



The Smithsonian is coming to Kansas! **Humanities Kansas** (HK) is pleased to announce a special Kansas tour of *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America*, the new Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition from Museum on Main Street. The exhibit explores the history of American democracy and will tour six Kansas communities between March 25, 2023, through January 7, 2024. HK invites nonprofit cultural organizations, museums, art centers, public libraries, and others to apply to host the exhibition during its tour of the state.

About Museum on Main Street

Museum on Main Street (MoMS) is a partnership between the Smithsonian Institution and Humanities Kansas to bring high quality national exhibitions, educational resources, and programming to small towns through their own local museums, historical societies, and other cultural venues. The exhibitions are designed to engage communities and spark conversations. The *Voices and Votes* traveling exhibition is based on the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History exhibition called *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith*.

About Voices and Votes

Voices and Votes: Democracy in America traces the bold American experiment of a government run by and for the people. The exhibit examines the influences that shaped the early days of American democracy and the changes that have occurred in the nearly 250 years since.

Democracy is a form of government that requires civic engagement and participation. It is formed by citizens' responses to ongoing questions: What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens? What is the role of the government in American life? How do citizens participate in democracy? Beginning with the American Revolution, this exhibit explores these questions and more.



How to become a Host Site for Voices and Votes

Six Kansas communities will be selected to host the Smithsonian exhibition for six weeks each beginning in March 2023. Host sites will receive funding to develop local, nonpartisan exhibits and public programs that explore the themes of the national exhibition from a local perspective. Host sites will indicate in the application their preferred dates for hosting the exhibition according to the following timeline:

- Site 1: March 25 – May 7, 2023
- Site 2: May 13 – June 25, 2023
- Site 3: July 1 – August 13, 2023
- Site 4: August 19 – October 1, 2023
- Site 5: October 7 – November 19, 2023
- Site 6: November 25, 2023 – January 7, 2024

Requirements to host the exhibition

- A clean, dry, and secure space of at least 700 square feet of open space with a minimum ceiling height of 8 feet to install the exhibit.
- Access to electricity and outlets.
- 200 square feet of indoor, dry storage space for exhibition crates.
- ADA compliance.
- Open to the public a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- Be located in a community with a population below 20,000 (preferred, not required).

Host Site Responsibilities

- Appoint a Project Director for the duration of the exhibition. This person will coordinate the project from beginning to end and is required to attend two HK *Voices and Votes* workshops.
- Design and develop a local companion exhibit and programming that tells a story of democracy in your community.
- Host a grand opening.
- Track and report expenses of time, services, and materials your organization spent, donated, or received to host the exhibition and programs.
- Complete a final report after the exhibit period is over.
- Collaborate with HK intern to produce a feature story and Clio guide for a historical or cultural site in your community.
- Participate in free capacity building opportunities.
- Provide \$350 for shipping expenses.

Host Sites Receive

- Free rental of the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition.
- Up to \$3,500 in funding support from HK for the development of the local companion exhibit and public programming.
- An exhibition support manual covering installation, publicity, education, and program planning.
- Publicity materials including posters, brochures, press kits, and banner.
- Access to special HK programs.
- Professional shipping and installation assistance.
- Travel expenses to attend the two required training workshops.
- Free capacity building opportunities.

Host Site Application

To apply, fill out and submit the online application form:

https://form.jotform.com/Humanities_Kansas/voices-and-votes.

Application Deadline: Friday, December 3, 2021.

Can't host the Smithsonian exhibition but still interested in the *Voices and Votes* initiative?

In addition to selecting six host sites, HK is interested in selecting additional nonprofit cultural organizations to become Partner Sites. Partner Sites will not host the *Voices and Votes* exhibition, but instead receive funding to develop exhibits and public events that explore how the exhibit themes connect to local stories and interests. Submit an application to become a Partner Site. Register here:

https://form.jotform.com/Humanities_Kansas/voices-and-votes.

To Learn More

November 17, 2021, at 12:00 PM, HK will offer a free webinar that will walk you through the guidelines and application process, allowing plenty of time for questions. Registration for this free event is required.

Please note the process is competitive. Participating in the webinar does not guarantee selection.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3DmcMir>.

Questions?

Contact Abigail Kaup, Program Officer, at abigail@humanitieskansas.org or (785) 357-0359.

About Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas is an independent, nonpartisan nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, HK's pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with partners and supporters, HK inspires all Kansans to draw on history, literature, ethics, and culture to enrich their lives and serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit humanitieskansas.org.