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Chicago Humanities Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival Announces Gala Benefit on Oct. 2, 2013

Honoring Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Northwestern University, University of Chicago, and University of Illinois

Chicago—July 31, 2013—Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) is pleased to announce its 2013 annual **Gala Benefit on Oct. 2** at the **Four Seasons Hotel Chicago**. Proceeds from the event will directly advance the CHF's mission to create opportunities for people of all ages to support, enjoy, and explore the humanities. Additionally, proceeds from the event's paddle raise will support CHF's **First Time for a Lifetime™** education and outreach initiatives.

The Gala Benefit is spearheaded by co-chairs **Allegra Biery, Senior Vice President, Northern Trust** and **R. Scott Falk, Partner, Kirkland & Ellis**. Early leadership commitments include: **Northern Trust, Kirkland & Ellis, Paul and Ellen Gignilliat, Elizabeth Nolan, Illinois Tool Works, Harrison and Lois Steans, The Allstate Corporation, and Robert R. McCormick Foundation**.

Every year, the Festival recognizes organizations and individuals that have demonstrated a strong commitment to the humanities and a working partnership with CHF. This year, CHF will honor **Robert R. McCormick Foundation** and its **President and Chief Executive Officer, David Hiller**.

"The McCormick Foundation has been an integral partner with us from the beginning," said **Chicago Humanities Festival Executive Director Phillip Bahar**. "We are pleased to honor its long-term commitment to Chicago's cultural community, as well as making great art and ideas accessible to all."

Additionally, CHF is thrilled to salute three key academic partners: **Northwestern University**, the **University of Chicago**, and the **University of Illinois**. Collectively and individually, these university partners are vital to CHF's mission to bring renowned pioneers and thinkers in literature, history, science, politics, art, and music to the Festival. **President Morton Schapiro, President Robert J. Zimmer, and President Robert A. Easter** will represent their respective universities at the benefit dinner and accept awards highlighting their partnerships with the Festival.

"These universities not only provide us with excellent speakers, but also help the Chicago Humanities Festival reach new audiences by partnering for programming on their campuses," said **CHF Artistic Director Matti Bunzl**. "We are honored to have the leaders of our prestigious universities together at one time and we look forward to the opportunity to offer a public 'Thank You.'"

In addition to the honoree awards, the evening's program includes a special performance by singers from the **Ryan Opera Center**, directed by **Andreas Mitisek, General Director of Chicago Opera Theater**. The performance is being generously underwritten by a gift from **Julie and Roger Baskes** and promises to be inspiring and entertaining.

For over two decades, CHF has made Chicago a more vibrant and culturally enriched place by uniting the arts and humanities in a thought-provoking festival during the first two weeks of November. In 2012, CHF produced more than 100 intellectually stimulating programs enjoyed by over 50,000 people. **First Time for a Lifetime™**, which encompasses its education and outreach programs, supports attendance by teachers, students, and school groups, and includes educator professional development and resources to support classroom learning. By keeping ticket prices low—and often free to students and teachers—CHF creates an environment that encourages people of all ages and economic circumstances to examine the world of ideas. The Gala Benefit supports CHF and is critical to its education and outreach efforts.

To download a PDF version of the release, visit: <http://chf.to/CHFPress>

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About Chicago Humanities Festival

The Chicago Humanities Festival began in 1989 as a dream shared by a determined group of Chicago's cultural leaders eager to extend the riches of the humanities to everyone. Since that first year, some of the world's most exciting thinkers, artists and performers have come to Chicago each fall for a festival that celebrates ideas in the context of civic life. Past Festival themes include Love and Marriage, Crime and Punishment, Work and Play, Peace and War, Thinking Big, and this year's **Animal: What Makes Us Human, Oct. 13, 20, and Nov. 1–10, 2013**. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar** and **Artistic Director Matti Bunzl**, CHF partners with some of Chicago's premier cultural institutions, and the festival has become an annual highlight for thousands of people from Chicago and beyond. In addition to the annual fall festival, CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, a global performance festival for families and theatergoers of any age, and programs throughout the year that encourage the study and enjoyment of the humanities. For more information, please visit chicagohumanities.org.

For more information or to make your reservation to the CHF Gala Benefit, please visit www.pjhchicago.com/event/chf or contact Carol Smith at PJH & Associates, Inc., at 312-553-2000 or csmith@pjhchicago.com