

Exhibition Description

Journey stories – tales of how we and our ancestors came to America – are a central element of our personal heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens and regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone has a story to tell. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything – families and possessions – to reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or even across an ocean. The reasons behind those decisions are myriad. Many chose to move, searching for something better in a new land. Others had no choice, like enslaved Africans captured and relocated to a strange land and bravely asserting their own cultures, or like Native Americans already here, who were often pushed aside by newcomers.

Our transportation history is more than boats, buses, cars, wagons, and trucks. The development of transportation technology was largely inspired by the human drive for freedom. The Museum on Main Street exhibition **Journey Stories** will examine the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move. The story is diverse and focused on immigration, migration, innovation, and freedom. It is accounts of immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journeys of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and, of course, fun and frolic on the open road.



The story of the intersection between transportation and American society is complicated, but it tells us much about who we are – people who see our societal mobility as a means for asserting our individual freedom. **Journey Stories** will use engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society.

Sample Humanities Programs and Local Activities

The exhibition will spark a variety of public humanities programs including local exhibitions exploring the settlement and growth of rural communities, history and growth of immigrant communities, oral history and research collecting the stories of immigrants and transportation workers, and examinations of the American transportation story as depicted in literature, film, art and music.

**Curators**

Journey Stories is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and curated by William Withuhn, Curator of Transportation, Smithsonian's Museum of American History, Behring Center.

Funders

Journey Stories 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 is provided by the United States Congress.

Contents and Crates

Free-standing exhibition with audio and interactive components, banners and artifacts mounted in cases. Requires 600 square feet. Crate quantity and weight to be determined.

Availability to State Humanities Councils

Exhibitions available for tours beginning May 2009 (council participation begins Spring 2007)

Journey Stories 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 online at www.museumonmainstreet.org for easy access and for quick distribution of updated information;
- Museum on Main Street listserv for state council coordinators and national organizers providing 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-town 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 *Journey Stories* Meeting — state council staff member to meet with project organizers, exhibition curator, and other state councils one year in advance of the tour;
- State Program Workshop — MoMS/Federation personnel co-host a program planning workshop for all in-state participating venues and partners;
- State Installation Workshop — MoMS/Smithsonian personnel co-host a 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 news releases for local use;
- One multi-colored outdoor banner featuring state council name;
- Full-color promotional poster with state council logo (50/venue and 50/state council, total 350)* and postcards with state council credit (500/venue and 500/state council, total 3,500)*;
- Promotional flyer to announce educational programming or events (250/venue, total 1500)*.

Fundraising Resources

- 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

- Full-color, take-away exhibit brochure featuring state council credit (1,000/site, 500/council, total of 6,500)*;
- Teacher's guide (available online at www.museumonmainstreet.org);
- Docent training guide (30/site, 20/council use, total of 200)*;
- Local Exhibition Support Manuals featuring program development strategies, local exhibition development guidelines, exhibition script, and installation instructions. Provided in hard copy format and also available on-line (1 per local site and 1 for state coordinator).