

## ***Yesterday's Tomorrows* Description**

*Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future* offers a unique history of popular expectations and beliefs about the shape of things to come. Curators Joseph Corn of Stanford University and Brian Horrigan of the Minnesota Historical Society use manifestations of popular culture such as toys, books, movie stills, World 's Fair memorabilia, car designs, advertisements, and architectural designs to examine ways that Americans of yesteryear have envisioned our collective future. Adapted from an exhibition originally produced in cooperation with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, *Yesterday's Tomorrows* is designed especially to meet the needs of small museums. The exhibition concentrates on the past one hundred years in America, when visions of the future have fluctuated between secular utopias characterized by breathtaking leaps of science and technology and urban chaos fraught with danger and disintegration. Though many of the predicted futures never came to pass and seem naïve from our 21st-century perspective, other visions still challenge our concept of the future — like personal flying machines that strap to one's back or cars that can be transformed into airplanes in just a few minutes.

Small town community museums that host *Yesterday's Tomorrows* develop, with support from their state humanities council, community events and activities that augment the SITES exhibition. While the exhibition playfully invites the creation of invention fairs, town time capsules, design contests, local collection of futuristic collectibles, car and cycle shows featuring vintage vehicles and concept cars, and "sci-fi" film festivals, it is also the perfect springboard for more serious community planning activities. Locally produced programs, the exhibition tour schedule, and the exhibition themes are showcased in the project website, <http://www.yesterdaystomorrows.org>.