Many Voices, One Nation

Smithsonian Institute Exhibition Starter Kit Presented by Wyoming Humanities

Updated January 6, 2025

Many Voices One Nation

For **Many Voices, One Nation** the Smithsonian Institute with Wyoming Humanities invite communities to explore history and time to examine how our communities, towns, cities, the state, and the nation came to be how they are now. Based on the permanent exhibition at the Smithsonian, with this exhibit, communities will answer these kinds of questions and themes:

- How did your community or home come to be the way it is now?
- Unsettling History and migration
- Expanding the Nation
- Freedom, Inclusion, and Equality
- Who is included in conversations of change? And why?
- Places of Negotiation
- Where do we meet? Where are our community spaces? Churches, schools, townhalls?
- What transformations have taken place?
- What groups called this place home over time?
- Who calls this place home now?
- Why did change take place?

Many Voices, One Nation exhibit includes digital elements to help venues hone their organization's experiences within their community to tie those stories to the broader national picture. Contemporary stories are important! Content is largely reliant on what the local, host venues want to bring to the table. The Smithsonian Institute provides a national lens, and host venues are asked to provide the localized lens.

Starter Kits

Many Voices One Nation what the Smithsonian Institute calls a Stater Kit. Starter Kits provide the curatorial framework for the exhibition, including graphic designed exhibit panels and a selection of optional images and quotes. Host museums add additional content—such as historical images, art and artifacts, video clips, and quotes from oral histories—that highlights their local history and culture. Smithsonian staff will provide assistance throughout the exhibition development process for each host venue. These Kits make for a very community-focused exhibition. Unlike Museum on Mainstreet exhibitions (such as *Spark! Places of Innovation*), these Starter Kits allow for a more flexible experience for host venues and can accommodate smaller spaces.

Starter Kits do require more work for the host venue. There is Smithsonian Institute exhibition training and planning for up to one year prior to the exhibits opening. Many Voices One Nation will have more prefabricated sections in ready-to-build structures than previous Starter Kits.

Logistics and Timeline

Wyoming Humanities pays for all fees associated with the exhibition creation, installation and associated Smithsonian Liaison fees totaling $14,000. Venues are expected to fundraise or find support for printing panels, posters and other exhibit materials. The Smithsonian estimates cost to host venues could be as much as $6,000, depending on how much printing the host venue decides to manage.

This is a five-year range commitment: Smithsonian training and preparation work start in early 2025, followed by exhibition openings in summer 2026. Exhibitions are expected to remain standing for 1-3 months from the opening date—you are allowed to remove them after that time. The exhibitions must be removed by 2029. You are allowed to move the exhibition to different venues until 2029.

Many Voices One Nation includes 5 phases. *Months provided as estimates only.*

1. Project Orientation and Scope (March 2025)
2. Content Development (April-November 2025)
3. Design and Layout (December-February 2026)
4. Exhibition Production (April-June, 2026)
5. Opening of Exhibition and Impact (July 2026-beyond)

Each phase includes training with the Smithsonian Institute and their partners, Many Voices One Nation Wyoming cohort meetings, fundraising guidelines, capacity building (including how to construct an exhibit script), community programing and projects, and more! Deadlines for each phase are developed in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institute, local scholars, Wyoming Humanities, and host venues. A more complete timeline is available at the end of this document.

Many Voices, One Nation Starter Kit includes:

- 2 independent exhibit structures estimated around 200 square feet.
- Ready-to-print exhibit panels with Smithsonian-provided content.
- Ready-to-edit exhibit template for local content, up to 100-200 running feet.
- Digital layering of video content created for the original, local exhibition.
- Virtual training sessions on exhibition development and programming support, script writing, design, printing, and educational resources.
- National cohort meetings with other states to learn from each other on creating and expanding the exhibit.

Smithsonian Institute Travel Exhibition Service (SITES/MoMS) Commitment

SITES and MoMS will provide the following for organizations. Providing exhibit structures, ready-to-print panels (Smithsonian curated), ready-to-edit exhibit template, digital layering elements, training sessions on exhibition development and programming support, script writing training, design training, and other education resources. Much of their services will go towards capacity building for your organization beyond the base materials for the Starter Kit mentioned above.

