

Pulitzer Prizes Awards \$24,743.00 to the New Mexico Humanities Council for 2016 Centennial Campfires Initiative

Albuquerque, NM—The Pulitzer Prize Board announced the award of \$24,743.00 to the New Mexico Humanities Council (NMHC) for the Pulitzer Dialogues, a program to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Prizes in 2016 through Pulitzer’s Campfires Initiative.

The NMHC will partner with six libraries across the state to engage in a five month reading and discussion series of Pulitzer Prize fiction, including winning and finalist works, set to begin in April 2016. Libraries hosting the monthly reading discussion programs include the Albuquerque South Broadway Cultural Center Library, the Clovis-Carver Public Library in Clovis, the Marshall Memorial Library in Deming, the Octavia Fellin Public Library in Gallup, the Thomas C. Donnelly Library of New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, and the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces, NM. Each hosting library will challenge and engage their respective community to read five Pulitzer Prize novels. Representing different historical periods, regions, and cultural contexts that reveal meaningful perspectives on ourselves, our culture, and the world we live in, the selected texts are: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz (winner, 2008); *The Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich (finalist, 2009); *The Stories of John Cheever* by John Cheever (winner, 2009); *Beloved* by Toni Morrison (Winner, 1988); and *Lovely, Dark, Deep* by Joyce Carol Oates (finalist, 2015).

“The New Mexico Humanities Council supports the Pulitzer Campfire Initiative because everybody should have the opportunity to read and enjoy good novels. Reading fosters emotional intelligence and enhances social and personal interactions. The best literature provides for valuable experiences and personal growth. It is enjoyable and personally rewarding to read really good books and share details about life. It is pleasing and not just a theoretical activity,” said Dr. Craig L. Newbill, the Executive Director of the New Mexico Humanities Council.

About the Campfires Initiative

To prepare for the centennial of the Pulitzer Prize, the Pulitzer Prize Board announced the Campfires Initiative, which aims to ignite broad engagement with the journalistic, literary, and artistic values the Prizes represent. To inspire year-long programming throughout the country, the board partnered with the Federation of State Humanities Councils on the initiative. After a review of grant proposals, the Pulitzer Prize Board awarded more than \$1.5 million to forty-six state humanities councils.

The programs will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning work in journalism, arts and letters, and music. The goal of the board and the Federation of State Humanities Council is to engage American communities in discussion about the values these disciplines represent. “We look forward to bringing the centennial to life next year with a diverse array of council programming that reconnects Americans with the nation’s amazing cultural production of the last 100 years,” said Dr. Esther Mackintosh, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

The Federation and the Pulitzer Prize Board, which is headquartered at Columbia University, worked together to develop this initiative. It is supported by grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Pulitzer Prize Board.

To learn more about the Federation of State Humanities Councils, please visit www.statehumanities.org.

To learn more about the Pulitzer Prizes Campfires Initiative, please see their March 2015 [announcement](#).

This program is part of the Pulitzer Prizes Centennial Campfires Initiative, a joint venture of the Pulitzer Prizes Board and the Federation of State Humanities Council in celebration of the 2016 centennial of the Prizes. The initiative seeks to illuminate the impact of journalism and the humanities on American life today, to imagine their future and to inspire new generations to consider the values represented by the body of Pulitzer Prize-winning work.

For their generous support for the Campfires Initiative, we thank the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Pulitzer Prizes Board, and Columbia University.

The New Mexico Humanities Council is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since 1972, the NMHC has sought to engage New Mexicans with history, culture, and diverse humanities topics through public programming. The NMHC promotes and helps advance discussions in the humanities, allowing for community conversations and civic dialogue to take place at each public program. The NMHC supports these non-profit organizations to help develop their public humanities programs for New Mexico audiences and provides general support to help accomplish their core humanities missions.

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