

About the Opportunity

Museum on Main Street brings high-quality Smithsonian traveling exhibitions to museums, historical societies, and other small-town cultural venues across the country. These exhibits boost civic pride, as residents young and old, from diverse backgrounds come together to share and celebrate their heritage. Host venues are selected through a competitive application and awarded to communities as a cohort that will work and train together over the next year, leading up to opening day at the first venue.

Hopeful. Participatory. Community-building.

Five Maryland communities will explore what it means to be a citizen and examine the context and main controversies behind America's democratic system as well as lead community discussions centering the right to vote, what are the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens, and whose voices will be heard? Through a year-long engagement before the Smithsonian exhibition arrives, communities will collaborate across sectors, create companion exhibits, develop programs, events, and storytelling projects that facilitate community-wide conversations in the community and throughout the state.



One of many buttons encouraging citizens to register and vote.

Exhibition schedule

April 17, 2021 – May 29, 2021

June 12, 2021 – July 24, 2021

August 14, 2021 – September 25, 2021

October 9, 2021 – November 20, 2021

December 4, 2021 – January 22, 2022

When will Voices and Votes be in Maryland?

The exhibition will tour Maryland from April 17, 2021 to January 22, 2022. In the application, you'll be able to mark your top three choices for exhibition dates. If your host site is selected, Maryland Humanities will use the information to create the final exhibit tour schedule. The selection committee will strive to match host sites with their preferred dates. However, we cannot guarantee organizations will be assigned their top choices.



Eligibility

Eligible applicants will:

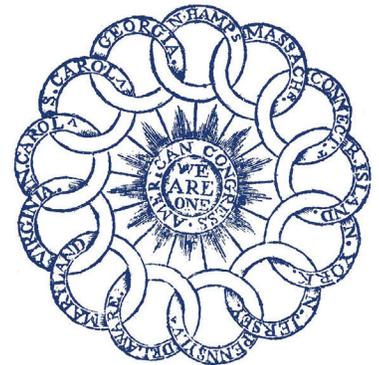
- Either be located in a community with a population below 20,000 or the have ability to demonstrate limited access to nationally recognized exhibitions
- Provide:
 - a minimum of 700 square feet of display space for the Smithsonian exhibition
 - a ceiling height of at least 9 feet
 - functional electrical outlets in the display space
 - enclosed shipping crate storage of 220 square feet
 - minimum standards of security during the exhibition's stay
- Have convenient hours that are open to the public
- Tell a unique local story that ties in with the theme of *Voices and Votes* that will be the basis for a locally produced companion exhibition
- Demonstrate ideas for strong public humanities programming
- Develop partnerships among organizations in the community or region



Responsibilities

Sites selected to host the *Voices and Votes* exhibition will:

- Assign two project coordinators for the exhibition who will attend planning meetings and work together coordinate the project from beginning to end
- Implement publicity in your local community and region in cooperation with Maryland Humanities
- Produce a local companion exhibition and host public humanities programs
- Host a grand opening/ribbon cutting and invite public officials, media, legislators, congressional representatives, and others
- Provide a cost share report at the project's conclusion tracking all staff and volunteer time, facility expenses, and other donated resources
- Provide a secure, dry space to store empty exhibition crates for the duration of the exhibition.
- Engage in cooperative publicity
- Contribute hard work and some out-of-pocket expenses



This design and words "We Are One" appeared on Continental paper money in 1776.

Voices and Votes Exhibition Content

The exhibition will explore historic events and pose questions for today in the following content areas:

The Great Leap: Examine the context and main controversies behind America's democratic system. Learn the stories of our famous founders and those who remain mostly unknown. What were the principles and events that inspired the writers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution? Just how revolutionary was our new democracy led by the people? And who were "the people?"

A Vote, A Voice: We have a diverse body of voters today, but not every American has always had the right to vote. The fight for fair representation, suffrage, and a voice at the polls has meant struggle and changes to laws ever since our founding. Learn about these struggles, how voting was expanded, and continued challenges to voting.

The Machinery of Democracy: We participate in the political system through state and national parties, nomination conventions, and stumping for our candidate of choice. Learn about this machinery of democracy, how it calls us to be involved, but can also control how we get information about candidates and issues.

Beyond the Ballot: Americans fight against injustice. Men and women of every ethnicity, class, and state have shared in the revolutionary spirit of rising up and speaking out. The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees this right to peaceably assemble and petition the government. See the different places and different motivations of diverse Americans to petition for their interests and concerns.

Creating Citizens: Who are "We the People?" What is the meaning of citizenship? Ever since the creation of the Constitution, Americans continue to interpret, expand, and shape the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen. Explore how those views of rights and responsibilities have shaped our national identity and our complex national story.

About Museum on Main Street

Museum on Main Street enables Marylanders to experience Smithsonian-produced exhibitions in their own communities. Furthermore, it gives local cultural organizations hosting the exhibition opportunities to enhance their roles in their regions, engage new audiences and volunteers, expand their knowledge and resource bases, and develop skills that can be applied toward future exhibits and programs. For many past host communities, this experience has been transformative. More information is on the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street website: www.museumonmainstreet.org.