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N E W S R E L E A S E

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“Between Fences” opens April 7 in Aurora

“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 April 7 at the Plainsman Museum in Aurora, where it will be on exhibit through May 15.

The exhibit tours seven Nebraska sites through June 30. Each site will develop public humanities programming related to the exhibit’s theme and create events and activities to encourage public participation. Among special activities planned in Aurora is an opening event on April 7 with music and refreshments from 5-7 p.m. and a short program at 6 p.m.

“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.

The exhibit 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 issues that have the potential to divide Nebraskans, among them language, culture and water resources. The opening program features Anthony Schutz, professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law, who will describe water as a boundary issue in the state.

The state tour of “Between Fences” 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 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.

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