



UTAH HUMANITIES
Ideas in Action



For Immediate Release

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Smithsonian Exhibition, *H2O Today*, Continues Utah Tour at the Uintah County Heritage Museum

Salt Lake City, Utah, April 27, 2021 – As part of Think Water Utah, a statewide conversation on the critical topic of water presented by Utah Humanities and its partners, [Utah Humanities](#) announces that the Smithsonian's *H2O Today* exhibition continues its Utah tour with a stay at the [Uintah County Heritage Museum](#) in Vernal. Presented by Utah Humanities, the [Smithsonian Institution](#), and communities statewide, the Uintah County Heritage Museum portion of the *H2O Today* tour takes place from April 26th through July 31st, 2021.



The Smithsonian's *H2O Today* explores the beauty and essential nature of water, our planet's lifeblood. Through immersive content, interactives, and digital media, the exhibition explores the diversity and challenges of our global water sources, as well as Utah's unique relationship with water. *H2O Today* asks the question: "What does water mean to you?"

The Uintah County Heritage Museum hosted a ribbon cutting and VIP tour on opening day, April 26th. Officials from Uintah County Heritage Museum, Utah Humanities, and the Vernal City Chamber of Commerce joined to open *H2O Today* and *Through Their Eyes*, welcoming the Smithsonian to Vernal.



The local Vernal exhibition was created as a companion to *H2O Today*. *Through Their Eyes: Photographs from the Second Powell Expedition* is an exhibition featuring the work of A.D. Shaw and Randy Fullbright. The artists reconstructed images captured by John Wesley Powell's Second Expedition and paired them with diary entries from members of Powell's crew describing the breath-taking scenery along the Green River.

A full schedule of Uintah County Heritage Museum's *H2O Today* events can be found in this [event publication](#).

Sam Passey, Director of the Uintah County Library, says "We are very excited to host *H2O Today* in Vernal at the Uintah County Heritage Museum this Spring and Summer. Water is so crucial and limited here in Utah. As a museum team, we are hopeful that the exhibit will entertain, educate, and lead to a lot of reflection about what water means to each of us as individuals, families, and communities. Thanks to Utah Humanities, the Smithsonian, and the other generous sponsors who helped make this exhibit possible."

Megan van Frank, Director of the Center for Community Heritage at Utah Humanities, is coordinating the exhibition tour in Utah. In explaining the critical role Utah Humanities plays in bringing the Smithsonian tour to Utah, she says, "We work closely with host organizations to bring this experience to their communities, and the collaboration among national, state, and local organizations benefits everyone. The entire experience directly strengthens Utah museums and helps to preserve and share Utah history." She also hopes that, "visitors to the exhibition will come away with a panoramic and personal view of how water has shaped the state of Utah as well as its role in their personal lives. The exhibition is a unique opportunity for Utahns to tell their own water stories as part of local, state, and national conversations."

Gregory Smoak, Director of the American West Center, University of Utah, and state scholar for Think Water Utah remarks that "Water is life. It has shaped the stunning, inspiring, and often difficult landscapes of our state. It sustains our very existence and has largely defined where Utahns have lived for the past 12,000 years. And there can be no future without water. While the challenges facing Utahns appear daunting, the story of Utah's water ways can offer us a guide. By trying to understand the natural world, its limitations and reasonable opportunities, and considering the many ways in which Utahns have engaged our precious waters, we might use history to map a sustainable way forward."

To learn more about the statewide tour, contact Utah Humanities at 801.359.9670 or visit the [Think Water Utah portion of the Utah Humanities website](#).

The three host sites and dates for this exhibition are:

- **January 21 – April 19, 2021** | [West Valley Arts at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center](#), 1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City, UT 84119, 801.965.5100
- **April 26 – July 31, 2021** | [Uintah County Heritage Museum](#), 155 E. Main, Vernal, Utah 84078, 435.789.7399
- **August 7, 2021 – February 5, 2022** | [Bear River Heritage Area](#) at the [Hyrum City Museum](#), 50 West Main Street, Hyrum, UT 84319, 435.245.0208

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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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.

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