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N E W S R E L E A S E

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“Between Fences” state tour begins Sept. 13

The 2007-2008 Nebraska tour of “Between Fences,” a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Service and presented in the state by the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), opens Sept. 13 in Broken Bow.

The exhibit, which tours seven Nebraska sites through June 30, debuts at Custer County Historical Society Museum, 445 S. Ninth Ave., Sept. 13 to Oct. 26. Each of the sites will develop public humanities programming related to the exhibit’s theme and create events and activities to encourage public participation. Among events planned in Broken Bow are a 10 a.m. grand opening Sept. 13, a party in the park across the street from the museum Sept. 27, a program by Margie Lloyd, whose work in Africa has helped women break down “fences” that kept them from healthy and productive lives, and special school tours.

“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.

“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 NHC encourages consideration of current issues that have the potential to divide Nebraskans, among them language, culture and water resources. The grand opening will feature Anthony Schutz, professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law, describing water as a boundary issue in the state.

From Broken Bow, the exhibit travels to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College in Chadron, where it remains Nov. 1 through Dec. 7. The Dawson County Historical Society in Lexington will house the traveling exhibit Dec. 18 through Jan. 18, and from Jan. 26 through Feb. 13, it will be at the State Capitol in Lincoln. From there it goes to Wisner Heritage Museum in Wisner, where it will be displayed Feb. 19 through March 30. The Plainsman Museum in Aurora will house the exhibit April 7 through May 15, and the tour wraps up with a visit to Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library in Tilden May 21 through June 30.

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. The state tour is supported in part by the Cooper Foundation, the Valmont Foundation, the Nebraska Rural Radio Network—KRVN, KTIC, and KNEB, the Nebraska Farm Bureau, and the “We the People” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The NHC has sponsored four other MOMS tours in Nebraska. In 2005-2006, “Key Ingredients: America By Food” visited six communities statewide. “Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future” toured the state in 2003, “Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon” toured the state in 2001-2002, and “Produce for Victory” toured the state in 1996.