



The Smithsonian is Coming to South Carolina!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR **CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA**

SC Humanities is pleased to announce a special South Carolina tour of *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, an exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. Developed as part of the Museum on Main Street program, this exhibit is designed especially for small cultural organizations and rural audiences that lack regular access to traveling exhibitions due to space and cost limitations.

The exhibit will tour six South Carolina communities from September 2018 to June 2019.

Eligible host sites are: small museums, libraries, historical societies, cultural centers and other community venues in towns of fewer than 20,000 residents. Any host site must demonstrate the physical capacity to host the exhibit, which requires 700 square feet of exhibit space, 8.5 foot ceilings, and access to electrical outlets. Sites will be chosen based on strength of proposed ideas for auxiliary events, meaningful partnerships, geographic location, and physical display space. Preference is given to sites that have not recently hosted a Museum on Main Street exhibit and that do not charge admission.

Applications are due by Friday, September 1, 2017. Submission of an application does not guarantee selection as a host site. Selections will be announced in October 2017.

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

Crossroads: Change in Rural America offers small towns a chance to envision their futures by exploring the changes that affected their fortunes over the past century. The exhibition will prompt discussions about what happened when America's rural population became a minority of the country's population and the ripple effects that occurred.

Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America's small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development. Economic innovation and a focus on the cultural facets that make small towns unique, comfortable, and desirable have helped many communities create their own renaissance. The future is bright for much of rural America as small towns embrace the notion that their citizens and their cultural uniqueness are important assets.



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COLUMBIA SC 29250

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Our mission is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians

schumanities.org

CROSSROADS

Change in Rural America

SELECTED HOST SITES RECEIVE

- Free exhibit rental (for approximately 6 weeks)
- \$2,500 grant to support local community programs such as a companion exhibit, guest lecturers, film or book series, oral history projects, and community forums
- An exhibition support manual and program planning assistance
- Publicity materials such as posters, press kits, and banner
- A humanities scholar to consult and present a lecture
- Professional installation and de-installation guidance from a Museum on Main Street staff person
- Travel expenses to attend two training workshops

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide an enclosed and secure exhibit area of at least 700 square feet with 8.5-foot ceilings
- Appoint a Project Director for the exhibit who will attend two (2) mandatory planning meetings in 2018
- On-site staff presence when the exhibit is open
- Contribute at least \$2,500 of in-kind support (time, supplies, etc.) or cash as cost-share and keep thorough records of cost-share
- Plan and implement at least three public humanities programs and a companion exhibit (Possible programs include: oral history projects, lectures, film discussions, book discussions, living history recreations, storytelling, workshops, radio programs featuring interviews, and much more.)
- Publicize the exhibit widely in coordination with SC Humanities and provide sponsor acknowledgement when appropriate
- Complete attendance reports and final paperwork for the close of the exhibit



DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

September 1, 2017

DATE OF AWARD NOTIFICATION

October 31, 2017 (APPROXIMATE)

Submit one (1) original completed application and four (4) hard copies to the office in person or by mail. Email submission of application is not accepted, and the deadline is a firm, not post-marked, deadline.

Attn: Theresa Wallace
Re: Crossroads: Change in Rural America
SC Humanities
PO Box 5287
Columbia SC 29250



Crossroads: Change in Rural America is made possible in South Carolina by SC Humanities.

Crossroads is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide.

Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the US Congress.

Applicants should mail this application to **Crossroads: Change in Rural America • SC Humanities • PO Box 5287 • Columbia SC 29250**

Part 1

Sponsoring Organization

ORGANIZATION NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL _____ WEBSITE _____

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____ EIN _____ DUNS# _____

Project Director

NAME _____ TITLE _____

TEL _____ EMAIL _____

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE FACILITY AND THE AREA WHERE *CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA* WOULD BE DISPLAYED.

DOES IT FIT THE SPACE REQUIREMENTS? (700 SQUARE FEET WITH 8.5-FOOT CEILINGS) YES NO

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE SECURITY AND CLIMATE CONDITIONS

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STAFF _____ NUMBER OF PART-TIME STAFF _____

ANNUAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED AND/OR VISITATION _____

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS (INCLUDING EXHIBITS) _____

POPULATION OF COMMUNITY/AREA/REGION SERVED _____

DAYS & HOURS OF OPERATION _____

What dates would be best for your organization to host the exhibit and to attract the best audience? **MARK 1ST & 2ND CHOICES**
Please explain your reason(s) in the narrative answer to Part 2, Section A.

- # _____ SEPTEMBER 8—OCTOBER 21, 2018
- # _____ OCTOBER 27—DECEMBER 9, 2018
- # _____ DECEMBER 15, 2018—JANUARY 27, 2019
- # _____ FEBRUARY 2—MARCH 17, 2019
- # _____ MARCH 23—MAY 5, 2019
- # _____ MAY 11—JUNE 23, 2019

Part 2

Share your preliminary ideas for making Crossroads a successful event for your community.

Please respond to the following narrative questions and attach your answers to the application.

- A. **Identify community resources (partnering organizations, special facilities, festivals or events) that will make the project successful in your town. Explain why the topic of Crossroads: Change in Rural America would be meaningful to your community. Please also discuss the best timing for your organization to host the exhibit, as indicated in your selections in Part 1.**
- B. **Briefly describe some ideas you have for public humanities programs and other community events to enhance the exhibit. Be creative! Include fun activities (ex: essay/poetry competition or community scavenger hunt) as well as educational programming. Please be as thorough as is possible at this early date.**
- C. **Share some ideas about how you will promote the exhibit to enhance your organization and your community.**
- D. **Please discuss ways in which the exhibit can further your organization's goals (for example: initiate a new building campaign, attract new members, or provide staff development). How would you measure success?**

Part 3

Please include letters of recommendation (minimum of three) from relevant community organizations, county or municipal representatives, supportive board members, willing volunteers, or significant donors, etc. The ability to reference local enthusiasm and commitment will strengthen your candidacy.

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QUESTIONS?

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803-771-2477

