CITY OF OCEANSIDE

NEWS RELEASE



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OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES THIRD 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 third *Big Read,* a community-wide reading program, in the Oceanside area. The Library was one of only 77 organizations selected from a pool of applicants nationwide to receive this prestigious grant.

The Big Read is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The Big Read in Oceanside will focus on The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett. In this classic American private-eye novel, Detective Sam Spade becomes embroiled with a mysterious client, avenges the death of his partner, and chases a priceless treasure. The Maltese Falcon (1930), set the standard by which all subsequent detective fiction would be judged.

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 Police Department, the North County LGBTQ Resource Center, the Oceanside Museum of Art, the Oceanside Historical Society, KSDS Jazz Radio, Barnes & Noble and many others. Activities will take place in January 2014.

"The Oceanside Public Library is extremely pleased and honored to be able to bring another *Big Read* to the community," said Franklin Escobedo, Principal Librarian for the Oceanside Public Library. "We have planned some exciting and unique programs to compliment the book, and hope everyone will join us to read, discuss, and celebrate this literary work that sparked a generation of noir fiction!"

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with 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.

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

For further information about *The Big Read* events in Oceanside, please contact Franklin Escobedo at (760) 435-5600. For more information about *The Big Read*, please visit www.neabigread.org.

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