

# **Museum on Main Street**

## **LOCAL EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Between Fences***

We strongly encourage each community to develop an accompanying exhibit, which examines the themes of *Between Fences* from the perspective of the local community. The exhibit may be installed at the museum if space is available or may be installed at a nearby exhibition space in the community.

The primary goals are to put together a **Local Exhibition** that supplements *Between Fences* by putting a local spin on it. There are a number of ways to approach exhibition development. You can start by putting out a call for artifacts and then developing an exhibition around them, or you can start by collecting oral histories to determine the story you want to tell about your community and then collecting specific objects to support your exhibition thesis. Both are valid approaches. If the end result is an object-based exhibit that documents local settlement and community, then you were successful!

If you've never developed a local exhibition before, we've posted some helpful and brief exhibition development articles from the Wisconsin Historical Society on the Museum on Main Street web site (<http://museumonmainstreet.org>). In addition, there are numerous books available through the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and the American Association of Museums (AAM) that are excellent resources for exhibition development. Take a look at their web sites, [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org) and [www.aam.org](http://www.aam.org). Also, [Good Show: A Practical Guide for Temporary Exhibitions](#), available through SITES, is a good resource for designing and fabricating an effective exhibition.

You'll want to establish a **Local Exhibit Planning Committee** to be responsible for the following:

- Planning and design of local additions to *Between Fences*
- Developing exhibit ideas and lists of resources and items needed. (See attached listing of exhibition ideas and suggested objects to collect)
- Developing lists of potential resource providers for the desired artifacts. (See below for listing of suggested community partners.)
- Soliciting those potential providers/partners for help and donation/loan of artifacts. (NOTE: Forms for incoming loan receipt/agreement, deed of gift and receipt of return are provided on the Museum on Main Street web site at <http://museumonmainstreet.org>).
- Inventory/track borrowed resources and provide appropriate thanks and recognition for gifts and loans
- Overseeing the physical installation of the exhibit
- Overseeing the dismantling and return of exhibit materials

An **Exhibit Installation Sub-Committee** should also be organized for the specific purpose of the physical installation of the exhibit. To assist the museum staff in fabricating the local exhibition this committee could be composed of local architects, handymen, finish carpenters and cabinet-makers, electricians, Plexiglas technicians, graphic artists, and/or printers as needed for the local exhibit.

**Suggested Community Partners**

- Local landscaping companies
- Home builders and home building associations
- Library
- Churches
- Farmers
- Farm supply stores
- Hardware stores
- Neighborhood associations
- Community planners
- Zoning Boards
- Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Newspaper and Radio Stations
- Video rental store and movie theatre owners/managers