

Welcome to Museum on Main Street!

We are delighted to welcome your state humanities council as our partner in developing high quality humanities programs for rural America. Museum on Main Street, or MOMS, is a unique alliance of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), the Federation of State Humanities Councils, state humanities councils across the country, and cultural organizations in small, rural communities.

This section of the website is intended to make your job as a State Coordinator easier. It contains the essential information needed to administer a Museum on Main Street exhibition tour in your state. The passwords that you will need to know are: local coordinator is “jetpack” and the state coordinator is “utopia”. The MOMS listserve, MOMS@SI-LISTSERV.SI.EDU, is a good resource to get advice from your peers across the country.

The experience of more than thirty-six state humanities councils demonstrates that this project yields the greatest benefits when councils make a concerted effort to involve rural museums and historical organizations in the planning, shaping, and implementing the project, and that it is least effective when it is directed as a “packaged program” overlaid on rural communities as a federal/state initiative. Local ownership is the key to success and to sparking lasting institutional advancements among small town cultural organizations. In order to achieve local ownership, each participating state council will need to allot both human and financial resources.

It is expected that as part of your state’s participation that your council will:

- Assign a single state coordinator to oversee all aspects of project administration (and that in the event that there are changes in personnel, that a new coordinator will be assigned);
- Utilize humanities scholars in the planning and implementation of locally-based programs and educational events;
- Make supporting grants to exhibition host organizations/communities;
- Accept in-state shipping costs and oversee the safe transfer of the exhibition in-state;
- Host a minimum of one state program workshop for local project coordinators;
- Host an installation workshop at the first venue in your exhibition tour;
- Make a concerted effort to visit participating communities, assist in their program and event planning, and attend their events;
- Complete a Close-Out report to the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and assist in the gathering of close-out reports from local participants to send to SITES.