Wyoming Humanities Responsibilities and Commitment

Wyoming Humanities is prepared to cover all fees to the Smithsonian Institute. Wyoming Humanities is prepared to provide funding for up to 7 host venues in Wyoming to host Many Voices, One Nation. These covered expenses provide your organization with training, capacity building, and materials created and made available by the Smithsonian Institute. For more information on the responsibilities and commitment provided by Wyoming Humanities, please connect with Program Coordinator Lucas Fralick, lucas@thinkwy.org

Host Venue Responsibilities and Commitment

The host venue is responsible for any other fees associated with the exhibit. This includes printing costs and additional exhibit material beyond the pieces provided by the Smithsonian Institute as included in the Starter Kit. Venues and organizations may partner with others to spread out the commitment, please discuss this with Lucas at lucas@thinkwy.org.

Host venues are responsible for curating content, design, and fabrication of the exhibit. All exhibit scripts and materials will be reviewed by Smithsonian liaisons who provide expertise to your local team.

Host venues are expected to commit to the timeline for the exhibition. Unlike Museum on Mainstreet exhibitions from the Smithsonian Institute, these exhibitions are not intended to travel from town to town. Host venues are responsible for the exhibit. You are allowed to move them around the community, but they must begin with your organization, and you are responsible for closing the exhibition in 2029.

Timeline

Application Phase November 1, 2024 – March 10, 2025

Application Opens November 1, 2024
Application Closes January 29, 2025
Host Organizations Selected February 5, 2025
Contracts signed with Smithsonian and WYH Feb. 10th through March 10th, 2025

Phase 1: Project Orientation and Scope March 13 – 31, 2025

Venue contracts officially begin with MoMS and State Welcome Meeting
Venues define their project scope and confirm the timeline and milestones
Project Handbooks are provided to all host venues
Project resources are provided and reviewed with MoMS team
State and National meeting schedule is reviewed
Venues can announce their collaboration with the Smithsonian
Exhibition script and images are reviewed
Brainstorming with state scholars on local content connections
Exploring interpretative storytelling
State Welcome Meeting (Virtual), on or about March 13, 2025
National Cohort Meeting 1 (All Virtual) on or about March 20, 2025
State In-Person Meeting, on or about March 25, 2025
Venue Milestone: Complete Smithsonian Survey about project timeline

Phase 2: Content Development April 15, 2025 – November 30, 2025

Conduct local research
Complete script planning
Begin PR efforts
Start planning for humanities-based exhibition programming
Preliminary Layout & Space Planning
Preliminary Design ideas

State Cohort Meetings 2 through 4; Start April 15; Sept 15, 2025; Nov. 13, 2025
National Cohort Meetings 2 and 3: Start May 15; July 14, 2025
Venue Milestones: Submit script to Smithsonian Liaison for Public Affairs Approval
Submit Design & Build Plan; (November 2025)
Submit Script for review and Approval (November 2025)

Phase 3: Design and Layout January 15, 2026 – February 15, 2026

Develop final design for local sections
Create final exhibition floorplan
Script at 100%
Work with Smithsonian Public Affairs Office to approve marketing materials
Decide on public exhibition title, opening/closing dates

State Cohort Meeting 5 (January 15, 2026)
Venue Milestone: Submit final graphic design and floorplan
& Submit Survey about title, opening/closing dates (February 15, 2026)

Phase 4: Exhibition Production April 16, 2026 – June 15, 2026

Submit approved design to printer
Install exhibition based on plan and floorplan
Promotion for opening of exhibition
State Cohort Meeting 6 (April 16, 2026)
National Cohort Meeting 4 (Launch Party) (June 15, 2026)
Venue Milestone: Submit postproduction survey; Final programming plan (June 15)

Phase 5: Opening of Exhibition and Impact December 31, 2029

Exhibition opens
Exhibition programming
Record of attendance
Record of volunteer hours
Exhibition Closes [end of licensing period] (sometime 2029)
Venue Milestone: Submit Exhibition Closeout Survey