



Every rural person and place has a story. Change is a part of that story.

Welcome to rural America, a crossroads of change in a vast land. Throughout the 19th century, the majority of Americans lived in rural areas. They built their lives around the work of harvesting what the land could produce – the food, fuel, fiber, ores, and minerals crucial to a growing nation. They built communities at rural crossroads – small towns that became centers of commerce, politics, and culture.

But conditions favorable to robust rural communities changed. Early in the 20th century, growing urban populations shifted economic investment and political influence from the counties to the cities. Since then, the pace of rural change has accelerated.

Today, rural communities are at a new crossroads – a meeting point of ideas where they can chart their own future. With innovation and creative spirit, rural Americans are helping to define and shape the future of the country.

Join us for **Crossroads: Change in Rural America**, a traveling Smithsonian exhibition that provokes fresh thinking and sparks conversations about the future and sustainability of rural communities.



Crossroads: Change in Rural America is made possible in Utah by Utah Humanities. The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.



Smithsonian



UTAH HUMANITIES
Ideas in Action

Presented in partnership with local exhibition hosts: North Summit Unite with Summit County, Wasatch County Library, Utah State University Eastern, Silver Reef Museum, Brigham City Museum of Art & History, John Wesley Powell River History Museum, MT Hurst Foundation with Utah State University Blanding, and Granary Arts with Snow College Library.

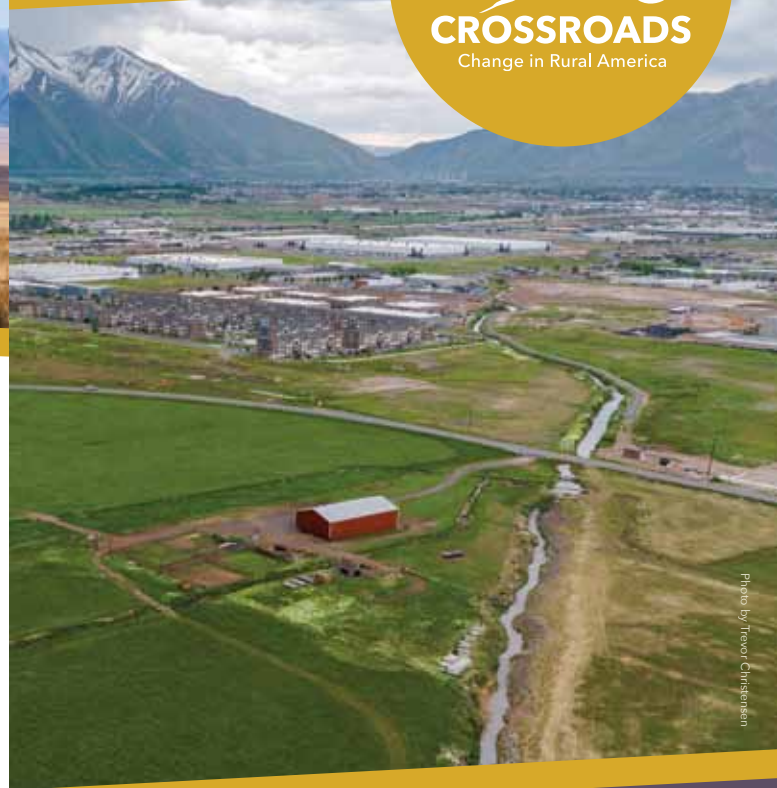
Many thanks for generous support from the State of Utah, National Endowment for the Humanities, ESRR Humanities & Arts & Impact Endowments, University of Utah American West Center and Department of History, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Utah Historical Society, Utah Division of Arts & Museums, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Lawrence T. and Janet T. Dee Foundation, KCPW Radio, and Utah Public Radio.



UTAH HUMANITIES
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www.utahhumanities.org | #UtahRuralCrossroads

Utah Humanities strengthens Utah communities by cultivating connections, deepening understanding, and exploring our complex human experience.

Utah Humanities acknowledges Utah's Indigenous communities as the original peoples of these lands. We honor their stewardship, respect their resilience, and celebrate their traditions and living cultures. We foster respectful connection to Utah lands and first peoples through our programming and call for a brighter future together – one human interaction at a time.



CROSSROADS: Change in Rural America is a traveling exhibition created by the Smithsonian Institution and brought to you by Utah Humanities

Visit **CROSSROADS** and participate in community activities in Coalville, Heber, Price, Leeds, Brigham City, Green River, Blanding, and Ephraim!



Learn more at
www.utahhumanities.org
#UtahRuralCrossroads

**UTAH EXHIBITION TOUR SCHEDULE
SEPTEMBER 2023 - DECEMBER 2024**

COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!

September 16 to October 28, 2023

North Summit Unite in partnership with Summit County History Department
Ledges Event Center, 202 Park Road,
Coalville, UT 84017
northsummitunite.org

November 4, 2023 to January 14, 2024

Wasatch County Library
465 E 1200 S, Heber City, UT 84032
wasatchlibrary.org

January 20 to March 3, 2024

Utah State University Eastern
Student Center, 498 N 300 E, Price UT 84501
eastern.usu.edu

March 9 to April 28, 2024

Silver Reef Museum
1903 Wells Fargo Drive, Leeds, UT 84746
silverreefutah.org

May 4 to June 22, 2024

Brigham City Museum of Art & History
24 N 300 W, Brigham City, UT 84302
brighamcitymuseum.org

June 29 to August 18, 2024

John Wesley Powell River History Museum
1765 Main Street, Green River, UT 84525
johnwesleypowell.com

August 24 to October 12, 2024

MT Hurst Foundation in partnership with
Utah State University Blanding
Health, Library, Science Building, 576 W 200 S,
Blanding, UT 84511
statewide.usu.edu/blanding

October 19 to December 15, 2024

Granary Arts
86 N Main Street, Ephraim, UT 84627
granaryarts.org

in partnership with Huntsman Library, Snow College

141 E Center Street, Ephraim, UT 84627
snow.edu/library



RURAL UTAH IS AT A CROSSROADS

The story of rural Utah is one of cherished ideals coupled with challenging realities. Contemporary pressures that drive change may seem daunting, yet adaptation has always been core to rural life. What changes are occurring in the rural places that you know?

- Utah is an urban state with a rural heart. Fully 90% of our population lives in an urban area. Why do you think so many Utahns connect with rural ideals?
- Utah's pioneer identity draws on a tradition of independence, but is defined by an ethic of communal work. Does rural life mean fierce independence or working together?
- Land shapes rural communities, and that holds true for public land – from national parks and forests to leases for grazing and gas wells. How much of Utah is held as public commons? If you guessed 70%, you would be right.
- Utah's rural communities have a long history of adaptation – to economic depressions, displacement, and drought. New sources of income and public investment – like remote work, outdoor tourism, and the arts – can be a lifeline to rural towns, but also require adjustment.

At a time when much of rural Utah is reinventing itself, **Crossroads: Change in Rural America** offers a chance to look at our path over the past century – to highlight the changes that affected our fortunes, explore how we've adapted, and think about what's next.



Listen to a new rural Utah story each week on The Beehive Archive. Tune in on KCPW and Utah Public Radio, listen where you find podcasts, or stream at www.utahhumanities.org/stories

Photos: (top) Utah Historical Society, Uintah County History Center, Grand Canyon Trust