

PRESS RELEASE:

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For more information:

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MEDIA ALERT –

CAC'S BIG READ VISITED BY NEA'S DAVID KIPEN
Douglas County's Celebration of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce that the first event of the more than 50 activities planned in celebration of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* during September and October in Douglas County will be a visit from David Kipen, Director of Literature, National Reading Initiatives, National Endowment for the Arts, on Sunday, September 14th, at 3 p.m. at Douglasville Library where he will help the CAC and Douglas County Libraries distribute books, readers guides and bookmarks to the Douglas County Schools, senior centers, and project participants, local readers. Following the event at the library, there will be a reception at the Cultural Arts Center where Mr. Kipen will further discuss The Big Read for interested participants. These special events are free and open to the public.

David Kipen joined the National Endowment for the Arts in September 2005 as the Director of Literature. As Director of Literature, National Reading Initiatives, Kipen manages the Big Read, the Arts Endowment's largest literary initiative. The Big Read has expanded into more than 400 communities nationwide and represents the largest grants portfolio in the Arts Endowment. Formerly the book critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Kipen was also a critic and essayist for National Public Radio's "Day to Day" program. Kipen served on prize juries for the National Book Critics Circle (where he was also a board member), the Commonwealth Club of California, and PEN West. Kipen joined the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1998 as editor for the paper's Sunday Book Review. He assigned and edited feature articles and reviews and also wrote his own features, reviews, and column. He is the author of *The Schreiber Theory: A Radical Rewrite of American Film History*, and a new translation of Cervantes' *The Dialogue of the Dogs*. Kipen received his bachelor's degree in literature from Yale University in 1985.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for The Big Read is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Transportation for The Big Read is provided by Ford. For more information about The Big Read including a schedule of events scheduled in Douglasville and Douglas County, please visit www.neabigread.org.