



Apply Today

Deadline to apply:
6/15/2022 Noon MT

IHC Staff Visits:
6/15/2022 – 8/1/2022

Selection Date:
8/1/2022

Exhibition Tour:
5/20/2023 – 3/3/2024

The IHC is now accepting applications to host an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution! This brand-new exhibit will visit six Idaho communities beginning May 2023. IHC covers all expenses including shipping, publicity, travel to two workshops, and provides \$1,500 for programming.

Spark! explores what ignites innovation. Themes include the spirit of ingenuity, creativity, resiliency, and optimism. Stories in the exhibit are exclusively from rural communities across the U.S. and will feature new and exciting ways to interact, including augmented reality. **It is also the first Smithsonian Museum on Main street exhibit to be entirely bilingual (English and Spanish).**

**All organizations across Idaho are welcome to apply!
IHC is especially interested in receiving applications from rural communities with populations under 20,000.**

Please Contact:

Doug Exton, Program Officer
Idaho Humanities Council
doug@idahohumanities.org



About Spark! Places of Innovation

Experience the distinctive combinations of places, people, and circumstances that generate innovation and invention in rural communities. *Spark!* is inspired by a National Museum of American History exhibit. This traveling exhibit explores the real stories of small-town innovation and invention, told by diverse voices. The powerful stories are enhanced with photos and objects from communities across the country.

“The story of human history is written in inventions and innovations. People are problem-solvers. Sometimes we invent. More often, we innovate—we introduce a fresh idea or an invention into use in some way that creates a new way of doing or thinking.

Invention can happen anywhere and it’s happening right now in small towns across America. Rural Americans are creating new products, taking risks, meeting challenges together, and seizing upon exciting opportunities that change local life and sometimes reach far beyond.”

-Smithsonian Institute

Rather than tell visitors about innovation, *Spark!* will *show* what innovation looks like in rural America with photographs, interactive components, objects, videos, and augmented reality. Case studies of rural innovation will give visitors the chance to consider how leaders approach challenges, how success is fostered, and how innovation impacts the future of communities. The goal is to inspire visitors to consider how the exhibit themes apply to their own towns and to look at the following questions:

- What is the role of creative thinkers and inventors in a town?
- What resources do towns have for innovation and invention?
- How important is the role of self-expression and openness to change?
- How does a place encourage risk-taking?
- How can diversity spark innovation?

Learn more about the exhibit and view downloadable resources here:

<https://museumonmainstreet.org/spark>

Learn more about the inspiration behind *Spark!*:

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/places-invention>

<https://www.idahohumanities.org/programs/smithsonian-exhibits/>

What is Included?

- All shipping costs to and from the venue
- All costs for two community representatives to attend two programming workshops in Boise
- All costs for two community representatives to attend an Installation workshop at the first host site
- \$1,500 to assist with supplemental programming
- Publicity materials including postcards, posters, banners, and more
- Consultation with scholars to develop local humanities programming

Funding Eligibility

Idaho tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and public institutions are eligible to apply. Although universities and colleges are eligible to apply, it is strongly encouraged to both partner with and apply through other local nonprofits and demonstrate a large non-campus audience. All organizations are required to have a valid SAM number. This is a 12-digit alphanumeric identifier. You can get this at www.sam.gov.

Special consideration may be given based on the following:

- Organizations serving rural counties as defined by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.
- Communities who have a population under 20,000.
- Organizations who reach new and/or underserved audiences.
 - “Underserved audiences” is defined as remote populations, seniors, people with African, Latino, Asian, Arab, and/or Native American/indigenous descent, People with Disabilities, New Americans (Immigrants, Refugees, First Generation Americans), Low-Income, and LGBTQIA+.
- Sites that collectively represent a broad geographic reach across Idaho.

