



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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“Between Fences” to tour Nebraska in 2007-2008

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) is seeking six communities interested in hosting the 2007-2008 statewide tour of “Between Fences,” a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES).

If you know of a small-town museum or other community organization that is interested and would like to apply, contact NHC Senior Program Officer Raymond Screws at (402) 474-2131 ext. 103 or at ray@nebraskahumanities.org. The application deadline is **June 1**. An application form can be viewed and downloaded from the NHC website at www.nebraskahumanities.org.

“Between Fences” is a visual cultural history of fences and land use that examines how neighbors and nations divide and protect, offend and defend through the boundaries they build. Focusing on every region of the United States, the exhibit’s subjects include the defining of home, farm, and factory; the settling of the United States; the closing of the range in the South and its meaning to former slaves; and the making of fences, including a look at why Abe Lincoln became known as a rail splitter.

“Between Fences” examines human relationships on an expanding scale: Neighbor versus neighbor; gated communities, and the Mexican and Canadian borders of the United States. The exhibition tells American stories through diverse fence types.

To host “Between Fences” a community must have a facility with at least 600 square feet of floor space and 7½-foot ceilings. Each hosting organization is required to develop public humanities programming that will coincide with the theme of “Between Fences,” such as lectures, displays, exhibits and contests. Sites also will develop events and activities to encourage public participation during the exhibit.

The exhibition will tour Nebraska between September 2007 and June 2008.

Part of the SITES Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program, “Between Fences” is designed for rural audiences and small museums that do not have access to traveling exhibits because of space and cost limitations.

In 2005-2006, The NHC brought the MOMS exhibit “Key Ingredients: America By Food” to Nebraska for a statewide tour of six communities. In 2003, the MOMS exhibit “Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future” toured six Nebraska towns, and in 2001-2002, the MOMS exhibit “Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon” visited 10 communities and the Nebraska State Fair.

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