

Illinois Humanities Council



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PRESENTS THE SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBITION: **NEW HARMONIES: CELEBRATING AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC**

COMING BACK TO ILLINOIS IN 2010



The Museum on Main Street is a partnership program between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

The Illinois Humanities Council invites smaller museums, libraries, and historical societies in **towns of fewer than 30,000 residents** to apply to host the return visit of the Smithsonian traveling exhibition called **NEW HARMONIES**. The IHC's "Museum on Main Street" project, in partnership with Smithsonian Institution, brings the highest-quality traveling exhibits to small communities around Illinois.

The exhibition will tour six Illinois communities from April 2010 to January 2011. *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 **January 31, 2009**. Selections will be announced in March 2009.

To apply, complete the information on the reverse side and return it to:

Illinois Humanities Council

17 North State St.

Suite 1400

Chicago, IL 60602.3296

FAX 312.422.5588

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

"New Harmonies" is a cultural history of America's musical landscape. It's the story of a diverse mix of people interacting with the New World, a world where cultures and customs met, mixed, and mingled and created new sounds. The distinct cultural identities of all of these peoples are carried in song -- both sacred and secular -- and the music that emerges is known by names like blues, country, western, folk, and gospel.

This exhibition tracks the unique history of many peoples reshaping each other into one incredibly diverse and complex people -- Americans. It also promises a fascinating, inspiring, and toe-tapping listen to the American story of cultural exchange with its multi-media components. As a unique traveling exhibition, it is full of surprises about familiar songs, histories of instruments, the roles of religion and technology in shaping new sounds, and the continuity of musical roots from the colonial period to modern day punk and hip-hop.

The exhibition is comprised of six freestanding structures containing interactive components and artifacts mounted in cases, requiring 800 square ft. of display space with 8-foot ceilings plus additional space for a local exhibit. Sites should also have access to standard electrical outlets.

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;
- Exhibition brochures, postcards, resources for teachers, docent handbooks, and posters for distribution;
- Assistance in program planning and ready-made promotional materials such as PSAs;
- Travel expenses for a project director to attend a planning and installation meeting at the opening site of the Illinois tour;
- 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.;
- Humanities scholar/s 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 director of the project for its duration and who will attend the installation and planning meeting and site visit;
- Plan and implement humanities-based public programs during the exhibition;
- 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.

For more information, please contact Ryan Lewis at
312.422.5585 ext. 231 (phone), 312.422.5588 (fax) or
rml@prairie.org (e-mail).



APPLICATION TO HOST THE EXHIBITION
NEW HARMONIES



Return the completed form to:

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

Postmarked by January 31, 2009

Part 1 Tell us about your Organization

Name of Organization: _____

Project Director: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Describe the facility where “New Harmonies” will be displayed:

Describe security and climate conditions:

Number of Full-time Staff: _____

Number of Part-time Staff: _____

Preferred dates for hosting “New Harmonies” – Please indicate first and second choices:

_____ Apr 10 – May 23, 2010 _____ May 29 – Jul 11, '10 _____ Jul 17 – Aug 29 '10
_____ Sept 4 – Oct 17 '10 _____ Oct 23 – Dec 5, '10 _____ Dec 11 '10 – Jan 23, 2011

Part 2 Share your preliminary ideas for making “New Harmonies” a successful humanities event/series for your community. Use a separate sheet of paper/s to respond to the following.

- A. Please describe your organization’s history and mission and offer ideas as to community resources (organizations, special facilities, etc.) that will help make the project successful.
- B. Briefly describe some ideas you have for humanities-based public programs to enhance the exhibition (Note: You will have a chance to develop your ideas further at planning meetings for the project). Be creative. Include fun activities as well as educational programming (they don't have to be exclusive).
- 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).