

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



THE  
**BIG  
READ**



# The Big Read New Hampshire Reads *Fahrenheit 451*

*The Big Read: New Hampshire Reads Fahrenheit 451* is a project of the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library in partnership with the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

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.

Our goal is to encourage our communities to read and discuss Ray Bradbury's classic novel and the value of books. To get this conversation going we asked readers to tell us which books they would "Save from the Flames."

Our October 1st kick-off reception will be held at the New Hampshire State Library and our programming will culminate in events at the SNOB Film Festival on Veterans Day weekend. In between, there will be book discussions, films, lectures, and programs at over 60 Granite State libraries, schools, and bookstores. Details of our project, including a full calendar of events, are available at <http://bigreadnh.blogspot.com>

Supporters of our project include, in addition to our partners and participants, The NH Department of Cultural Resources, New Hampshire Public Radio, the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium, Portsmouth Public Library, *Keene Sentinel*, Village Cucina, and the SNOB (Somewhat North of Boston) Film Festival.

Modeled on successful "city reads" programs, the Big Read was created to address the national decline in literary reading as documented in the NEA's 2004 landmark survey Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. The survey showed that less than half of the American adult population now reads literature. The NH Center for the Book was one of 117 organizations in the U.S. that were awarded NEA Big Read grants ranging between \$5,000 and \$20,000 for Fall 2007 programs.

The Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library was established in 2003 to celebrate and promote reading, books, literacy, and the literary heritage of New Hampshire and to highlight the role that reading and libraries play in enriching the lives of the people of the Granite State. We are an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Our activities include the semiannual publication of Book Notes; state coordination of Letters About Literature, a national student writing competition; awarding the Ladybug Picture Book Award each year; and participation in the National Book Festival.

<http://bigreadnh.blogspot.com>