



HUMANITIES KANSAS

The Smithsonian is coming to Kansas! **Humanities Kansas** (HK) is pleased to announce a special Kansas tour of *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, the newest Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition from Museum on Main Street. Please read through the information, complete the application, and submit by 5:00 PM, Friday, April 26, 2019. Contact Abigail Kaup, Program Officer at abigail@humanitieskansas.org or 785-357-0359.

About Museum on Main Street:

- Museum on Main Street (MoMS) is a partnership between the Smithsonian Institution and Humanities Kansas to bring traveling 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 become a catalyst for conversations.

About *Crossroads*:

- *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* is a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition drawing on the history and culture of rural America to provoke fresh thinking and spark conversations about the future and sustainability of rural communities.

“Innovation” is a buzzword in rural Kansas, as Kansans tap into their resources and creativity to adapt to 21st century changes. This trend of innovation is ongoing as generations of rural Kansans have created opportunity in times of change and challenge.

With support from Humanities Kansas and the Smithsonian, the *Crossroads* exhibition gives Kansas communities the chance to explore how their community has adapted to change over the last century. Hosts sites will develop a complementary exhibition that tells their community’s unique *Crossroads* story and create public programs that spark important conversations to enhance people’s understanding of life in rural Kansas.

How to become a Host Site for *Crossroads*

Six Kansas communities will be selected to host the Smithsonian exhibition for six weeks each beginning in August 2020. Humanities Kansas invites nonprofit cultural organizations, museums, art centers, public libraries, and others to apply.

Requirements to host the exhibition:

- Be located in a community with a population below 20,000
- Provide a clean, secure space of at least 750 square feet of open space with 8-foot ceilings
- 3 functional electrical outlets in the exhibition area
- 300 square foot indoor, dry storage space for exhibition crates

Responsibilities of Host Site:

- Pay a \$200 exhibition booking/shipping fee
- Appoint a Project Director for the exhibition who will attend two mandatory statewide planning meetings and coordinate the project from beginning to end.
- Design and create a companion exhibition that tells your community's unique *Crossroads* story.
- Plan and implement at least 2 public humanities programs provided by HK.
- Provide a cost share report at the exhibition's conclusion that tracks staff and volunteer time, facility expenses, and other donated resources.
- Have hours of operation that are convenient for the public (a minimum of 20 hours a week, but more preferred).
- Host a grand opening and invite public officials, media, legislators, congressional representatives, and others.
- Partner with community and regional organizations to promote and present *Crossroads*.
- Implement publicity of *Crossroads* in your community and region.

Host Sites will receive:

- Free rental of the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition
- An exhibition support manual and assistance in exhibition and program planning
- Publicity materials such as posters, brochures, press kits, and banner.
- \$2,000 in funding support from HK for the development of the local companion exhibition
- Access to special HK programs
- Travel expenses to attend the two mandatory statewide planning meetings

Can't host the Smithsonian exhibition, but still interested in the *Crossroads* initiative?

HK will select additional nonprofit organizations to become Partner Sites from the pool of applicants. Partner Sites will receive small grants up to \$1500 to explore community stories related to themes in the *Crossroads* exhibition. Contact Abigail Kaup at abigail@humanitieskansas.org to express your interest in becoming a Partner Site.

For more information about hosting the exhibition *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, contact:
Abigail Kaup, Program Officer
Email: abigail@humanitieskansas.org
Phone: (785) 357-0359

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, our pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with our partners and supporters, we inspire 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.

More information about the Museum on Main Street program and the call for applications is available at www.humanitieskansas.org.



Humanities Kansas Crossroads Host Site Application

Please answer the following questions on a separate document and submit by email to Abigail Kaup at abigail@humanitieskansas.org by 5:00 PM, Friday, April 26, 2019. Please note that the Smithsonian host site application process is competitive.

1. Organization Name, Address, City, Zip, Website Address, Community Population
2. Project Director, Title, Phone, Email
3. Briefly describe the space where the *Crossroads* exhibition will be displayed. In your description, include detailed answers to the following questions:
 - a. Does it meet space requirement of 750 square feet of open space with 8-foot ceilings?
 - b. Does it have 3 functional electrical outlets?
 - c. Is it a secure, clean, dry environment?
 - d. Is there a separate secure and dry space for storing the packing crates?
4. Number of permanent staff (full & part-time) and regular volunteers.
5. Days and hours of operation open to the public. (A minimum of 20 hours a week, but more is preferred)
6. What are your preferred dates for hosting the exhibition? Indicate #1 and #2 choice.
 - a. August 29, 2020 – October 11, 2020
 - b. October 17, 2020 – November 29, 2020
 - c. December 5, 2020 – January 17, 2021
 - d. January 23, 2021 – March 7, 2021
 - e. March 13, 2021 – April 25, 2021
 - f. May 1, 2021 – June 13, 2021
7. Provide letters of support from at least 2 other community organizations that will contribute to the success of this project.
8. Tell why hosting the *Crossroads* exhibition would be meaningful to your community.
9. What is your community's *Crossroads* story? Describe how you would interpret this story in a local companion exhibition. Stories should consider:
 - What does rural means to your community?
 - What are some challenges your community has faced?
 - What changes have shaped rural life in your community over the last 5, 10, 20 years? And, how have these changes affected your town?
 - How has your rural community used innovation to create opportunity in times of change?
 - What business does your community need that does not currently exist in your hometown?

10. Describe some ideas you have for additional public humanities programs that extend the *Crossroads* theme into your community. These can be creative, thoughtful, and even playful!

11. If your community is not selected to host the *Crossroads* exhibition, are you interested in participating as a *Crossroads* Partner Site? Please note, Partner Sites do not host the Smithsonian exhibition. Selecting yes or no has no impact on your chances of being selected to host the *Crossroads* exhibition.

YES! If I am not selected to host the Smithsonian exhibition, I am interested in participating as a *Crossroads* Partner Site. Please contact me with more information.

No. I am only interested in being considered as a Smithsonian host site.

Deadline: 5:00 PM Friday, April 26th

Email applications to:

Abigail Kaup, Program Officer

Email: abigail@humanitieskansas.org

Phone: (785) 357-0359