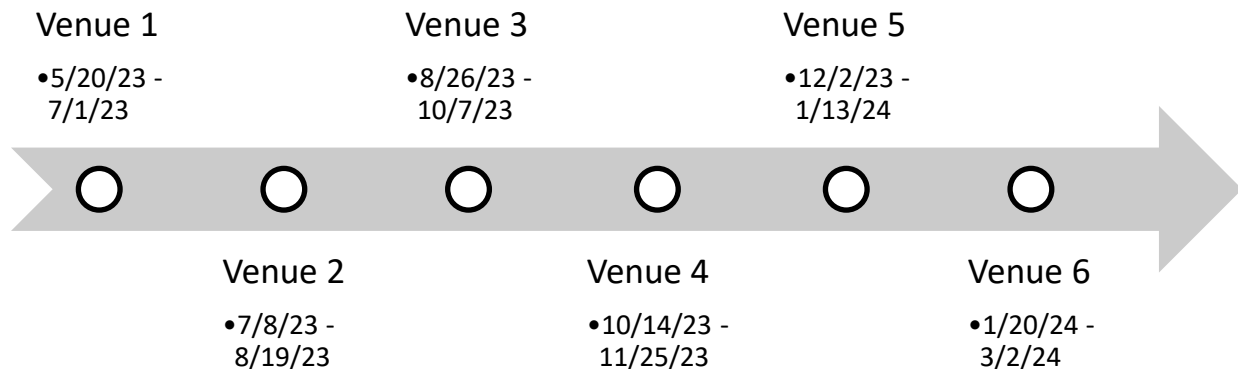
Venue Requirements

The venue must meet all the following to be considered to host the exhibit:

1. The venue must have a minimum of 650 square feet of space for the exhibit.
2. The exhibit cannot be displayed in a hallway, alley, outdoors, or in a tent/temporary building.
3. The exhibit must have staff watching during the entire time the exhibit is open and may not be left unsupervised while open.
4. The exhibit must be locked and secure at the end of the day (when public cannot access the exhibit).
5. There may not be direct sunlight in the exhibit space. You must diffuse the sunlight in the space if there is any.
6. The venue space may not exceed 80 degrees the entire time the exhibit is in the space.
7. The venue space must be ADA compliant.
8. The venue space will need a minimum of about 8'6" ceiling height clearance.
9. You will need about 50 square feet of storage for the exhibit crates.

Tour Schedule

Applicants will be required to choose the top three dates that work the best for them based on the schedule below:



Programming Requirements

All host sites will be required to have additional programs open to the public. These programs should tie themes from *Spark!* to the host community with a focus on humanities topics. Programs may be either in person or virtual, and it is encouraged to have programming leading up to, during, and in the weeks after the exhibit is in your community.

Examples of programs include:

- Oral history collection with community engagement
- Lecture/presentation/discussion series
- Digital and audio programs such as podcasts and interactive websites
- Site-based exhibits exploring the theme of innovation

How to Apply

Applications will only be received electronically through our grant system. Paper applications will not be accepted. You may find the link on the Museum on Main street page of our website: <https://www.idahohumanities.org/programs/smithsonian-exhibits/>

Note on Cost Share/Match

All projects require a one-to-one match. For Museum on Main Street, this means you will need to have \$1,500 or greater provided to receive the \$1,500 award from the IHC. The match can be from either in-kind service (such as volunteer hours or venue rentals), salaries/wages, or cash. The match can be made by any combination of these three.

You will not need to show this match during the application process, as Doug Exton will meet with selected sites on how best to record and report this figure.

Note on Allowable Costs

Selected sites will receive \$1,500 in addition to the exhibit. The grant funds may only be used for allowable costs.

Unallowable costs include:

- Projects that involve direct action or the planning of direct action to resolve social issues of public policy or public concern
- Projects that influence an audience toward a single position or present a one-sided, uncritical treatment of an issue
- Building construction, acquisition, or restoration costs (including historical preservation costs)
- Costs related to political action or advocacy
- The creation or performance of art (i.e., painting, dance, or theater)
- Expenses incurred before the grant period
- Purchase of real property
- Alcohol
- Scholarships and awards
- Museum acquisitions

Need Help?

IHC Staff are happy to help and provide guidance via phone, email, or Zoom. No question is too small or too large, so don't hesitate. It is best to reach out via email first, as some IHC staff are working remotely and will have a longer delay in returning phone calls. Staff comments and feedback are based solely on prior experience and following the suggestions does not guarantee funding.

Spark: Places of Innovation has been made possible in Idaho by the Idaho Humanities Council

Spark: Places of Innovation is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the state humanities councils across the country. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress



Smithsonian

