CITY OF OCEANSIDE

NEWS RELEASE

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OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES SECOND *BIG READ* GRANT FROM NEA

The Oceanside Public Library has received a $17,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host a second *Big Read,* a community-wide reading program, in the Oceanside area. The Library was one of only 76 organizations selected from a pool of applicants nationwide to receive this prestigious grant.

The *Big Read* gives communities the opportunity to come together to read, discuss and celebrate one of 31 selections from American and world literature. The *Big Read* in Oceanside will focus on *Their Eyes Were Watching God by* Zora Neale Hurston. This vibrant novel was written at the pinnacle of the Harlem Renaissance, and narrates the life of Janie Crawford, on her journey from a teen with no voice in the outcome of her life to a woman on a path to independence and self-fulfillment.

The Oceanside Public Library will be partnering with several local organizations, educational institutions and civic groups to enhance the reach and impact of this significant reading event. Planned partners include the Oceanside Museum of Art, the Oceanside Historical Society, KSDS Jazz Radio, Barnes & Noble and many others. Activities will take place in February 2011.

"We are so pleased to have another opportunity to bring this National Endowment of the Arts grant to Oceanside," said Monica Chapa-Domercq Principal Librarian for the Oceanside Public Library. "Our community's last *Big Read* experience was so positive and exciting, we can't wait to reveal the innovative and creative programs that Zora Neale Hurston inspires!"

Additional support for *The Big Read* is provided by the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library and the Oceanside Public Library Foundation.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. Selected organizations receive *Big Read* grants to promote and carry out community-based reading programs featuring activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions, lectures, movie screenings, and performing arts events.

For further information about *The Big Read* events in Oceanside, please contact Monica Chapa-Domercq at (760) 435-5600 or visit the Library webpage at www.oceansidepubliclibrary.org. For more information about *The Big Read*, please visit www.neabigread.org.

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