

## Casey Toomay

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**Subject:** FW: Langston Hughes in Lawrence

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**From:** Dorman, Jacob S [<mailto:dorman@ku.edu>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2014 3:01 PM

**To:** David L. Corliss

**Cc:** Susan Tate; Jelks, Randal M; Jones, Jameelah Tamira; Huycke, Rose; Honeycutt, Ben; Bower, Kennedy

**Subject:** Re: Langston Hughes in Lawrence Projects Presentation May 13?

Dear Dave,

Thanks for checking to see if my students can make a presentation to the City Commission for Tuesday May 13.

With your approval, what we want to request is a full time staff position to organize an annual Langston Hughes Not Just Blues festival beginning in Fall 2015, featuring music, theater, literature, poetry, and the arts inspired by Langston Hughes life and work. You would have a better sense of a dollar figure than I would, but I'm guessing \$75K for salary + benefits.

This year, we would ask for funding for the position and some amount of travel funds to send city officials on fact finding missions to model festivals in Grand Rapids, Michigan (June 6-8 <http://www.festivalgr.org/>); San Francisco, California (October 3-5 2014 <http://www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com/2013/>); and UCLA Memorial Day weekend <http://www.jazzreggaeifest.com/> Perhaps \$25K?

Next year we would ask for the staff position and some amount of operating expenses for the first festival, in Fall 2015. We should have a lot of support from local businesses, the Chamber, and CVB because this festival will fill hotel rooms and restaurants on a bye or away football weekend. It would be a smart economic investment for the City and will lead to the kind of hip arts development that the City is trying to encourage on a number of fronts.

Next year we might also ask for funds for an annual Langston Hughes Award to honor lifetime achievement in arts and social activism, which would be another way to raise Lawrence's profile nationally and internationally, leveraging the celebrity of honorees.

The staff person will also be responsible for curriculum development and for creating walking tours for school groups and tourists centering on the life of Langston Hughes. Curriculum such as this: <http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/lc/index>

I want to set up a meeting with Susan Tate and my colleague Randal Jelks for this week to see if Susan would take on the Langston Hughes position as part of the Lawrence Arts Center.

Best,

Jake

Jacob S. Dorman, Ph.D.  
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& Department of American Studies  
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On May 5, 2014, at 11:30 AM, David L. Corliss <[DCorliss@lawrenceks.org](mailto:DCorliss@lawrenceks.org)> wrote:

Professor Dorman,

Thank you for the email. I'm checking on City Commission agenda availability and hope to advise you soon. The City's 2015 budget is currently under development (including certain deadlines for submitting requests); let me know more specifically the request and I can see if it can be considered; thanks for your efforts on this important subject, Dave

**David L. Corliss** *City Manager* - [dcorliss@lawrenceks.org](mailto:dcorliss@lawrenceks.org)  
City Manager's Office  
City of Lawrence, Kansas  
6 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street / P.O. Box 708  
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**From:** Dorman, Jacob S [<mailto:dorman@ku.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 05, 2014 10:40 AM  
**To:** David L. Corliss  
**Cc:** Jones, Jameelah Tamira; Huycke, Rose; Honeycutt, Ben; Bower, Kennedy  
**Subject:** Langston Hughes in Lawrence Projects Presentation May 13?

Dear Dave,

Would it be possible for my class to make a presentation to the City Commission on May 13 on the work that they have done to identify Langston Hughes sites and the Hughes related projects they have come up with, such as an annual Langston Hughes Not Just Blues Festival, beginning in Fall 2015? The Hughes sites are part of the Douglas County Heritage Council grant that we are a part of.

I have four exceptionally dedicated students who would make a terrific presentation, and they could share a map of the Hughes site and prospective texts for each site, as well as the larger vision of why the City of Lawrence should support these efforts.

If you like, we could meet beforehand to make sure the presentation would be as effective as possible, and to discuss whether any funds might be available to support the planning of the Fall 2015 event in the coming fiscal year.

Many thanks,

Jake

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Kansas: There are hills.

*Chosen People: The Rise of American Black Israelite Religions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013, by Jacob S. Dorman <http://is.gd/Lm2ZVQ>  
Winner of the 2012-2013 Byron Caldwell Smith Award; Named a 2013 Choice Outstanding Book of the Year.

"An immense contribution to our understanding of the African Diaspora, religion and modernity, and the vexing problem of cultural identity. The research is prodigious, the scope impressive, and his telling of how African-descended people embraced and transformed Judaism is truly dynamic." -  
-Robin D.G. Kelley

"*Chosen People* offers a fascinating look at Black Israelites, people who resided in the interstices of groups and ideas we commonly separate-Blacks and Jews, religion and politics, history and identity, cultural theory and historical documentation, Christians and Jews. Dorman situates his subjects in an incredibly rich context, illuminating not only those African Americans who believed in the blackness of the ancient Hebrews, but also the many social, political, and cultural forces operating in post-emancipation African American history. It is fascinating reading for anyone interested in American religion, history, or culture."--Cheryl Greenberg, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of History, Trinity College

On Mar 14, 2014, at 2:03 PM, David L. Corliss <[DCorliss@lawrenceks.org](mailto:DCorliss@lawrenceks.org)> wrote:

Super, thanks for everyone's work on this

**David L. Corliss** City Manager - [dcorliss@lawrenceks.org](mailto:dcorliss@lawrenceks.org)  
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**From:** Heather Hoy [<mailto:heather@lawrenceartscenter.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2014 1:59 PM  
**To:** Susan Tate; Jacob Dorman Gmail ([jacobsdorman@gmail.com](mailto:jacobsdorman@gmail.com)); David L. Corliss; Diane Stoddard  
**Subject:** Final Grant Application

A pdf is attached. As far as the timeline going forward see below:

Applicant Presentations March 27, 2014 - April 3, 2014  
HCC Evaluation April 17, 2014 - April 24, 2014  
HCC Recommendation to County Commissioners May 7, 2014

Thanks!

**Heather Hoy**

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785.766.1557 (Cell) | [heather@lawrenceartscenter.org](mailto:heather@lawrenceartscenter.org) | [lawrenceartscenter.org](http://lawrenceartscenter.org)

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