Washington, D.C.—June 25, 2007—The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) today announced that The Lawton Public Library is one of 117 organizations that will receive grants to support Big Read programs between September and December 2007. The Big Read, launched nationally in 2006 by the NEA, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arts Midwest, encourages literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss a single book.

The organizations selected to participate in the Big Read will receive grants ranging from $5,000 to $20,000 to promote and carry out community-based programs. The Big Read in Lawton, Oklahoma will take place September 30 until October 31st.

The Lawton Public Library and our partners are very excited and proud that we were selected to participate in the NEA’s “The Big Read” program this year.

Modeled on successful “one book, one community” programs, the Big Read was created to address the national decline in literary reading as documented in the NEA’s 2004 landmark survey Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. The survey showed that less than half the American adult population now reads literature.

To encourage community-wide participation in the project, each Big Read lead organization will collaborate with public and private partners within its community to develop a program of activities related to the selected novel. Big Read events in Lawton, Oklahoma will include musical interpretations, book discussions, movie nights, and much more.

"By joining the Big Read, these cities and towns are showing that reading is necessary to the cultural, civic, even economic fabric of their communities. They understand the benefit of having people from different generations and walks of life reading and discussing a great book," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia. "Yes, this is about reading, but it’s also about getting people to leave their homes and offices, unplug themselves for a few hours, and enjoy the pleasures of literature with their neighbors."

"We are pleased to announce this second round of Big Read grants. The first-round grantees created innovative and exciting partnership activities that exceeded our expectations," said IMLS Director Anne-Imelda Radice, Ph.D. "We’re eager to support these additional communities in launching their collaborative efforts. Through the Big Read, IMLS and NEA are assisting people all across the country as they come together to rediscover the great American novel."

The NEA also will provide participating communities with a library of free materials, including reader’s and teacher’s guides for each of the Big Read novels, an audio guide for each novel featuring distinguished actors and writers, an online organizer’s guide for hosting a Big Read program, Big Read publicity materials, and a comprehensive program Web site.
It is now two months into the 2007-2008 year and I am beginning to really realize how appropriate this year’s theme is. This month I want to explore how you, the membership, are keys to OLA’s future. I want to give two ways you influence the destiny of OLA.

One way you influence OLA is in the area of the organization’s financial stability. The Budget Committee worked over the past month to set OLA’s general budget for this year and it was approved at the Executive Board meeting last Friday. The budget is a very critical issue for the future of OLA. As the committee looked at the operation of OLA they determined that one of the “keys” to the future is to improve OLA’s financial stability; therefore, they set a very “bare bones” budget. What does this mean to you as a member and how does it relate to your being a key to the future? It means that each member has responsibility and opportunity to contribute to this endeavor.

The first way you contribute is through membership. Since you are receiving this newsletter I hope that means that your current year’s dues are paid. If this is true then you have met the first basic responsibility and I thank you. If this is not true, then please get your dues paid ASAP. Next, you need to encourage colleagues who are not members to join OLA. Your enthusiasm and word of mouth encouragement will accomplish more than any amount of mailings or e-mail notices. Let them know how valuable the organization is to you. You are the key to increasing membership and increased membership adds to the financial stability for the future.

Second, you are key in providing other revenue streams for the organization. Your attendance at workshops is very important. OLA’s workshops are an important revenue source. Also, there are and will be opportunities to make special donations and of course there is neat merchandise you can purchase. It is critical that OLA not only meet the budget but more importantly that revenue is produced to continue and expand services to members. All of these things are necessary to ensure OLA’s financial future.

The second way you influence OLA is that you are a key in the actual working of OLA. You are needed to serve on committees, round tables and divisions. The work of the organization depends on you, the membership. But just in case you haven’t figured it out, this is also where the fun comes in. Working with colleagues on a workshop or program, learning from each other, sharing the load, getting to know people from all across the state and from different kinds of libraries is just plain fun. So, don’t miss the best part, get involved.

Yes, you are the “Keys to the Future” of OLA so join us for a great year!

—Jan Bryant
**In Memoriam: Vance Hunt**

I remember the beginnings of the OLA endowment campaign. I had never before asked for money from a vendor, although I had seen it done by others. I was very nervous and dawdled several days before I could work up the courage to make a call. I decided that Vance Hunt might help, as he had a history of giving to the Oklahoma Library Association. I had worked with Vance on a bid for shelving for the University of Oklahoma. I knew he was a straight shooter and won our bid by bidding the very lowest of all the vendors. He also was reliable. The shelving was installed professionally and aside from a metal shortage at the factory, came in a timely manner. I liked Vance and he was kind and easy to talk to on the phone. So, I took a deep breath and dialed.

I said, “Hello, Vance.” His voice was easy and friendly as always. I think mine was quaking. I told him about the new endowment campaign for OLA. I don’t remember my exact words. What I do remember is that he didn’t hesitate, but replied that he would be happy to give $1,000. I cannot describe for you what that meant to me. After that call, I hung up the phone and ran to Debra Engel’s office and breathlessly told her that the first donation to the campaign had been made by Vance. She smiled and said something like, “That sounds like Vance Hunt.”

