

May 11, 2004

Contact: Steve Davis, 775.784.6587 or 800.382.5023

For Immediate Release

Nevada Humanities Seeks Communities to Participate in Smithsonian Exhibit Tour

Nevada Humanities (NH) is pleased to announce a special Nevada tour of *Between Fences*, an exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. Developed as part of the Museum on Main Street program, this exhibit is designed for institutions that lack regular access to traveling exhibitions due to space and cost limitations. It is particularly aimed at small institutions in rural areas.

NH invites museums, public libraries, and cultural institutions to apply to host the exhibition in 2005-2006. To apply, please answer the questions listed below and submit requested paperwork to Nevada Humanities, P.O. Box 8029, Reno, Nevada 89507, postmarked by July 15, 2004. Sites will be selected based in part on geographic distribution throughout the state, with preference given to smaller communities. Selections will be announced in August 2004.

Between Fences explores the creation of the American landscape through the ever-present but rarely considered fence. Curator Gregory Dreicer has written, "We live between fences. We may hardly notice them, but they dominate figures in our lives. The cutting point of barbed wire and the staccato rhythm of the homey white picket define our past. Fences are essential to the way we think about the land, the way we behave on that land, and the way we expect our land to look. They bound our properties and stand at the center of the American landscape."

Between Fences is a lightweight, modular exhibition system that requires no tools for assembly. The exhibition requires 600 square feet of display space with at least an eight-foot ceiling, and limited security. Additional space is recommended to accommodate a local companion exhibition.

Each host institution will receive from Nevada Humanities:

- Free exhibit rental
- Free exhibit shipping
- An exhibition support manual and assistance in program planning
- Publicity materials such as posters, press kits, banner, and a national web site
- \$2,000 in funding support from the NH in support of local community programs such as a companion exhibit, guest lecturers, film or book series, oral history projects, and community forums.
- NH will produce a statewide component for the tour that will be available to participating communities. At present we are considering a speakers bureau, film series, and book discussion program.

In return, host institutions will be asked to:

- Appoint a project director for the exhibit who will attend all planning meetings.
- Publicize the exhibit widely in cooperation with NH.
- Plan and implement at least 2 adult public humanities programs and a companion exhibit.

- Keep track of all staff and volunteer time, facilities, and other resources donated to the project and provide a report of this cost share at the project's conclusion

Application Guidelines (Submit responses by July 15, 2004):

- Institution Name, Address, City, Zip
- Phone, Fax, E-mail, Website
- Project Director/Title
- Number of permanent staff (full & part-time); Number of regular volunteers
- Annual visitation: ____ Hours of operation: _____
- Hours per week *Between Fences* will be open to visitors?
- Describe the facility where *Between Fences* will be displayed.
- Identify at least 3 partners and resources in your community that will contribute to the success of this project. Indicate if the organizations have cooperated with your institution in the past. Letters of support from organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, should be included to show broad community involvement in and commitment to the exhibit project.
- Tell why your institution and community would like to host *Between Fences*.
- Describe your initial ideas for complementary programming and the companion exhibition.