

Between Fences

Exhibition Description

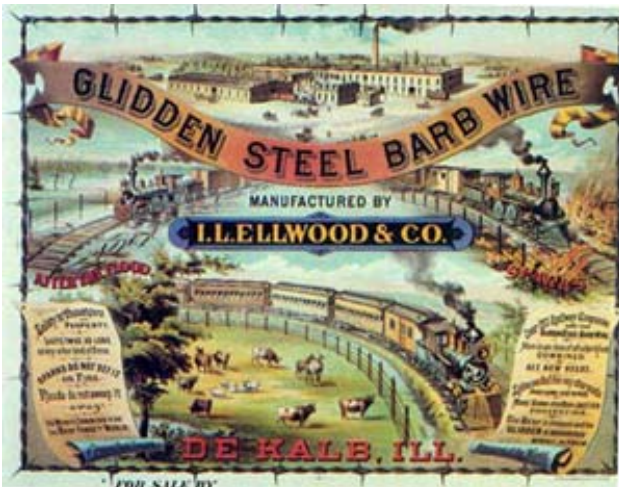
We live between fences. We may hardly notice them, but they are dominant features in our lives and in our history. Our past is defined by the cutting point of barbed steel and the staccato rhythm of the white picket. Americans have fenced millions of miles and countless rivals have seized post, rail, board, and wire to stake a claim for home and happiness. The fences that skirt our properties are central to establishing ownership and identity.



Between Fences is a cultural history of fences and land use. It examines how neighbors and nations divide and protect, offend and defend through the boundaries they build. This Museum on Main Street exhibition will surprise and delight audiences by evoking the multiple meanings of an everyday icon. It will provide institutions and teachers with rich opportunities for local humanities-based programming that encourages exploration of issues that shape American life.

Sample Humanities Programs and Local Activities

Between Fences is a humanities-rich exhibition because it asks visitors to consider personal values and American history at once, and so the opportunities for local communities to build ancillary public programs are rife with possibilities. Stretching easily to the public policy arena, we envision exhibition hosts sponsoring lecture series and public symposia on patterns of early settlement, investigations of town architecture and transportation systems, contemporary and historical immigration, and civility. Using fences as a means to broach topics of neighborliness, the exhibition will serve as an obvious impetus for oral history initiatives, theatrical productions, conflict resolution training, and, of course, reading, film, and poetry discussions.



Curator

This exhibition was developed by historian Gregory K. Dreicer. The first version of *Between Fences* appeared at the National Building Museum in 1996.

Funders

Between Fences is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and The Hearst Foundation.

Availability to State Humanities Councils

Exhibitions available for tours beginning September 2005 and September 2006 (council participation would begin Spring 2004.)

Contents and Crates

Five free standing structures with interactive components and artifacts mounted in cases. Requires 600 square feet. Crate numbers and weights to be determined.

Between Fences Resources Provided

Administrative Resources

- State coordinator manuals featuring program development strategies, sample budgets/contracts and other support materials. Provided in hard copy format and also available on-line for easy access and for quick distribution of updated information;
- Museum on Main Street listserv for state council coordinators and national organizers providing access to immediate answers to project questions and opportunities for networking and project development;
- Experienced MOMS team members assigned to each state to provide advice and assistance in all areas of program development and tour coordination.

Workshops and Meetings

A state council MOMS coordinator must agree to attend and/or host the following workshops and meetings. Out-of-state travel expenses are covered by MOMS.

- National MOMS Orientation Workshop — for first-time state council staff members to meet with Smithsonian project directors two years in advance of the tour (state council coordinators that have completed a MOMS tour are not required to attend);
- National *Between Fences* Meeting — state council staff member to meet with project organizers, exhibition curators, and other participating state council personnel one year in advance of the state tour;
- State Program Workshop — MOMS personnel co-host a program planning workshop for all in-state participating venues and partners;
- State Installation Workshop — Smithsonian personnel co-host an installation workshop at the site of the exhibition's tour opening for all in-state participating venues.

Public Relations/Marketing

- Full participation in national publicity efforts by the Smithsonian;
- Smithsonian web page, at www.museumonmainstreet.org, featuring each state's rural itinerary and homepage links to each state humanities council;
- Project press kit: national press release, digital press images, and skeleton news releases for local use;
- One multi-colored outdoor banner featuring state council name;
- Full color promotional poster with state council logo (50 per venue and 50 for each state council, total 350) and postcards (500/venue and 500/state council, total 3500)

Fundraising Resources

- MOMS informational brochure (50 copies);
- Foundation proposal template;
- As required, letters of support from SITES, exhibition curator, Federation;
- Sample press clippings and testimonials from previous participating humanities councils;
- Opportunities to provide underwriting credit on exhibition's title panel.

Education Materials

- Teacher's Guide (50/site, total of 300);
- Docent training guide (20/site, total of 120);
- Local Exhibition Support Manuals featuring program development strategies, local exhibition development guidelines, marketing suggestions, exhibition script and installation instructions. Provided in hard copy format and also available on-line for easy access and for quick distribution of updated information (1 per local site and 1 for state coordinator);
- Vast program samplers and educational resource materials compiled from previous state council participants.