

Multi-site exhibit gives residents chance to tell their 'Journey Stories'

Smithsonian exhibit now on display

By Lyle Fletcher

Staff writer

EPHRAIM—An extravaganza of coordinated exhibits called "Journey Stories," consisting of local art as well as works from the Smithsonian Exhibit in Washington, D.C., will be on display from now into 2015 at the Huntsman Library at Snow College and the Granary Arts Center in Ephraim.

The best part is that everyone is invited to join in—and even play a part.

On exhibit are stories—and stories move people.

These stories are about people on the move, about journeys of all kinds. "Come out and see it," says Amy Jorgensen, a faculty member in the Snow Art Department and coordinator of the

exhibits. "I encourage people to see the exhibitions, participate in the activities and share your own journey stories."

Putting the exhibition together has required the hundreds of volunteer hours and represents a "huge investment" of time, money and labor, Jorgensen says.

Granary Art Center is the major player in the drama, with the Smithsonian, the Utah Humanities Council (UHC) and Snow College taking key supporting roles.

*Opening reception for
"Journey Stories"
exhibit:*

Friday, Nov. 14, 6-9 p.m.

*Granary Arts Center,
Ephraim*

(See "Smithsonian" on A4)

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The Utah Museum of Fine Art, based at the University of Utah, is also playing a part.

Key personnel include Jorgensen, along with Jon Ostler, library director at Snow; David Allred, Humanities Council board member; Kelly Brooks, co-director of Granary and one of the curators; and Adam Larsen, Snow College faculty member and another curator.

The exhibitions began on Nov. 1 and run through Jan. 9, 2015 (at Snow College), or Feb. 6, 2015 (at Granary).

The exhibition offers fun, educational and interactive experiences for all ages, Jorgensen said. It gets viewers involved by having them push buttons, use flip books, etc.

Housed on the second floor of the library are more than a dozen 7-foot-tall panels telling stories about the migration of people and about how transportation built the nation, she says.

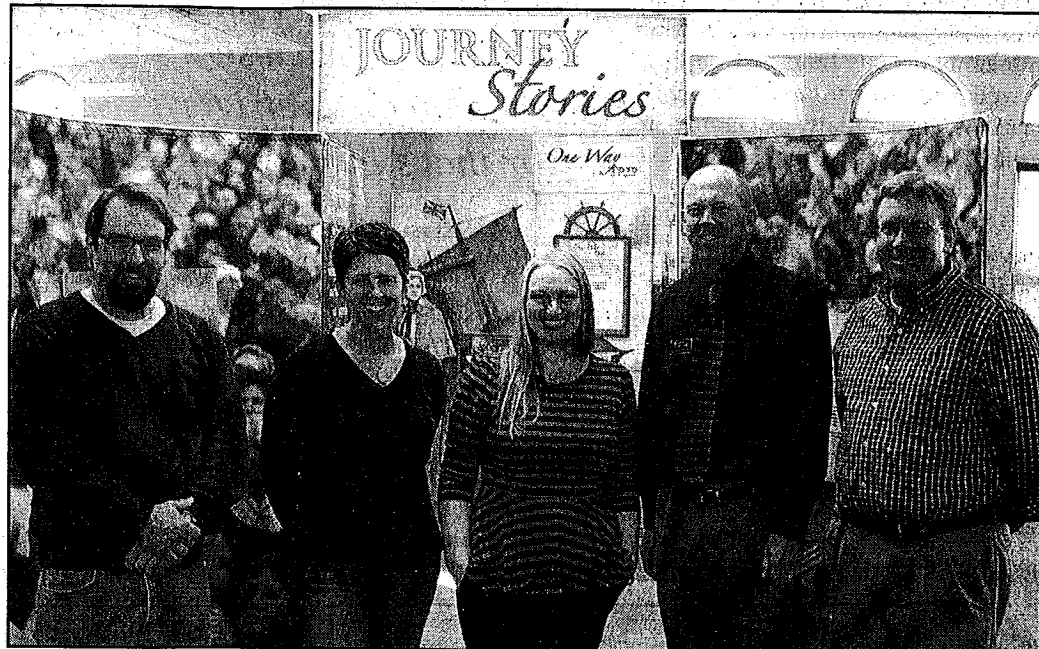
As the viewer moves through the exhibit, he or she also moves through time, and learns about the history of the United States, through stories about people on the move. Some of the journey stories in this exhibit are about migration, immigration, Native Americans and pioneers, as well as about traveling by railroads and airlines.

Local artists

In three companion exhibitions at Granary, the theme of Journey Stories continues.

Brooks curated "Going This Way," an exhibition of works by six Utah artists (including two from Sanpete County) on how Americans travel on vacation and how such travel shapes the American identity. The pieces by Kim Gordon of Ephraim and Joseph Ostraff of Fairview, along with works by four outside artists, invite people to consider how we go places, not merely where we go.

Larsen curated "By Car, By Plane, By Boat, By



J DAVID NIPPER / MESSENGER PHOTO

Key collaborators in the "Journey Stories" exhibitions at Snow College and Granary Art Center are (L-R) Adam Larsen, an art professor at Snow and one of the curators; Kelly Brooks, co-director of Granary Art Center and a curator; Amy Jorgensen, co-director of Granary and overall coordinator of the exhibits; Jon Ostler, library director at Snow College; and David Allred, Utah Humanities Council board member and Snow faculty member.

Train"—an assortment of "assemblage contraptions" by five Utah artists and five artists from other parts of the country. According to a press release, the pieces are sparked by "the compulsion to travel further, higher, faster, deeper."

This exhibition in the CCA Christensen Cabin Gallery draws inspiration from a "multitude of mechanized vehicles and vessels," says the press release, and invites viewers to imagine their own flights of fancy in such mechanized monstrosities. "What would it be like? What could it be like?"

"Swapping Stories," the third exhibit at Granary, is designed for public participation and will change daily. As participants visit the exhibit, they can "swap" their own travel stories (written or created) for a story in the exhibit. You can "tell" your vacation or travel story on 3x5 cards, and take a card containing a story you like.

Your story

Your story may include answers to questions such as: What did you bring on a

journey, and, What did you leave behind? What did your memorable vacation say about yourself or your identity?

An opening reception is scheduled Friday, Nov. 14, from 6-9 p.m. It is free and open to the public. The Snow Dance Ensemble will perform a piece called "Modern Dance Journeys through Time" at Granary at 8 p.m. The exhibit at the Huntsman Library will be open until 9 p.m. that night.

Readings

People who like to hear and tell stories will not want to miss "What's Your Journey Story?: A Night of Community Stories" on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Huntsman Library.

Allred has recorded some journey stories from those close to home, and a number of the stories will be read that night. People who attend will be invited to share their own journey stories. The stories will be collected and become part of the interactive exhibit upstairs at Granary and some of them may be broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR) as part of the Utah Humanities

Council Beehive Archive program.

Workshop

In addition, a workshop for families and young children will be put on by the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Jorgensen said. At this workshop called "Family Art Activity: Journey Stories Journal Sketchbooks," people can create their own sketchbooks for recording travel memories. This free workshop will be on Saturday, Nov. 8, from noon to 2 p.m.

"Journey Stories" is part of the "Museum on Main Street" project, an effort by the Smithsonian to bring top-flight exhibits to small towns across the country.

Jorgensen says it has taken a year and a half to pull all the pieces of the exhibition together and she expects hundreds of Sanpete County residents to participate in various ways.

"We all have stories of movement and migration—journey stories—and the companion exhibits and events serve as a forum for us to share our common journeys," she says.