



Application Form Ruth Suckow Traveling Exhibit

The Ruth Suckow Memorial Association, with the support of Humanities Iowa, is pleased to announce the creation of a **Traveling Exhibit** celebrating the life and work of Iowa novelist and short story writer Ruth Suckow who lived from 1892 to 1960.

In the 1920s, H. L. Mencken wrote: “I regard Ruth Suckow as the most promising young writer of fiction, man or woman, now visibly at work in America.” Suckow is Iowa’s “Willa Cather”—but, sadly, not as well known. In 9 novels and 43 short stories—most set in Iowa—Suckow captured the lives, passions, and struggles of ordinary people in their small towns and farms. Suckow’s works include *Iowa Interiors* (short stories) and the novels *Country People*, *Odyssey of a Nice Girl*, *The Folks* (a Literary Guild selection and bestseller in 1934), *A Part of the Institution* (based on Grinnell College), and *The John Wood Case* (which draws on an actual northwest Iowa embezzlement tragedy). We launched the Traveling Exhibit on January 1, 2024 as part of the Centennial Celebration of Suckow’s first novel, *Country People*. **Host sites have been scheduled for 2024 and 2025 and we are now scheduling for 2026 and 2027.**

A Traveling Exhibit is particularly appropriate for Ruth Suckow for, as the daughter of a Congregational minister, she lived in 12 Iowa communities across her 68 years: Hawarden (birth place), Paulina, LeMars, Algona, Fort Dodge, Manchester, Earlville, McGregor, Cedar Falls, Grinnell, Des Moines, and Davenport.

Applicant Requirements:

1. Non-profit status – such as Iowa public libraries, historical societies, German American groups, and other Iowa cultural organizations.
2. Host contribution: The Exhibit is offered free-of-charge; however, we are asking each hosting institution to take responsibility for mailing or driving the Exhibit shipping box to the next Exhibit site. (It will contain six 24 x 36 inch panels, a retractable banner, brochures, and a flash drive offering audio recordings of 12 of Suckow’s 43 short stories). To reduce mailing (or driving) costs for each hosting organization, we will make all effort to schedule the Traveling Exhibit so that hosting sites will be as close to each other as possible. We hope this will keep host costs to less than \$50.

Applicant Information

(please fill out and return to lounsberry@gmail.com)

Host Organization Name:

Host Contact (person responsible for the Exhibit):

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Preferred Length to Host the Exhibit:

4 weeks
 5 weeks
 6 weeks

Ideal Dates to Host the Exhibit (we will try to honor first choices as much as possible and will work with the host institution regarding scheduling):

First Choice:
Second Choice:
Third Choice:

Interest in having a free opening Exhibit Talk provided by the Ruth Suckow Memorial Association:

Yes
 No
 Not sure

(We will try to provide requested opening talks whenever we can.)

In submitting this Application Form, I confirm that the hosting institution is an Iowa non-profit and that we will take responsibility for the cost of shipping or driving the Exhibit box to the next Host site.

Name _____

Date _____

Thank you!

Send this completed form to lounsberry@gmail.com

