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Photos and interviews available

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Smithsonian Exhibition to Tour Five Utah Sites, Puts Utah Stories in Focus *Traveling exhibition helps Utahns tell their journey stories*



Salt Lake City, Utah, May 14, 2014 – The [Utah Humanities Council](#) announces [Journey Stories, a Museum on Main Street \(MoMS\) exhibition](#) presented by the Utah Humanities Council, the [Smithsonian Institution](#), and communities statewide.

This year-long tour through Utah begins over Memorial Day weekend on May 24th in Moab and continues to four additional sites through March 2015. The “Journey Stories” exhibition explores how transportation and migration helped build our nation, how it has changed us, and how our mobile world looked to travelers along the way.

Making its debut in Utah, the exhibition will celebrate its grand opening at the Museum of Moab, 118 East Center Street, on Saturday, May 24th at 10:30 am with a ribbon cutting and speakers. This event, and the exhibition itself, are free and open to the public. The exhibition will continue in Moab through July 11th.

John Foster, Executive Director of the Museum of Moab, views the “Journey Stories” exhibition as a terrific way to highlight Moab stories and history, saying, “the recreational aspect of Moab for both local residents and tourists is such a large, successful part of its current history and renown. Journey Stories, along with the local programming the Museum is planning, will allow us to give an even broader context for Moab’s evolution as a community, which will only deepen its beloved place in people’s hearts. It gives everyone here, residents and tourists alike, the opportunity to tell their own journey stories and participate in a community event.”

Over the next year, “Journey Stories” will also travel to Vernal, West Valley City, Ephraim, and Brigham City. The exhibition offers these communities access to the Smithsonian, as well as the opportunity to collect and showcase their own important stories. Each host site will develop a local companion exhibit and related activities to complement the national exhibition – family activities, workshops, lectures, personal stories and oral histories, and conversations about the concept of mobility and how it impacts our lives.

Megan van Frank, History and Museums Program Officer at the Utah Humanities Council, is coordinating the exhibition tour in Utah. She hopes that, “visitors to the exhibition will enjoy learning about American history from the viewpoint of mobility, and come away with a sense of what it was like – and is like – to be mobile, whether that’s voluntarily or involuntarily. The concept of mobility is broader than simply getting from point A to point B – it often speaks to life-changing decisions that affect generations and transform communities. The exhibition,” she continues, “is an unparalleled opportunity for Utahns to tell their own journey stories and participate in a nationwide conversation about mobility in America.”

The sophistication and excellence embodied in a Smithsonian exhibition is an exciting opportunity for Utah. The Utah Humanities Council works hard to bring this experience to local communities, and the collaboration among national, state, and community organizations benefits everyone.

For more information about the “Journey Stories” exhibition in Moab, contact the Museum of Moab at 435.259.7985 and www.moabmuseum.org, or to learn more about the statewide tour, contact the Utah Humanities Council at 801.359.9670 or visit www.utahhumanities.org/journeystories.htm.

The five host sites and dates for this exhibition are:

May 24, 2014 – July 11, 2014

Museum of Moab, Moab

www.moabmuseum.org

July 19, 2014 – September 5, 2014

Uintah County Western Heritage Museum, Vernal

www.westernheritagemuseum-uc-ut.org

September 13, 2014 – October 24, 2014

Utah Cultural Celebration Center, West Valley City

www.culturalcelebration.org

November 1, 2014 – January 9, 2015

Granary Art Center, Ephraim

www.granaryartcenter.org

in partnership with

Karen H. Huntsman Library, Snow College

www.snow.edu/library

January 17, 2015 – March 18, 2015

Brigham City Museum of Art & History, Brigham City

www.brighamcitymuseum.org

Journey Stories has been made possible in Utah by the Utah Humanities Council. 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.

About The Utah Humanities Council: [The Utah Humanities Council](http://www.utahhumanities.org) empowers Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities. UHC is funded through gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations, the Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks Fund, the State of Utah, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, the Council underwrites hundreds of educational and cultural programs throughout Utah. For more information, visit www.utahhumanities.org or www.facebook.com/utahhumanitiescouncil.

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