



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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“New Harmonies” exhibit to tour Nebraska in 2009

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) is seeking communities interested in hosting the 2009 statewide tour of “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music,” a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES).

“New Harmonies” will explore the cultural process that has made America the birthplace of more music than any other place on earth. It’s the story of people in a New World, places they have left behind, and ideas they have brought with them. It is the story of people who were already here, but whose world is remade.

The exhibition provides a fascinating, inspiring, and toe-tapping listen to the American story of multicultural exchange. The story is full of surprises about familiar songs, histories of instruments, the roles of religion and technology, and the continuity of musical roots from “Yankee Doodle Dandy” to the latest hip hop CD.

If your small-town museum, library or other community organization is interested in hosting “New Harmonies” in 2009, contact NHC Program Officer Mary Yager at (402) 474-2131 ext 103 or mary@nebraskahumanities.org for more information about the application process.

The application deadline is Nov. 15. An application form can be viewed and downloaded from the NHC website at www.nebraskahumanities.org.

To host “New Harmonies” a community must have a facility with at least 800 square feet of floor space and 8-foot ceilings. Each hosting organization is required to develop public humanities programming that will coincide with the theme of “New Harmonies,” 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 March 2009 and December 2009.

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

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

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