

 Smithsonian WATER | WAYS

Host a Smithsonian exhibition in your town

The Smithsonian is coming to town! Maryland Humanities partners with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service to bring high-quality traveling exhibitions to communities across the state. Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibitions are designed to start dialogue, facilitate connections, open doors to community history, culture, people, and build a sense of local pride. Maryland Humanities is now accepting applications to host the exhibition *Water/Ways* for its 2019-2020 tour of Maryland.

Application Deadline: March 30, 2018

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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.

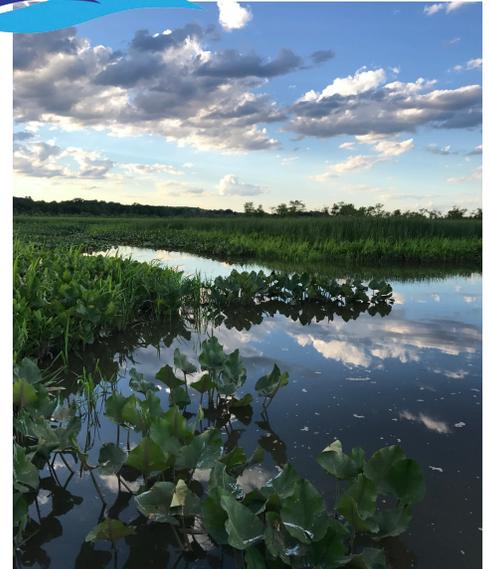
About Water/Ways

Water is a critical resource. An essential component of life on our planet, water powers the environment's engine, impacting climate and helping to shape and sculpt the landscape. Water's impact on humans is not just biological and environmental; it serves as a source of peace and contemplation. We cherish our connections to nature, particularly the sights, the sounds, and the sense of place we feel at the water's edge. Many faiths revere water as a sacred symbol. Authors and artists are inspired by the duality of water – a substance that is seemingly soft and graceful that is yet a powerful and nearly unstoppable force.

Water also plays a practical role in American society. The availability of water affected settlement and migration patterns, as a source of food, livelihood, and transportation. Access to water and control of water resources have long been a central part of political and economic planning. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment. This substance that is central to life is also invested with deep societal meaning. Many of the core questions about the relationship between people and the natural environment can be considered through a look at water.

Who is eligible to host the exhibit?

Nonprofit Maryland organizations (museums, historical societies, libraries, preservation groups, main street development groups, or chambers of commerce) located in communities with populations of approximately 20,000 or less.



Hopeful. Participatory. Community-building.

Six Maryland communities will be invited to explore the rich meaning of water, to tell their local water stories and to collectively envision their water future. The Smithsonian exhibition, along with local exhibits and programs, will reflect each community's relationships to its rivers, canals, beaches, and bays; and celebrate its desire to pass them on to future generations undiminished.

Through a year-long engagement before the Smithsonian exhibition arrives, communities will collaborate across sectors, create companion exhibits, develop programs, events, and stewardship projects that facilitate community-wide conversations about water and its value to the community and the state.



Experiences that Reach, Teach, Connect, Empower, Endure

The true magic of Museum on Main Street stems from the learning and community engagement opportunities that spin off of the main exhibition themes. Funds, training, and support are available to venues and partners hosting the exhibition. Through one-on-one consultation and specially designed workshops, Maryland Humanities and its Museum Capacity Building Team will work closely with each community for 12 months before the exhibition opening to support partnership-building, program and exhibit development, and overall project capacity.

Potential Programs

- Reading and discussion programs
- Concerts
- Film and discussion series
- Speakers
- Living history performances
- Art, performances, community mural
- Rain garden, shoreline planting, or watershed steward workshops
- K-12 field trips, lessons, service projects
- Community-wide water conservation challenge
- Peer-to-peer sharing of best practices for farmers, watermen, or other livelihoods
- Tours of water treatment facilities
- Paddle & picnic learning tours
- Contests: photography, art, short story, poetry
- Community-wide stewardship project

Potential Partners

- Faith communities
- Local libraries
- K-12 education, colleges
- Watershed Districts
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Parks/Park Service
- Lakes Associations
- Conservation, fishing & hunting groups
- Chamber of Commerce
- Lifelong learning/senior groups
- Arts & music organizations
- Regional or local media
- Watermen's Associations
- Civic groups
- Farming/food groups
- Businesses
- County government
- Health/wellness groups
- Scouts, 4H
- Youth groups



What are the venue requirements for the exhibit?

- At least 800 square feet of space and eight-foot ceilings
- Handicapped accessible with bathroom facilities for visitors
- At least 25 hours per week of public operating hours
- Secure area for exhibit displays, plus 100 sq. ft. storage space for exhibition crates

What is provided by Maryland Humanities for selected host venues?

- Rental cost of the Smithsonian exhibition for a six-week period (\$1,750 value);
- Up to \$500 in funds to support local exhibit development and public programming;
- Fundraising materials and support;
- Two training workshops and a two-day installation workshop to orient your site to the exhibition content, assist with development of the local companion exhibit and programming, work on capacity building activities, and review installation and shipping procedures;
- Promotional tools including banners, posters, brochures, postcards, teacher resources, docent handbooks, press kit, website, social media tools; statewide promotion and public relations support;
- An exhibition support manual detailing project planning, promotion, and evaluation;
- Ongoing consultation from Maryland Humanities and its Museum Capacity Building Team to assist with local exhibit and program planning. Host sites will join a “cohort of MoMS communities” who will share ideas and resources for maximizing impact of the exhibits and related programming.

What are the host organizations' responsibilities?

- Secure appropriate venue for 6-week exhibition schedule; supervise exhibit space during open hours;
- Identify two local co-coordinators responsible for the project, attend all required meetings, direct installation of the exhibition and provide leadership for engagement of community partners;
- Develop a network of collaborating organizations supporting the exhibition and related programming;
- Develop a companion exhibit that relates the themes of water, past and present, to the history and culture of your community or region;
- Plan and implement at least four public programs or events in conjunction with the exhibit;
- Provide in-kind support for the exhibition and related public programs;
- Track staff and volunteer time, facilities, and other resources donated to the project;
- Support project evaluation and report on local outcomes;
- Pay for (or arrange in-kind) shipping of the exhibit to the next host community (estimated \$800-\$1,000).

What are the criteria for host community selection?

- Collaboration – Preference will be given to communities that show evidence of a multi-sector network of organizations collaborating to:
 - ❖ explore water’s connections to local culture, history, and identity
 - ❖ cultivate increased water consciousness and stewardship across sectors: arts, culture, K-12 education, faith, local water entities, library, industry, parks, food/agriculture, health, business, government
- Public Programming – Creativity and strength of proposed public programming, including K-12 engagement and humanities-based conversations
- Strong articulation of local cultural and historic connections to water
- Geography – Maryland Humanities intends for the tour to serve as many different parts of the state as possible, with preference given to counties under-served by the MoMS program: Baltimore, Charles, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties.

Application process and project timeline

Application deadline	March 30, 2018
Host communities announced	May 15, 2018
State Planning Meeting (Baltimore)	Mid-late July 2018
Host communities recruit partners, develop local exhibits & programming	June 2018–April 2019
Installation Workshop (at first venue)	on or about May 17–18, 2019
Water/Ways exhibition tour	May 25, 2019–March 8, 2020

