



SPARK!

PLACES *of* INNOVATION



Smithsonian
Institution

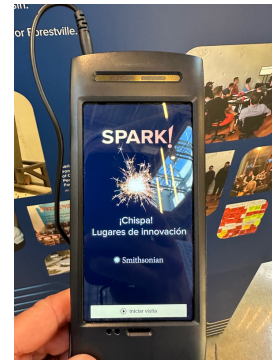
Maryland Humanities is committed to bringing outstanding programs to every corner of our state. Museum on Main Street helps fulfill that promise. A collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, MoMS brings high-quality traveling exhibits to local museums, libraries, and other small-town cultural venues across the country.

Spark! Places of Innovation explores the unique combination of places, people, and circumstances that sparks innovation and invention in rural communities. Inspired by an exhibition at the National Museum of American History, this travelling exhibition features stories gathered from diverse communities across the nation. Photographs, engaging interactives, objects, videos, and augmented reality bring a multilayered experience to reveal the leaders, challenges, successes, and future of innovation in each town. Technical, social, cultural, or artistic—every sort of innovation story is as unique as each community.

Spark! will be the springboard for diverse local programming in the humanities, sciences, and arts. Visitors will be inspired to learn about how innovation has shaped their own communities and how they may be innovators themselves. This exhibition will be an opportunity for community members to come together in conversation around their community's history, present, and future with innovation.

Maryland Humanities is coordinating the exhibit's tour throughout the State and is seeking six partner organizations to host Spark! Selected sites will host the Smithsonian exhibit, work with local partners in their community, and create additional programming to support the exhibit.

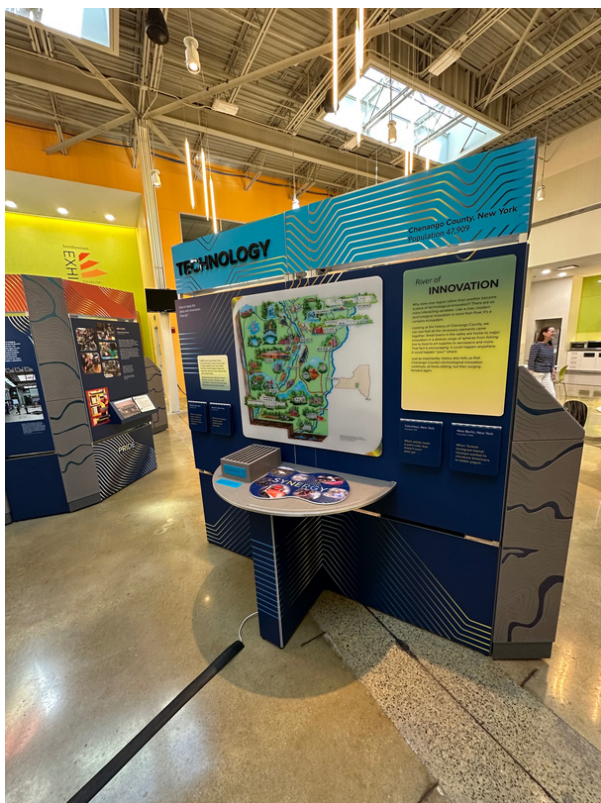
We invite museums, libraries, colleges, humanities organizations, and other nonprofit cultural organizations to apply.



Applications due April 5, 2024

What is included:

- Stand alone Smithsonian exhibit kiosks and panels.
- Photographs, text panels, and objects.
- Audio and video clips.
- Hands-on activities.
- Exhibition support materials.



We offer capacity building efforts built around providing a team of expert consultants to assist host venues with an array of opportunities- from training interpreters and writing grant proposals to developing exhibits or engagement opportunities.

Host sites receive:

- The exhibit rent free for 6 weeks.
- A \$2,000 grant to support local programming.
- More funding and program opportunities may become available.
- Resources including educational and promotional materials.
- Program planning assistance from Maryland Humanities and Smithsonian staff.
- Access to a statewide network of experts for consultation, presentations, and programming.
- Ongoing support prior to, during and after exhibit.

Eligible applicants must:

- Collaborate with community partners to develop robust programs that support the exhibit which include multiple programs throughout the duration of the exhibit and the creation of a complimentary local exhibit.
- Be located in a community with a population below 20,000.
- Identify a staff member to serve as project director for the exhibit and related programs.
- Provide a minimum of 650 square feet of climate controlled, secure exhibit space.
- Ideally exhibit spaces should have internet connectivity.
- Have a minimum of 100 square feet of storage space for large shipping crates.
- Work within guidelines to install and de-install the exhibit in the time frames provided.
- Track attendance, maintain budget records, submit assessment forms, and submit final program reports.
- Have convenient hours that are free and open to the public.
- Send 2 staff members for an all-day in-person training AND an Installation workshop.



AVAILABLE DATES

- Site 1:** May 17 to June 29, 2025
- Site 2:** July 5 to August 17, 2025
- Site 3:** August 23 to October 5, 2025
- Site 4:** October 11 to November 23, 2025
- Site 5:** November 29, 2025 to January 11, 2026
- Site 6:** January 17 to March 1, 2026

Want more information about how to get involved?

Email **Robert Forloney**
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