show, vendors, food from the 1800s, hayrack rides, a bingo parlor, softball tournament, photo booth, a magician, quilt show, kiddie parade, pancake feed, street dances and many more activities. www.springfieldnebraska.com
- **Friends of the Midwest Theatre – Scottsbluff: \$1,500**
Funding will support the one-woman show, “Snowcatcher,” 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017.
“In the winter of 1888, a ferocious blizzard ripped through the prairie without warning, leaving thousands of children struggling to find their way safely home from school. Six year-old Hattie, stranded in a one-room schoolhouse, is consumed by a haunting vision: There's a boy trapped in the storm. Hattie knows what happens to children in a blizzard. One touch from the “Snowcatcher” will turn them into ice! Will she be able to save her friend?”

Written and performed by Becky Boesen, with original music by David vonKampen, “Snowcatcher” is a tribute to the unbreakable spirit of the American homesteader and that of

the Native People who came before them. The story's tale of the hardships faced by homesteaders remains relevant today as modern audiences can relate to the struggles of poverty, homelessness, hunger and low population in rural areas.

Commissioned by Homestead National Monument about the Schoolhouse Blizzard of 1888, "Snowcatcher" will open at the Midwest Theatre in Scottsbluff for a ticketed public performance at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017. Two free matinee performances will be offered for area third through seventh grade students on Friday, Jan. 27.

www.midwesttheater.com

- **Cathedral Arts Project – Omaha: \$1,000**
Funding to support the 32nd Annual Flower Festival, "Nebraska at 150: A Shared Story," Jan. 28-29.

The 32nd Annual Flower Festival, a two-day event that draws more than 10,000 visitors from around the United States each year, will celebrate the individuals, places, and events that have shaped Nebraska. Florists will create displays that will not only tell a story but will be representative of Nebraska's unique botanicals. The event is free and open to the public. The Festival is open from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 for those with special needs, nursing home residents and the elderly. Doors open to the general public at 10 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Saturday. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.

A few of the themes that will be highlighted at the Festival include:

- Greeley County and the Irish Colonies
- The Rivers of Nebraska
- Father Flannigan, Henry Monsky and Boys Town
- Sandhills and the Cattlemen
- Bertram Goodhue, Hildreth Meiere and the State Capitol
- The Sandhill Cranes and Pre-historic Nebraska
- First Peoples
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Nebraska's Writers and Poets
- Our Lady of Nebraska, Saint Isidore and the Nebraska Farmers
- Chimney Rock, Scotts Bluff and the Oregon Trail
- The Sea of Grass
- Twisters
- Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery
- Trans-Mississippi Exposition
- Saint James Orphanage
- Julius Sterling Morton
- The North Platte Canteen
- The Immigrant Churches and Synagogues
- Luigi Waites and the North Omaha Jazz Scene
- Mildred D. Brown and the Omaha Star

The Cathedral of Saint Cecilia is the masterwork of world-renowned Nebraska architect, Thomas Rogers Kimball. Upon its completion in the late 1950's, the structure was ranked among the 10 largest cathedrals in the United States. The architectural style, Spanish Renaissance Revival, was chosen by Kimball because of the very early influence of Spain and Mexico on the region and because the Cathedral was once part of the missionary area subject to the See of Santiago, Cuba. Thus, the structure itself, tells the story of Nebraska's earliest history. The Cultural Center offers a museum telling the history of the Cathedral, an art gallery with rotating exhibitions, a lecture hall and a gift shop. For this event, the art gallery will feature a children's art exhibit titled "A Child's Perspective: Children's Art Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Nebraska." www.cathedralartsproject.org

The non-competitive Nebraska Sesquicentennial Grants 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. Funding is being made possible through earned revenue from

the sale of the Nebraska 150 commemorative license plate, which was unveiled in September 2015. The plate costs \$70 and is available for purchase through 2022 at www.clickdmv.ne.gov.

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 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.

The Nebraska State Historical Society administratively manages the NSC Grant Program. Questions can be directed to Dee Ward at 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 on Facebook at [facebook.com/nebraska150](https://www.facebook.com/nebraska150) and Twitter [@ne150](https://twitter.com/ne150).

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