

**Cooper Foundation
870 Wells Fargo Center
1248 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2007**

COOPER FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$236,000 IN MAY

Cooper Foundation awarded grants totaling \$236,000 in May toward programs in Lincoln and around the state. Grants include three year funding for the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, which has leveraged nearly \$3 million in direct support of arts and humanities programming since 1998, operational support for three organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Lincoln's children and youth, entrepreneurship development for Native American artists in Winnebago, funding for a cooperative technology center in Ord, and support for the residency of a Chinese poet at Art Farm in Marquette. The Cooper Foundation was founded in 1934 by Joseph H. Cooper, owner of the Cooper Theatres, and has granted over \$16 million to benefit the people of Nebraska. The Foundation makes quarterly grant awards supporting education, human services, the arts, the humanities, and the environment in Lincoln and Lancaster County, and throughout Nebraska. For more information about grant guidelines and application deadlines visit the Foundation's website, www.cooperfoundation.org.

Grants approved, May 2007

Grantees are located in Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

Art Farm, Marquette, NE - \$4,500

Support for a three-month residency of a Chinese poet at Art Farm, a non-profit artist residency program open to visual, literary and performing artists as well as architects, craftspeople and designers, on a 40 acre farm in central Nebraska.

CASA for Lancaster County - \$20,000

General operating support for this agency that trains volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates to advocate for children who are in the court system due to abuse and neglect.

Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$10,000

Second year support toward staff positions to increase the number of children served with quality mentoring relationships.

Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation, Walthill, NE - \$25,000

Support for training and technical assistance for Native American entrepreneurs making arts and fine crafts, as part of the Woodland Trails Art Retail and Learning Center in Winnebago, Nebraska.

Lincoln Children's Museum - \$20,000

Salary support for the new Membership Coordinator position, to further the Museum's mission "to invite children to create, discover and learn through the power of play."

Loup Basin RC&D Council, Ord, NE - \$25,000

Support for a part time director for the new Loup Basin Technology Center in Ord, which serves a nine county region in north central Nebraska with computers, video conferencing, distance learning capabilities and related equipment.

Native American Public Telecommunications - \$5,000

VisionMaker Film Festival, featuring documentary and narrative films produced by and about Native Americans, at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, November 16-29, 2007.

Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Omaha, NE - \$60,000

Operating support over three years for a major gifts campaign to raise \$2 million for the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. In 1998 the Nebraska Legislature created the State of Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund which set aside \$5 million for the benefit of the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) and the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC). Private donations to the Nebraska Cultural Endowment release state funds in an equal amount for immediate use by the NAC and NHC, which provide comprehensive arts and humanities programming across the state.

Nebraska Independent College Foundation, Omaha, NE - \$16,500

Cooper Foundation Scholarships for Students of Color at 11 member institutions.

Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Omaha, NE - \$10,000

Support for the program Shakespeare in American Communities, a professional touring production of a Shakespeare play and educational workshops in schools and communities in Nebraska and the region.

United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County - \$10,000

Support for the 2-1-1, a free 24-hour telephone line to provide information and referral services for health, human services and community programs.

University of Nebraska Foundation

Charitable Gift Fund on behalf of 2015 Vision - \$30,000

Support for the public outreach activities of 2015 Vision, a cooperative project with a focus to strengthen research and education, create jobs and provide new entertainment and cultural opportunities for citizens of Lincoln.

**For clarification or additional information
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