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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival Announces 25th Anniversary Benefit Gala on Oct. 21

Honoring John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe, Humanists of the Year
And Featuring *New York Times* Columnist David Brooks

Chicago—Sept. 17, 2014—Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) is pleased to announce its 25th Anniversary Benefit Gala on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. The Benefit Gala will honor John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe as Humanists of the Year, and feature an intimate conversation with political and cultural commentator David Brooks. Brooks will participate in the Gala following a [public program](#) at the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Proceeds from both programs 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.

Each 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 John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe.

The Rowes are committed to improving education, supporting the arts and the humanities, and celebrating diversity. Through the Rowe Family Charitable Trust, they have founded the Rowe-Clark Math and Science Academy and the Rowe Elementary School. They are long-time patrons of the John Paul II parochial school. They have funded two professorships in architecture and one in engineering at IIT; two professorships in history and one in virology at the University of Wisconsin; and a curatorship in evolutionary biology at the Field Museum. They have also been substantial contributors to the Field Museum, the Oriental Institute, the Chicago History Museum, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Dominican University. John has served as chairman of the Commercial Club, the History Museum, the Field Museum, and the Holocaust Museum.

"We are delighted to be honoring John and Jeanne Rowe at this year's Gala. They meaningfully contribute to the cultural fabric of our city, as well as driving national conversations about the importance of the arts, ideas, and education, each of which is central to our mission," said Philip Bahar, executive director of the Chicago Humanities Festival. "Jeanne is a leading champion for education in both philanthropy and personal service, devoting two days a week to tutoring children and mentoring high school girls. John teaches a history class and served as co-chair for The Heart of the Matter, a Congressionally-commissioned study for advancing the humanities and social sciences. Our featured speaker, David Brooks, served with John on this Commission. Celebrating our 25th anniversary with the Rowes and David Brooks is the perfect launch to our fall program."

David Brooks is one of America's most prominent political commentators. He writes a bi-weekly OpEd column for *The New York Times* and is a regular analyst on *PBS NewsHour* and on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. His newest book is titled *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement*. He has worked at *The Weekly Standard* and been a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and *The Atlantic Monthly*. He worked at *The Wall Street Journal* and has written for *The New Yorker*, *Forbes*, *The Washington Post*, and many other periodicals.

The Benefit Gala is spearheaded by co-chairs **Richard J. Franke** (Chief Executive Officer Emeritus, Nuveen Investments, Inc.), **Harrison I. Steans**, (Chairman of the Executive Committee, Financial Investments Corporation), and **Frederick H. Waddell** (Chairman and CEO, Northern Trust). Gala Planning Committee Co-Chairs are **Allegra E. Biery** (Region President, Wealth Management, Northern Trust) and **R. Scott Falk** (Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP).

Leadership commitments include: **Exelon, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Barbara and Richard Franke, Ellen and Paul C. Gignilliat, Richard and Mary L. Gray, Illinois Tool Works, Douglas and Lynn Jackson, Northern Trust, John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe, Karla Scherer and Harve Ferrill, Anita K. and Prabha Sinha, Lois M. and Harrison I. Steans, Marilynn and Carl Thoma, Annette W. Turow, and The Allstate Insurance Company.**

For 25 years, CHF has made Chicago a more vibrant and culturally enriched place by uniting the arts and humanities in its thought-provoking fall festival and year-round programs. In 2013, CHF produced 140 programs enjoyed by more than 40,000 people. Serving over 10,000 students and teachers each year, CHF's **First Time for a Lifetime** education initiatives support attendance by teachers, students, and school groups to CHF programs and performances, as well as professional development resources for educators that support classroom learning. CHF is committed to keeping ticket prices low—and often free—for students and teachers, creating an environment that encourages people of all ages to examine the world of ideas. The Gala Benefit supports CHF and is critical to its education and outreach efforts.

CHF 25th Anniversary Benefit Gala Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Time: **5:30 p.m.** [Karla Scherer Endowed Lecture with David Brooks \(Fourth Presbyterian Church\)](#)
6:30 p.m. Private Reception
7:30 p.m. Private Dinner and Conversation with David Brooks

Location: Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 East Delaware Place

Dress: Business Attire

Gala Tickets: Premium Reservation **\$1,000**
Individual Reservation **\$500**
David Brooks Public Lecture **\$50**

Website: For more information or to make your reservation to the CHF 25th Anniversary Benefit Gala, please visit chicagohumanities.org/gala or call 312-553-2000.

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ABOUT CHF:

For 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the intellectually curious, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, Chicago's only international children's theater festival. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar** and **Marilynn Thoma Endowed Chair for Artistic Leadership Matti Bunzl**, CHF has become an institution central to the fabric of the city. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.