



# Request for Proposals

## The Smithsonian is Coming to South Carolina!

The Humanities Council<sup>SC</sup> is pleased to announce a special South Carolina tour of *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, an exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. Developed as part of the Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program, this exhibit is designed especially for small museums and rural audiences that lack regular access to traveling exhibitions due to space and cost limitations.

The exhibit will tour six South Carolina communities from April 2011 – January 2012. **Eligible host sites are:** small museums, libraries, historical societies, cultural centers and other community venues in towns of fewer than 20,000 residents. Any host site must demonstrate the physical capacity to host the exhibit, which requires 800 square feet of exhibit space and 8 foot ceilings. Sites will be chosen based on geographic location, strength of proposed ideas for auxiliary events, and physical display space. Applications are due by **September 30, 2009**. Submission of an application does not guarantee selection as a host site. Selections will be announced by November 13, 2009.

*New Harmonies* has been made possible in South Carolina by The Humanities Council<sup>SC</sup>. *New Harmonies* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

### About the exhibit:

*New Harmonies* provides a fascinating, inspiring, and toe-tapping listen to the American story of multi-cultural exchange. Take a journey through the development of Americans' creative expression through music—music known by names like blues, country western, folk ballads, and gospel. The main beat of the exhibition is the ongoing cultural process that has made America the birthplace of more music than any place on earth. Listen to America's music, and hear the stories of our people, the stories of our past, and the story of freedom!

*New Harmonies* offers opportunities for communities to collect and celebrate their music traditions. As museums showcase local music they will no doubt collect antique instruments, sheet music, program bills, and oral histories or photo essays of area musicians and family musical traditions. The exhibition inspires concerts and sing-a-longs, radio programs featuring music and interviews with musicians, film and reading discussion programs, and even music writing contests.



## HOST SITES RECEIVE:

- ◆ Free exhibit rental (for approximately 6 weeks)
- ◆ Free exhibit shipping
- ◆ \$2,500 grant to support local community programs such as a companion exhibit, guest lecturers, film or book series, oral history projects, and community forums.
- ◆ An exhibition support manual and program planning assistance
- ◆ Publicity materials such as posters, press kits, and banner
- ◆ A humanities scholar to consult regarding local music history and culture
- ◆ Professional installation and de-installation guidance from a Museum on Main Street Coordinator
- ◆ Travel expenses to attend two training workshops
- ◆ The Humanities Council<sup>SC</sup> will produce a statewide component for the tour that will be available to participating communities. At present, we are considering a speakers bureau, book discussion program, and/or published brochure with resources on South Carolina music.

## HOST SITE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ◆ Provide an enclosed and secure exhibit area of at least 800 square feet with 8-foot ceilings
- ◆ Appoint a Project Director for the exhibit who will attend (2) mandatory planning meetings in 2010 and 2011
- ◆ Contribute *at least* \$2,500 of in-kind support (time, supplies, etc.) or cash as cost-share
- ◆ Plan and implement *at least three* public humanities programs and a companion exhibit. (Possible programs include: oral history projects, lectures, film discussions, book discussions, living history recreations, storytelling, workshops, fundraisers, concerts, sing-a-longs, radio programs featuring music and interview with musicians, music writing contests, and much more.)
- ◆ Publicize the exhibit widely in coordination with The Humanities Council<sup>SC</sup>.
- ◆ Complete attendance reports and final paperwork for the close of the exhibit.

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**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: September 30, 2009**

**DATE OF AWARD NOTIFICATION: November 13, 2009** (approximately)

Submit completed application by mail (email not accepted and deadline is a firm, not post-mark, date) to:

**Attn: T.J. Wallace**  
**Re: 2011 New Harmonies Exhibit**  
**The Humanities Council<sup>SC</sup>**  
**P.O. Box 5287**  
**Columbia, SC 29250**



## PART 1 – Tell us about your Organization!

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Congressional District: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your facility and the area where *New Harmonies* would be displayed. Does it fit the space requirements? (800 square feet with 8-foot ceilings)

Briefly describe security and climate conditions:

Number of full-time staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of part-time staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual number of people served and/or visitation: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual budget for public programs (including exhibits): \_\_\_\_\_

Population of Community/Area/Region Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and hours of operation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*PART 1, continued*

**What dates would be best for your organization to host the exhibit and to attract the best audience? (Mark 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ April 9 – May 21, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ May 28 – July 9, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ July 16 – August 27, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ September 3 – October 15, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ October 22 – December 3, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ December 10, 2011 – January 21, 2012

**PART 2 – Share your preliminary ideas for making *New Harmonies* a successful event for your community. Use a separate sheet of paper to respond to the following questions.**

- A. Identify community resources (partnering organizations, special facilities, festivals or events) that will make the project successful in your town.
- B. Briefly describe some ideas you have for public humanities programs and other community events to enhance the exhibit. (Note: You will have a chance to develop your ideas further at planning meetings for the exhibit tour.) Be creative! Include fun activities (ex: sing-a-long or gospel program) as well as educational programming.
- C. Please discuss ways in which the exhibit can further your organization's goals (for example: initiate a new building campaign, attract new members, or staff development).

**PART 3 - Please include letters of recommendation (maximum of three) from relevant community organizations, county or municipal representatives, supportive board members, willing volunteers, or significant donors, etc.** The ability to reference local enthusiasm and commitment will strengthen your candidacy.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: September 30, 2009**

**QUESTIONS? Contact Theresa (T.J.) Wallace**  
**tjwallace@schumanities.org**  
**803-771-2477**