

Illinois Humanities Council



www.prairie.org

Presents the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition:

Journey Stories



APPLICATION TO HOST THE EXHIBITION

Return the completed form to:

Illinois Humanities Council
17 North State Street
Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60602.3296
Fax: 312.422.5588

About Museum on Main Street

The Illinois Humanities Council invites smaller museums, libraries, and historical societies in towns of fewer than 25,000 residents to apply to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, *Journey Stories*. The IHC's *Museum on Main Street* (MoMS) project, in partnership with Smithsonian Institution, brings the highest-quality traveling exhibits to small communities around Illinois in an effort to: strengthen organizational capacity; build partnerships; and develop quality programs.

The exhibition will tour six Illinois communities from June 2012 through April 2013. Sites will be chosen based on geographic location, strength of proposed ideas for auxiliary programming, potential for organizational growth, and physical display space. Applications should be postmarked by June 30, 2011. Selections will be announced in August 2011.

A complete application will include the application form and a summary narrative (See below).

About the Exhibition

"Journey Stories," the Smithsonian's newest Museum on Main Street exhibition, is curated by William Withuhn, from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The exhibition focuses on tales of how we and our ancestors came to America. From Native Americans to new American citizens and regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone has a story to tell. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything – families and possessions – to reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or even across an ocean. The reasons behind those decisions are myriad. Many chose to move, searching for something better in a new land. Others had no choice, like enslaved Africans captured and relocated to a strange land and bravely asserting their own cultures, or like Native Americans already here, who were often pushed aside by newcomers.

The exhibition will also explore our transportation history. The development of transportation technology was largely inspired by the human drive for freedom. Journey Stories will examine the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move. The story is diverse and focused on immigration, migration, innovation, and freedom. It is accounts of immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journeys of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and, of course, fun and frolic on the open road.

The exhibition consists of six free-standing structures, with audio and interactive components, along with artifacts mounted in cases. Host sites will require access to roughly 700 square feet of display space with, at least, 8-foot ceilings.



The Illinois Humanities Council will provide the following for each host community:

- Rental of the Smithsonian exhibit for \$1500 for a six-week period;
- An exhibit support manual covering installation, object collection and conservation, public relations, and evaluation;
- Promotional items including exhibit brochures, postcards, teacher resources, docent handbooks, and posters for distribution;
- Guidance in program planning and ready-made promotional materials such as PSAs;
- Travel expenses for project personnel to attend three statewide workshops organized by the IHC;
- Up to \$2,000 in grant funds in support of humanities-based public programs - such as festivals, guest lecturers and performers, film series, artifact collections, workshops, reading discussion programs, dramatizations, etc.;
- A State Scholar who will visit your town and assist with exhibition and program planning and present on opening night;
- A committee of museum experts that will provide technical assistance in all aspects of the project.

In return, Host Committees will be asked to:

- Identify a staff member or volunteer who will serve as Project Director for its duration and who will attend three statewide workshops: Orientation; Program/Exhibition Planning; and Installation;
- Design and create a small local exhibition that fits the theme of Journey Stories as it relates to your town's local history.
- Plan and implement at least three humanities-based public programs alongside the MoMS project;
- Track all staff and volunteer time, facilities, and other resources donated to the project and provide a report of this local cost share at the projects conclusion;
- Pay for shipping the exhibition to their community.

Application Form

Part 1: Tell us about your organization

Organization: _____

Project Director: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Describe the preliminary facility where "Journey Stories" will be displayed:

Describe security and climate conditions of the preliminary venue:

Number of Full-time Staff/Volunteers: _____

Number of Part-time Staff/Volunteers: _____

Preferred dates for hosting "Journey Stories" – Please indicate first and second choices:

_____ June 23 – Aug 4, 2012
'12

_____ Aug 11 – Sep 22, '12

_____ Sep 29 – Nov 10,

_____ Nov 17 – Dec 29, '12

_____ Jan 5, '13 – Feb 16, '13

_____ Feb 23 – April 6, '13

Part 2: Provide a narrative summary of ideas for making "Journey Stories" a successful humanities project for your organization and community. Please use a separate piece/s of paper to respond to the following:

- A. Please describe your organization's history, mission, and governance and offer ideas as to community resources and partnerships (other organizations, special facilities, businesses, etc.) that can help make the project successful. Also, how many staff/volunteers participate in organizational projects on a regular basis?
- B. Briefly describe some ideas you have for public programs that will enhance the exhibition (Note: You will have a chance to develop your ideas further at planning meetings for the project). Be creative and keep in mind that the most memorable programs offer their audiences meaningful experiences that are a combination of entertainment *and* education.
 - If applicable: Please include a brief description of previous public programs you have organized.
- C. Please discuss ways in which the exhibition can further your organization's goals for growth (for example: initiate a building campaign, get new members, or learn how to store and display historical artifacts).