



Contact: Deena Pyle
801.201.4300
pyle@utahhumanities.org

Photos and interviews available

For Immediate Release

Smithsonian Exhibition Continues Year-long Tour with Stay in Vernal *Traveling exhibition help Utahns tell their journey stories*



Salt Lake City, Utah, July 14, 2014 – The [Utah Humanities Council](#) announces that [Journey Stories, a Museum on Main Street \(MoMS\) exhibition](#) continues its year-long tour with a stop in Vernal. Presented by the Utah Humanities Council, the [Smithsonian Institution](#), and communities statewide, the Vernal portion of the tour takes place from July 19th through September 5th.

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. Vernal will feature a local companion exhibition called “From Obstacle to Opportunity: the Green and Yampa Rivers,” a community art invitational exhibit called “River Ramblings,” as well as a variety of community programming.

The grand opening of the “Journey Stories” exhibition in Vernal kicks off with a Ribbon Cutting for the Uintah County Heritage Museum’s new

location. In celebration of the Uintah County Heritage Museum’s brand new home on Vernal’s Main Street, and as the Vernal grand opening of Journey Stories, the public is invited to participate in the traveling Smithsonian exhibition, new exhibits, as well as guided tours of the new museum, prizes, and fun.

Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Event:

JULY 19, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Uintah County Heritage Museum
155 East Main Street, Vernal, UT

Sam Passey, Executive Director of the Uintah County Library and Museum, views the Journey Stories exhibition as a terrific way to highlight Vernal stories, history, and a beautiful new museum, saying, “We want to showcase our history and growth as a community and recognize the role that journeys and travel play in our local culture. We are very proud to have a brand new facility in which to preserve and display our heritage. The timing of our new facility and this Journey Stories tour gives everyone here the opportunity to tell their own journey stories and participate in a community event.”

Over the next year, “Journey Stories” will also travel to 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 Vernal, contact the Uintah County Heritage Museum at 435-789-7399 and www.uintahmuseum.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 Heritage Museum, Vernal

www.uintahmuseum.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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202 West 300 North • Salt Lake City, Utah 84103 • Phone 801.359.9670 • www.utahhumanities.org