

September 19, 2000

Florida Humanities Council
1725 ½ East Seventh Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33605

The City of Gainesville is pleased to support the three grants from the Gainesville Association of Creative Arts and Acrosstown Repertory Theatre to the Florida Humanities Council through the Florida "Finding A Common Path" initiative. The three grants being the "The Amistad Case: The Humanities, Florida History, and Our Common Path", "Come on Down to Florida: A Writers' and Humanists' Perspective on Finding a Common Path", and "More Letters to the Editor: The Community Talking, Finding a Common Path".

The Gainesville Association of Creative Arts is a thirty-year-old groundbreaking agency that has provided access to the arts for youth and adults. Their innovative programs continue to attract larger and larger audiences and their high level of professional management assures quality programming.

The Acrosstown Repertory Theatre has long been a grassroots theater creating opportunities for emerging artists, playwrights, and directors to produce quality experimental theater.

We feel certain that with these two organizations working together the success of these three projects is assured, and we happily lend our co-sponsorship. To support the productions the City is willing to provide performance venues at the Thomas Center, Downtown Plaza, or any of our other facilities.

We urge your funding consideration for these projects, which will have positive impact on a large number of people in our area.



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITY COMMISSION

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Department of English

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July 22, 2000

Dear Doris Bardon, John Cech, Hugh Cunningham, Ron Cunningham, David Cussen, June Cussen, William Eyerly, Joseph Fagan, Michale Gannon, Pegeen Hanrahan, Karelisa Hartigan, Mildred Hill-Lubin, Norma Homan, Sidney Homan, Jane Anderson Jones, Nickie Kortus, Jack Lane, Kevin McCarthy, Bill Maxwell, Shelley Mickle, Murray Laurie, Ralph Lowenstein, Peter Meinke, Maurice O'Sullivan, Kenneth Nunri, Dennis Owen, Sam Proctor, Hernan Vera, Nancy Williams

From: Sidney Homan

Re: A Request for your participation in one or more projects (and grant proposals) of the Gainesville Association for the Creative Arts and the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre

Dear Friends,

In part, I am writing this "mass" letter in an attempt at efficiency, but also in part because the three project, for which I ask your advice and participation, are inter-related. Also, for me it's a pleasure to look at this list of names, people I know very well, a few I know just by reputation. Here there are journalists, poets, writers, community leaders, university professors, political figures, publishers, teachers—people with whom I've worked on previous grant-funded projects, those with whom I look forward to working.

Two non-profit organizations, the Gainesville Association for the Creative Arts and the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre, are applying for three different grants to the Florida Humanities Council, each speaking to the FHC's theme for 2000-2001, "Florida: Finding a Common Path." Those three grant are:

1. "The Amistad Case: The Humanities, Florida History, and Our Common Path." For this "mini-grant," we propose two free public matinees (February 11 and 18) during the run of *The Amistad Case* at the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre, the community's cross-cultural artistic organization. As we have twice in the past, four "humanities scholars" (as the FHC defines them) will conduct a discussion with the audience after the performance, raising issues of community concern and using as the "text" the audience's experience with this play about the 1839 revolt of slaves on the Cuban schooner, "Amistad," and their subsequent trial and acquittal, at which the ex-president, John Quincy Adams, represented the defense. In line with the theatre's principles, every effort will be made to have audience representing a broad cross-section of the community.
2. "Come on Down to Florida: A Writers' and Humanists' Perspective on "Finding a Common Path." We plan to take the performance of *Come on Down to Florida* at Writing the Region: A Workshop Honoring Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (held in late July of this year) to eight locations about Gainesville and Alachua County (with a flexible schedule extending from March 1-September 1, 2001). *Come on Down to Florida* is a collage of

writings (drawn from two wonderful books published by Pineapple Press [*A Florida Reader* and *Florida Poetry*] as well as writers at the Workshop) about the state, from authors well-known and not so well known, from natives to visitors. The performance, where the writings are "staged" by six actors, covers several concerns: our present in light of our history, the "culture" or lack of it in Florida, the diversity of our people, and Florida's environment. As with *The Amistad Case* above, the performance will serve as a springboard for discussion between humanities scholars and the audience.

3. "*More Letters to the Editor: The Community Talking, Finding a Common Path.*" This original play, based on letters to the Editor of *The Gainesville Sun* (and other local papers) over the last 150 years will premier at the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre in November of this year and, after the holiday break, will be restaged in January. A sort of *Our Town*, but with the dialogue coming from real people, the show examines, through such letters, the history of our community and its concerns (from traffic to the races, from developers to the impact of World War II, from the school system to politics). Again, with a flexible schedule (February 1-September 1) we propose taking the production to eight locations, in Gainesville, Alachau County, and--possibly--to other Florida counties. And, again, the performance will serve as the basis of a post-play discussion between humanities scholars and the audience.

