



Spark! Places of Innovation

A new exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution's
Museum on Main Street program

Coming to Kentucky in 2023 Apply now to host the Smithsonian exhibit

Kentucky Humanities invites smaller museums, libraries and historical societies in towns of fewer than 25,000 residents to apply to host a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit called **Spark! Places of Innovation**. The exhibit is developed by the Smithsonian especially for rural audiences and small museums without access to traveling exhibitions due to space and cost limitations.

The exhibit will tour six Kentucky communities from June 17, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Sites will be chosen based on their geographic location, ideas for auxiliary events, and physical display space.

Applications are due by **May 31, 2022**.

To apply, complete the information on the reverse side and return it to:

Kentucky Humanities, 206 E. Maxwell St., Lexington, KY 40508

Phone 859/257-5472 or Fax: 859/257-5933 or email to kyhumanities@kyhumanities.org

About the Exhibit: Spark! Places of Innovation is a new traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution that will dive into innovation and invention happening in rural America. Spark! will spotlight stories of invention and innovation in small towns both to celebrate the rich American heritage of meeting challenges and seizing opportunities in unique ways and also to provide inspiration for others. The exhibition will travel in Kentucky, sharing these stories with thousands of visitors in rural communities. Innovation is Alive in Rural America!

For more information about **Spark! Places of Innovation**, visit the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street website at museumonmainstreet.org.

The modular, freestanding units require 650 square-feet of display space with 8' ceilings plus storage space for 20 crates. Additional space is recommended to show local artifacts and special exhibits. Applicants should also consider nearby facilities that can accommodate groups attending events associated with hosting the display. This exhibit requires a strong wifi signal to access some of the virtual aspects of the exhibit.

Each host community will receive from Kentucky Humanities:

- Rental of the Smithsonian exhibit for a six-week period.
- Free shipping.
- An exhibit support manual covering installation, object collection and conservation, public relations, and evaluation.
- Exhibit brochures, posters, postcards, teacher guides, and docent guides.
- Assistance with program planning and ready-made publicity materials, such as posters and public service announcements.
- Travel expenses for the project coordinator to attend a planning meeting.
- Help in applying for grant funds from KH in support of complementary community programs, such as oral history projects, guest speakers, film series, artifact collection, workshops, reading discussion programs, dramatizations, etc.
- Humanities scholar to assist with planning of local exhibit and programs to coincide with the exhibit.

In return, hosts will be asked to:

- Contribute \$500 toward exhibit rental and program support.
- Identify a staff member or volunteer who will serve as coordinator of the project for its duration and who will attend the installation and planning meetings.
- Demonstrate a willingness to plan and implement public programs during the exhibition. Develop and display local exhibit and educational programs to coincide with traveling exhibit.
- Keep track of all staff and volunteer time, facilities, and other resources donated to the project and provide report of local cost share at the project's conclusion.

For more information, please contact Kathleen Pool at 859/257-5472 or kathleen.pool@uky.edu.



Application to host a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit

Part 1: Tell us about your institution:

Institution Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Project Coordinator/Title: _____

Number of staff: Permanent _____ Volunteer _____

Annual # of visitors: _____ Days/Hours of operation: _____

Describe your facility and the area where **Spark! Places of Innovation** will be displayed:

(include pictures of exhibit space if available).

Describe security, climate conditions, and internet access and wifi capabilities:

Part 2: Share your preliminary ideas for making **Spark! Places of Innovation** a successful event for your community. Use a separate page to respond to the following:

- A. Identify community resources (organizations, individuals, special facilities, etc.) to help make the project successful. Include names and letters of support from other important participants (media persons, local government officials, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Council, Civic Organizations, School Board Superintendent or the director of instruction for the school district, etc).
- B. Briefly describe some ideas you have for community programs to enhance the exhibit. Note: You will have the chance to develop your ideas further at planning meetings for the project.) Be creative. Include “fun” activities as well as educational events. Describe plans for a local exhibit to coincide with the Smithsonian traveling exhibit. Sample ideas that relate to the **Spark! Places of Innovation** exhibit can be found on the Museum on Main Street website at museumonmainstreet.org. Click on resource center, then downloads. Enter Voices & Votes. You will find a number of available resources for this exhibit.
- C. Explain ways the exhibit can further your organization’s goals, for example, add new members, increase number of visitors to the museum, enhance local exhibit or learn how to store and display historical items.

Preferred dates for hosting *Spark! Places of Innovation* exhibit

(please indicate 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choice of approximate dates)

_____ June 17, 2023 - July 29, 2023

_____ November 11, 2023 - January 1, 2024

_____ August 5, 2023 - September 16, 2023

_____ January 13 2024 - February 24, 2024

_____ September 23, 2023 - November 4, 2023

_____ March 2, 2024 - March 30, 2024

Would you prefer the exhibit 4 weeks, 5 weeks, 6 weeks, 7 weeks, or 8 weeks? _____