I will never forget Vance. Every year thereafter, I always came to the exhibit area and looked him up and gave him a hug. He was someone I had to see. He was someone who gave me the courage to trust in the goodness and generosity of others. He helped me take on a challenge that I thought was beyond my capabilities. This coming year at OLA I will go to the exhibits, but it will be a poorer place for me because Vance Hunt won’t be there. I was privileged to have known him.

—Pat Weaver-Meyers

How will Oklahoma librarians miss Vance Hunt? Let us try to count the ways.

- His sincere and ready smile.
- His warm handshake.
- His calm demeanor.
- His dependability.
- His thoroughness in each and every shelving project, large or small.
- His almost always “low bid.”
- His gracious wife Elizabeth’s hand-holding.
- His generous support of OLA activities.
- His faithful attendance at all of our conferences.
- His delightful greetings at national conferences.
- His patience with all of our inevitable changes in timing of deliveries and installations.
- His great stories of earlier years in Telluride and other far-flung locations.
- His attention to detail.
- His great installation crew.
- His time-saving and money-saving ideas and equipment for moving collections.
- His incredible vision for what libraries could be.
- His wisdom.
- His friendship.

We have lost a dear colleague and friend. The OLA exhibits just won’t be the same without Vance.

—Jan Keene and Kathryn K. Lewis

I worked with Vance on several Chickasaw Regional Library System projects over the past 10 years and no matter what size the project was we always received the same courteous and quality service from him.

—Diana McMahan, Chickasaw Regional Library System
The Special Collections and University Archives of the Edmon Low Library of Oklahoma State University have materials that you want to know about.

A-Z List of Collections; Subject List of Collections
These are basic tools for finding special collections and archives that have not been digitized—the holdings that you will find via the OSU Library Digital Collections category noted below are not included here. The Subject List uses these categories: “Agriculture and Natural Resources”; “America at War”; “Rare and Unique Books”; “Campus History”; “History and Politics”; “Journalism and Media”; and “Women’s Archives”. The “Women’s Archives” category below is the same as “Women’s Archives” here. For each collection name you will find a corresponding collection number; some collection names link to descriptions about the collection. Example: “World War II Posters, 1941-1945” notes that this collection contains 203 posters arranged alphabetically by subject.

OSU Library Digital Collections
The OSU Library operates some of our state’s major digitizing programs. The link for this collection links to the library’s Electronic Publishing Center. Some examples of the collections that are available for you to view are: Oklahoma Today magazine from 1956 through 2006; the Chronicles of Oklahoma from 1923 to 1962, with an index to volumes since 1962; publications of the Oklahoma Biological Survey; the proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science; and others.

The Electronic Publishing Center’s website--
http://digital.library.okstate.edu/

SCUA Indexes
This is an author/title/subject index to articles in publications created by the University and institutions affiliated with the University, such as publications of the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Services, the O’Collegian university newspaper, and others. They have indexed such local history magazines as the Payne County Historical Review. These special indexes are not online; you must use them at the library. But you won’t find indexes to these special materials anywhere else in our state.

Women’s Archives
Some of the collection feature online biographies and inventories, such as those for Hannah Atkins, Shirley Bellmon, and Angie Debo. There is also online information for such groups as the Lahoma Club and the Oklahoma Early Childhood Association.

Online Exhibits
Online exhibits include: “Robert Frost Visits Stillwater” on March 5, 1941 (a collection of articles about his visit); photos from the World War 2 WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) collection (during the war OSU trained 10,000 women for this U.S Navy program), and others.

Unidentified Photos
Like a mystery? They have photographs from 1891 to 1970 that they can’t identify, and invite you to help them identify and report the individuals and groups in those photos.

“WHAT’S NEW” FEATURES – Photo of the Month and Link of the Month
These are always the top of the screen.

—Steve Beleu. Reviewed on August 1, 2007
The Oklahoma Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries is pleased to announce its annual fall conference topic:

**EYES FORWARD AND HANDS ON: GEARING UP FOR 2.0 IN OKLAHOMA**

Monday, November 5, 2007 | OSU-Tulsa

What is “Web 2.0” and how does it affect the academic library? How have new initiatives in digital publishing and social networking created opportunities and challenges for us as information professionals? How are changes in scholarly communication impacting our library collections and electronic resources? This conference will explore the emerging collaborative and interactive Web tools and the role they play on today’s campuses. We will explore the new realm of Cyberculture and how academic institutions and libraries are helping shape it. We will also look at the changing needs and expectations of faculty and students, and how libraries are reinventing their online services to empower their users. There will be hands-on breakout sessions on different Web products and services such as online tutorials, instant messaging, blogging, RSS feeds, tagging, new search tools, and other new communications tools.