I am asking each of you to serve in one (or more) of the following capacities for these grants. Let me first list the various positions (including the amount of work involved, as well as any compensation allowed by the grant) and then what I'd like each of you to do. Please understand, this letter is, first of all, a *request*, an earnest request that you join us, and then, if that permission is forthcoming, an indication of the entry I'd like to make for you on the actual grant application.

1. Sponsoring Official: the person who heads the non-profit agency that is sponsoring the grant application. No work involved here (although your advice is always appreciated)--just the presence of your name.
2. Project Director: the person who actually administers the project, from directing the performance to managing the tour, to handling the details connected with the grant. A major position, with an honorarium stipulated in the application.
3. Fiscal Agent: the treasurer or business manager of the sponsoring organization, responsible for keeping the books and writing the checks. Minimal work involved.
4. Co-Sponsor: the person who heads the organization that serves as co-sponsor for the grant. No work involved here (but, again, your opinion is always appreciated)--just the presence of your name.
5. Project Co-Director: the assistant to the Project Director, with grant-stipulated compensation involved.
6. Independent Evaluator: required by the Florida Humanities Council, this person comes to one of the performance--more if he or she wishes--and then sends in a report assessing the project to the FHC. Compensation required by the FHC.
7. Advisory Committee: a group of distinguished citizens who are given an early draft of the grant proposal and whose opinions as to its merit are then solicited. Minimal work involved, even as your opinion, not to mention the presence of your name on the application, ratifies the proposal. No compensation.
8. Humanities Scholars. Those holding academic positions in universities, from a variety of FHC-defined humanistic disciplines, who, in the three applications discussed here, are responsible for conducting post-performance discussions with the audience. There is

compensation. Humanities scholars come to one, at most two performances. If traveling is involved, there is also a per diem.

Now, using the following short-forms for the three projects (*Amistad*, *Come on Down*, and *More Letters*) let me indicate the specific role or roles I'd like you to play. Note that in some cases I ask for resumes (as required by the FHC):

- Doris Bardon, Advisory Committee (*More Letters*)
- John Cech, Evaluator (*Come on Down*)
- Hugh Cunningham, Advisory Committee (*More Letters*)
- Ron Cunningham: Co-Sponsor, *The Gainesville Sun* (*More Letters*)
- David Cussen, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- June Cussen, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- Joseph Fagan, Humanities Scholar (*Amistad Case*)--resume required
- William Eyerly: Project Director (*More Letters*)--resume required
- Michael Gannon, Humanities Scholar (*Amistad Case*)--resume required
- Pegeen Harrahan, Co-Sponsor, Gainesville City Commission (*More Letters*); Co-Sponsor, Gainesville City Commission (*Come on Down*)
- Karelisa Hartigan, Humanities Scholar (*More Letters*); Humanities Scholar (*Come on Down*)--resume required
- Mildred Hill-Lubin, Humanities Scholar (*More Letters*); Humanities Scholar (*Amistad Case*)--resume required
- Norma Homan, Sponsoring Official and Fiscal Agent (*More Letters*); Sponsoring Official (*Come on Down*)
- Sidney Homan, Project Co-Director (*More Letters*); Project Director and Humanities Scholar (*Come on Down*); Project Director and Humanities Scholar (*Amistad Case*)--resume required
- Jane Anderson Jones, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- Nickie Kortus, Advisory Committee (*More Letters*)
- Murray Laurie, Advisory Committee (*More Letters*)
- Jack Lane, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- Ralph Lowenstein, Independent Evaluator (*More Letters*)
- Kevin McCarthy, Humanities Scholar (*Come on Down*)--resume required
- Bill Maxwell, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- Peter Meinke, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- Shelley Mickle, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- Kenneth Nunn, Humanities Scholar (*More Letters*)--resume required
- Maurice O'Sullivan, Advisory Committee (*Come on Down*)
- Dennis Owen, Humanities Scholar (*More Letters*)--resume required
- Sam Proctor, Advisory Committee (*More Letters*)
- Hernan Vera, Advisory Committee (*More Letters*)
- Nancy Williams, Fiscal Agent (*Come on Down*)

Again, I hope you all say "yes" to this request. And, by all means, call me if you have questions about anything--from compensation to dates to further clarification of the grant proposals. If a resume is required, please send it. I would be so grateful if you responded at your earliest possible convenience, for, of course, I am facing grant deadlines. My home phone is: 352-378-9166, and you can mail me c/o English Department, 4008 Turlington Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

I would be so honored if you would be part of these projects.

Yours,
Sid

Dean Pogson,
The City's Co-Sponsorship
of two of these projects would involve
nothing more than your blessing, but, of
course, would be so appropriate. Sid