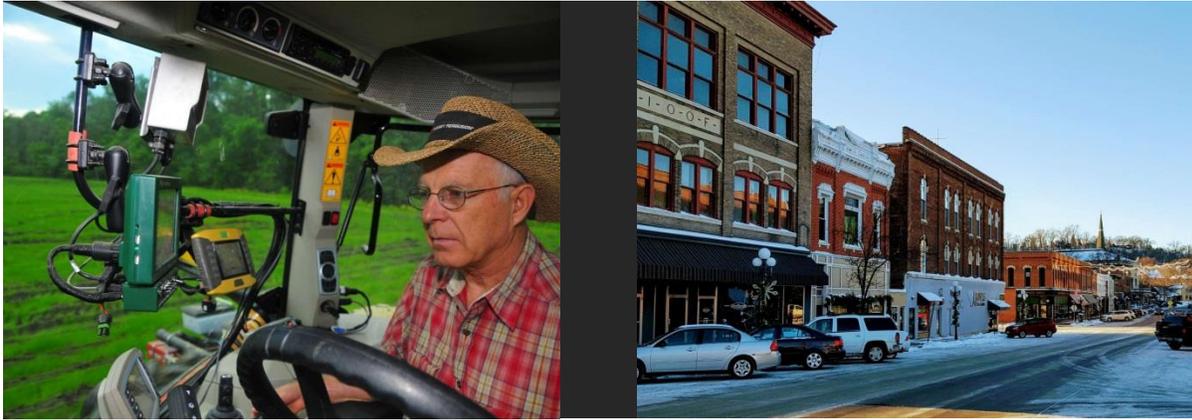


Crossroads: Change in Rural America Smithsonian Exhibition



Coming to Nebraska in 2021!

Applications due October 15, 2019, to Humanities Nebraska

In 1900, about 40% of Americans lived in rural areas. By 2010, less than 18% of the U.S. population lived in rural areas. In just over a century, massive economic and social changes moved millions of Americans into urban areas. Yet, only 10% of the U.S. landmass is considered urban.

Many Americans consider rural communities to be endangered and hanging on by a thread—suffering from brain drain, inadequate schools, and a barren, overused landscape. Why should revitalizing the rural places left behind matter to those who remain? Those who left? And those who will come in the future? Because there is much more to the story of rural America.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America offers small towns a chance to look at their own paths to highlight the changes that affected their fortunes over the past century. The exhibition will prompt discussions about what happened when America's rural population became a minority of the country's population and the ripple effects that occurred.

Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America's small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development. Economic innovation and a focus on the cultural facets that make small towns unique, comfortable, and desirable have helped many communities create their own renaissance. The future is bright for much of rural America as small towns embrace the notion that their citizens and their cultural uniqueness are important assets.

Museums, libraries and other community centers are eligible to apply.

Those sites selected will receive from Humanities Nebraska

- Free rental of the exhibit
- Exhibit support materials covering installation, public relations and evaluation
- Exhibit brochures and posters for distribution
- Help in program planning and ready-made publicity materials
- \$2000 stipend to be used for programming and publicity plus travel for project director and one other person from each community to the planning meeting and the installation workshop at the opening site

In return, host sites will

- Provide a clean, cool and dry exhibit space for approximately five weeks, plus 100 sq. ft. storage space for exhibit crates
- Identify a staff member or volunteer who will serve as coordinator of the exhibit project for its duration and who will attend the program/planning workshop (half a year before opening) and installation meeting
- Demonstrate a willingness to plan and implement public humanities programming during the duration of the exhibit in the community
- Keep track of all staff and volunteer time, facilities and other resources donated to the project and provide a report of this local cost share at the conclusion of the project
- Provide a complementary local exhibit in conjunction with the national exhibit

The application is available at humanitiesnebraska.org or contact mary@humanitiesnebraska.org