

Our state humanities council partners all observe that the MoMS project yields the greatest benefits when councils make a concerted effort to involve rural museums and historical organizations in planning, shaping, and implementing the project. It is least effective when it is directed as a “packaged program” that is handed down to rural communities as a federal/state initiative. Local ownership and statewide collaboration are the keys to sparking lasting institutional advancements among small town cultural organizations and raising the profile of state councils in rural communities. In order to achieve local ownership, each participating state council will need to allot both human and financial resources.

State humanities councils hosting a Museum on Main Street tour are asked to:

- Assign a staff member to serve as a state coordinator that will oversee all aspects of project administration. (In the event that there are changes in personnel, the council will assign a new coordinator.);
- Assign the state coordinator to participate in a MoMS orientation webinar and travel to participate in an exhibition-specific national planning meeting with other participating state humanities councils (lodging and meal costs are subsidized by MoMS);
- Confirm the participation of one or more state project scholars in the planning and implementation of locally-based programs and educational events. Councils work closely with scholar(s) to achieve desired results. (State scholars are also invited to the national program meetings, but attendance is not mandatory. Hotel costs and meals will be subsidized by MoMS.);
- Make supporting grants to exhibition host organizations or communities;
- Make arrangements for in-state shipping at council or venue cost. The council assumes responsibility for overseeing the safe transfer of the exhibition and monitoring its condition;
- Host a state program workshop for local project coordinators six to nine months prior to the exhibition opening;
- Host an installation workshop at the first venue during the week of the exhibition opening;
- Make a concerted effort to visit participating communities, assist in their program and event planning, and attend their events;
- Implement a statewide publicity campaign and assist local venues with their publicity efforts;
- Complete a Close-Out report for SITES, and assist in the gathering of close-out reports from local participants to send to SITES.

In fulfilling these responsibilities and in managing the details of hosting a tour, state coordinators are assisted by Museum on Main Street staff and colleagues from across the country (via the MoMS listserv). Help is never more than a phone call or email away.