

State humanities councils may use one or more humanities scholars or content specialists in the implementation of their Museum on Main Street exhibition tour. Depending on the exhibition topic and the council's and the venues' interests, one or more scholars may be chosen from any number of diverse fields of the humanities. The overarching intention of using a project scholar is to help host sites with the development of locally-based ancillary exhibitions, community activities and public educational programs that expand on the Smithsonian exhibition's central themes. In order to avoid the project being overly packaged and "top-down," it is critical that venues take direct ownership of the project.

Ideally, the state scholar is essential to this process, working hand-in-hand with local organizers to craft exhibitions and activities that are expressions of their unique history and experience. In addition, project scholars have been used by participating councils in many ways:

- as lecturers at exhibition openings
- to develop educational resources for teachers or students
- as contributors to state-based websites
- as authors of exhibition-related essays for academic journals and state council newsletters
- as frequent respondents to statewide media.
- as a curator of online exhibition content about state history

Samples of scholar contracts, detailing the conditions and expectations for their involvement in a Museum on Main Street tour and a schedule for their compensation, are available at www.museumonmainstreet.org.

State scholars are invited to attend a national program planning meeting for the exhibition tour (usually scheduled about a year before the exhibition arrives in the state) and often participate in a state program planning workshop (approximately 9 months before the exhibition opens) and installation workshop (just prior to the exhibition opening). Each state council will work out a contractual agreement with its state scholar(s) to determine the level of participation and compensation for the project.

Section III of this notebook is especially helpful to scholars as it contains detailed information about the exhibition's themes and physical structure and provides ideas and resources to supplement local exhibitions and humanities programs. The job of the scholar is to build upon these resources to help local hosts add their story to the exhibition theme, and to ensure venues develop the capacity to place local heritage in the context of the larger statewide and national stories.