



2008-09 Request for Proposals Darrell Bourque: Conversations with and Readings by Louisiana's State Poet Laureate



The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities announces the availability of grants to sponsor the Poet Laureate for readings and discussions in libraries and cultural institutions throughout the state.

Darrell Bourque, a resident of rural St. Landry Parish, was recently appointed Louisiana's Poet Laureate by Governor Kathleen Blanco. He is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Bourque's published works include *The Blue Boat*, which is the inaugural issue of special editions of the Center for Louisiana Studies; *Burnt Water Suite* (1999); *Where Land Meets Sky*, a volume issued by the University Art Museum, highlighting Bourque's poetry from Plainsongs along with Elemore Morgan Jr.'s paintings and drawings; *The Doors Between Us*, which was the inaugural edition of the Louisiana Literature's chapbook series; and *Plainsongs* (1994), published by Cross-Cultural Communications Press, Merrick, New York, and now in its second printing. Bourque has served as President of the National Association for Humanities Education and on the Louisiana State Taskforce for Literature and Literacy.

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) will award up to four (4) \$2,500 Outreach Grants in 2008 and four (4) in 2009 to non-profit organizations (e.g. libraries, adult literacy groups) wishing to have Dr. Bourque for poetry readings and discussions or presentations on topics such as:

- Language studies
- Bi-lingualism in Louisiana
- Poetic forms
- Poetry and landscape
- Cajun and Creole cultures
- Teaching poetry in the classroom

Criteria for all projects:

Submissions must be of interest to general public audiences. Events must be open to the general adult public. Programs designed strictly for school-age children are ineligible. Eligible Costs: Applicants may request funds for stipends, publicity and promotional materials. Generally, the honorarium for the Poet Laureate will depend upon the number of activities and length of travel from his home.

Application Process:

Potential applicants should contact the LEH to secure detailed information on preparing the application. The staff will review and critique drafts submitted four to six weeks before the deadline. Applications and guidelines are available to download on the LEH website at www.leh.org/grants/apply.htm, or by contacting the LEH office directly.

Application Deadlines: The 15th of Jan., March, May, July, Sept. and Nov. 2008 and 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Awards will be announced four-six weeks after the deadline.

For application details, contact:

Walker Lasiter, lasiter@leh.org, 504-620-2631
Rachel Norman, norman@leh.org, 504-620-2479

Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities
938 Lafayette Street, Suite 300
New Orleans, LA 70113
1.800.909.7990 x123 or x131 (in Louisiana)
504.523.4352 x 123 or x131
www.leh.org

For booking details, contact:

Darrell Bourque, dbourque@centrytel.net
337-684-3542 (phone)

If you would like to have Dr. Bourque's books available for the event, contact:

James D. Wilson at the Center of Louisiana Studies, jdww3590@louisiana.edu, 337-482-6350) for copies of *Blueboat*.

Stanley Barkan at Cross-Cultural Communications (cccpoetry@aol.com, 516-868-5635) for copies of *Plainsongs*.