**Our keynote speakers:**

Dr. David Silver is an assistant professor of media studies and the director of the Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies at the University of San Francisco. He is also the co-director of The September Project. David's teaching and research interests include digital media, contemporary cultures, and social movements. He teaches Digital Democracy, Digital Journalism, and Intro to Media Studies. Along with Professor Kate Haug, David serves as faculty advisor for USFtv. He has presented at ACRL and many other national conferences.

Dr. Lynn Silipigni Connaway's responsibilities include research projects that directly involve OCLC libraries, such as the Comparative Collection Assessment Project and other WorldCat data mining projects. She is the Co-Principal Investigator with Marie L. Radford of Rutgers University in an IMLS-funded grant project to study virtual reference services. Lynn also is studying the behavior patterns of college and university information seekers in a collaborative project with the Ohio State University, which also is funded by an IMLS grant. Prior to joining the OCLC Office of Research, Lynn was the vice president of Research and Library Systems at the netLibrary division of OCLC. She also was director of the Library and Information Services Department at the University of Denver, where she taught several courses in library and information science. Lynn earned her Ph.D. in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Arizona, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Library Science from Edinboro State University.

The schedule and registration information will be posted soon on the OK-ACRL site: http://okacrl.okstate.edu

---

Let Amigos Show You the Money!

The Amigos Library Services Fellowship Program awards up to $7,500 annually to information professionals from Amigos member institutions to fund research, demonstration, or educational projects.

For detailed program guidelines visit: http://www.amigos.org/fellowship

Preliminary Review Deadline (recommended): January 18, 2008, 5:00 p.m. Central Time

Deadline for final submission: March 7, 2008, 5:00 p.m. Central Time
SRRT SPONSORS WORKSHOP ON
LIBRARIES AND HOMELESS CLIENTS

Providing library service to patrons who are homeless will be the topic of an October workshop for Oklahoma librarians.

“A Place for Everyone: Preparing your administration, staff, and patrons to welcome homeless people to the library” is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Midwest City Public Library in the Forum Room. Sponsoring the workshop is the Social Responsibility Roundtable of the Oklahoma Library Association.

Stacy DeLano, a spokesman for the OLA roundtable, said the workshop is designed to help library managers, outreach coordinators, and service desk personnel to provide the best possible service to clients who are homeless.

“Anecdotally, many librarians indicate that homeless patrons often present issues that can cause concern, such as using the library as a daytime shelter or other patrons complaining about the homeless at the library,” DeLano said. “We hope this workshop will help participants to provide better service by helping them be more aware of homeless issues, by providing them with information about community resources, and by highlighting useful and practical policy and outreach ideas.”

The workshop fee is $50 for OLA members and $100 for non-members. Participants are also asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to a local homeless program.

“The SRRT is committed to addressing the needs of underserved populations, so we hope that advocates of the homeless population will attend the workshop and present their unique viewpoints,” DeLano said.

Workshop presenters include:

- Dan Straughan, Executive Director, The Homeless Alliance, an Oklahoma City organization working to improve homelessness through the collaboration of multiple community resources. Speaking with Straughan will be a homeless person who will describe his experiences with libraries.
- Chuck Thornton, Legal Director, and Tamya Cox, Program and Litigation coordinator, American Civil Liberties Union-Oklahoma, which is familiar with the legal issues associated with homelessness and persons with mental health disabilities.
- Char Carter, Executive Director, and Elicia Chandler, Family Support Director, Positive Tomorrows, an educational and family resource center that provides services to homeless and low-income children.
- Linda Jordan, Reference Librarian, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and long-time advocate of the homeless population.
- Linda Gens, Central Region. Director for Guthrie Public Library.
- Susan Gregory, Nancy Littlejohn, and Judy Day, of the Pioneer Library System in Norman, which has significant experience serving homeless patrons.
As required in a recent revision of the OLA Bylaws, the annual budget report will now be published in the September-October issue of Oklahoma Librarian. If you have any questions about this report, please contact OLA Treasurer Sarah Robbins by email at treasurer@oklibs.org or by phone at (405) 325-5293.
Upcoming Workshops, Deadlines, and Events


September 29: “The Hollywood Librarian: A Look at Librarians Through Film.” Oklahoma premiere at Rose State College at 2:00 p.m. Call 405-733-7370 for details.

October 11: “A Place for Everyone: Preparing Your Administration, Staff, and Patrons to Welcome Homeless People to the Library.” Midwest City Public Library. Sponsored by Social Responsibilities Roundtable. (see p. 42 for more details)

October 15: Lois Lenski Covey Foundation library grant program application deadline. Call 212-554-7809 for details. Grant provides funds to purchase children’s books.

October 19: “Reaching the Millennials: Taming the Technology” Workshop: “Taming Social Networking Sites: Facebook and MySpace.” Oklahoma State University. Sponsored by University & College Division, Co-sponsored by Library Education Division and Public Library Division.


November 5th: “Eyes Forward and Hands On: Gearing up for 2.0 in Oklahoma.” OSU-Tulsa. Sponsored by OK-ACRL. (see p. 41 for more details)