

Museum on Main Street

OVERVIEW

Program Development / State Workshops

State Workshops

Each participating state council should expect to host a minimum of two state project meetings: a Program Planning Meeting and an Installation Workshop. The Program Planning Meeting is held six to nine months in advance of the exhibition's opening in the state. It is frequently held at a central location in the state and is designed to gather local project personnel from each host community. The Program Planning Meeting often features an introduction to the exhibition themes, presentations by the state scholar and/or state committee members, and program brainstorming by local personnel. It is also an excellent occasion to make announcements regarding statewide fund raising, publicity and council grant making. Sample agendas from Program Planning Meeting are available here. Your MoMS representative will attend this workshop to present national information on the exhibition tour. When your meeting is scheduled, alert SITES and your MoMS contact.

The Installation Workshop is held the first week of the exhibition's opening at the first venue on the tour. At this meeting a Smithsonian representative will help to explain and demonstrate the actual installation, condition reporting, and de-installation of the exhibition. Geared specifically for local project coordinators, this is an excellent meeting to review program plans and public relations strategies and to finalize shipping arrangements. Sample Installation Workshop agendas are available here.

Program Development

Museum on Main Street works best when energetic local organizations work hand-in-hand with state humanities councils to localize the exhibition with public programs, ancillary collections/displays and attendant community activities. In most instances this means that program officers must visit and meet with local organizers/committees regularly. A MoMS listserv has been established for state coordinators from all participating states. This immediate electronic network has proved to be an easy means to share program development advice among peers and to showcase newfound program resources. If you have not yet been added to the listserv contact Robbie Davis at davispr@si.edu.

Exhibitor Notebooks

Each rural community will receive a complete manual to aid in hosting the exhibition. We send these "Exhibitor Notebooks" to your state council directly (look for them to arrive before the Program Planning Meeting); typically state coordinators like to add their own state program resources, as well as council grant, publicity, or shipping before delivering them to local coordinators. These notebooks are sent directly by SITES to your council (for your additions). Contact Terri Cobb at cobbt@si.edu for more details.