

MUSEUM on Main Street

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome your state humanities council as our partner in developing high quality exhibitions and humanities programs for rural America. Museum on Main Street, or MoMS, is a unique alliance of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the country, and cultural organizations in small, rural communities.

Background:

One-fifth of all Americans live in rural areas and one-half of all U.S. museums are located in small towns. Museum on Main Street provides these institutions with access to resources they may not otherwise have and assists them in making lasting improvements that advance their museums' objectives. MoMS combines the prestige of Smithsonian exhibitions, the program expertise of state humanities councils, and the remarkable volunteerism and unique histories of small rural towns. Since 1994, MoMS exhibitions have traveled to more than 1,400 communities in 48 states plus Guam.

Museum on Main Street's exhibitions focus on broad topics of American history and give host museums the opportunity, with support from state humanities councils and guidance from state scholars, to create their own educational programs, cultural activities, and exhibitions that center on local heritage. Consisting of freestanding kiosks, interactives, audio components, and original objects, the exhibitions are specifically designed to address the space and staffing constraints of small cultural institutions. Kiosks travel in easy-to-handle wheeled crates and can be assembled and disassembled with minimal effort. Exhibition support materials and "how to" training workshops are provided to venues.

Museum on Main Street has been made possible through the generous support of the United States Congress, the Smithsonian Institution and the state humanities councils that host the tours.