



For Immediate Release

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Terry Tempest Williams Featured at a Brigham City Museum of Art & History Virtual Event.

This event takes place as part of Utah Humanities' Think Water Utah Project and the 24th Annual Utah Humanities Book Festival.

Monday, October 4, 2021 – As part of *Think Water Utah*, a statewide conversation on the critical topic of water presented by Utah Humanities and its partners, and as part of the 24th Annual Utah Humanities Book Festival, Terry Tempest Williams will engage in a virtual discussion with the Director of the Brigham City Museum of Art and History.

The discussion will focus on Williams' book "*Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*," the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, and the role that water plays in Northern Utah's delicate landscape.

Williams has previously commented on the rare relevance of our surrounding habitats, sharing that "We live along Great Salt Lake, one of the most extraordinary natural features in North America. I do not believe we, as a community, have honored its rarity. We do not know the nature of this vast body of water that sparkles and sings. If we did, the shores of Great Salt Lake would look different."

This event is offered within the context of the Museum's "Hometown Habitat" exhibit, which focuses on the formation, flood, and future of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge as part of *H2O Today* in the Bear River Heritage Area. The exhibit is on display from June 20 - November 13, 2021.

The discussion with Terry Tempest Williams will be livestreamed on Facebook, with event details available at the museum's [Facebook page](#). ASL services will be available during the event.

A full schedule of the Bear River Heritage Area and the related *H2O Today* events can be found in this [event publication](#) and complete information on the entire *Think Water Utah* project is available at Utah Humanities' [Think Water Utah website](#).

A full schedule of the 24th Annual Utah Humanities Book Festival events can be found at Utah Humanities' [Book Festival website](#).

Alana Blumenthal, Brigham City Museum Director, shares "We are so extraordinarily fortunate to have the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in our backyard, and we wanted to celebrate and share that fact with the community as part of the statewide Think Water Utah collaboration. Terry Tempest Williams gives the Refuge a voice and a spirit in her writing, creating a roadmap for us all to connect with it on a deeper, more personal level. We are honored that she will share her time and talents with us to help raise awareness of this truly unique resource and the perils it faces."

Megan van Frank, Director of the Center for Community Heritage at Utah Humanities, is coordinating the *H2O Today* exhibition tour in Utah and says "I am excited that the Museum chose the iconic Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge as the focus for its contribution to our *Think Water Utah* project. Great Salt Lake is vital habitat for us all and preserving the wetlands at the mouth of the Bear River is the product of years of dedicated community effort. With the enormous pressures on Bear River and Great Salt Lake, our preservation efforts must continue. What a pleasure to support the team at the Brigham City Museum in the creation of *Hometown Habitat* and their efforts to cultivate public appreciation and connection to this precious local landscape. There is no more powerful or enduring voice for the value of Bear River

Migratory Bird Refuge than Terry Tempest Williams."

Willy Palomo, Program Manager of the Center for the Book at Utah Humanities, remarks that "Terry Tempest Williams continues to be one of the sharpest voices from the Mountain West, advocating for downwinders, birds, and rivers alike. This event will be a deep dive into one of her bonafide classics and provide participants with timeless insights into our beloved Salt Lake."

H2O Today has been made possible in Utah by Utah Humanities. *H2O Today* is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. It was adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History (New York) and the Science Museum of Minnesota (St. Paul), in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center (Cleveland), Field Museum (Chicago), Instituto Sangari (Sao Paulo), National Museum of Australia (Canberra), Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), San Diego Natural History Museum, and Science Centre Singapore.

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Many thanks to the Book Festival's sponsors: the George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Foundation, the R. Harold Burton Foundation, the Salt Lake City Arts Council, Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks Fund, the Summit County RAP, Weber County RAMP, the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, The King's English Bookshop, Weller Book Works, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

About Utah Humanities: Utah Humanities empowers Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities. UH is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks Fund, the State of Utah, and through gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Each year, Utah Humanities supports hundreds of educational and cultural programs throughout Utah. For more information, visit www.utahhumanities.org.

About the Brigham City Museum of Art & History: The Brigham City Museum of Art & History is northern Utah's cultural hub, offering temporary exhibitions on art (contemporary and historical) and history. The museum's mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret art and materials that tell stories of human experiences and of the land. The museum is a department of Brigham City Corporation and receives added support from the Box Elder Museum Foundation. It is located at 24 North 300 West. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Guided tours are available by appointment. Admission is free. For more information visit brighamcitymuseum.org.

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