Water/Ways in North Carolina
The Smithsonian’s Water/Ways is coming to NC in 2020

North Carolina Humanities Council’s Call for Proposals
Proposal Deadline (Extended): November 1st 2018

About Water/Ways
Water is life. It shapes our human culture -our ways of life. It is an essential natural resource that allows us to travel, determines where we live, controls what we eat and drink, and inspires literature, art and music. The Smithsonian’s Water/Ways exhibition dives into water, exploring the relationships between people and water – environmentally, culturally, and historically. Exhibition themes include:

- Water and Humanity
- Where is our Water?
- What is a Watershed?
- Availability of Water
- Harnessing the Power of Water
- Water as a Critical Resource

What is Included in the Exhibit: Five stand-alone kiosks with colorful photographs and labels, Audio clips, Video clips, Hands-on activities, iPad interactives

Become an Exhibit Host Site
The North Carolina Humanities Council is coordinating the exhibit’s tour in North Carolina and seeks six nonprofit partner organizations in rural communities to host Water/Ways for approximately six weeks in 2020-2021. Selected sites will host the Smithsonian exhibit and augment it with their own regional stories, artifacts and programs, creating a unique, local experience. With its distinct aquatic landscape of Atlantic Coast beaches, mountain rivers and local lakes, water plays an integral part in shaping North Carolina’s identity.

Selection Criteria
Host sites will be chosen based on the following factors:

- Quality of collaborations with community partners
- Quality of supporting humanities-based public programing and events
- Creativity in how exhibit themes are highlighted in a local companion exhibit and humanities-based programing.
- Geographic location

Smithsonian
Host Site Eligibility
The North Carolina Humanities Council invites museums, libraries, nature centers, community venues and other cultural nonprofit organizations to apply. Rural nonprofits are encouraged to apply. Eligible applicants will:

- Provide a minimum of 700 square feet of secure exhibit space with a minimum of 8’ 6” ceilings. Space must have access to electrical outlets. Site will ensure exhibit is not displayed in direct sunlight to maintain the integrity of exhibition panels.
- Plan and implement robust public humanities programs that support the exhibit with community partners
- Identify a Project Director: A lead staff member or volunteer who will serve the duration of the project
- Identify a secondary staff member or volunteer who will serve the duration of the project
- Send Project Director and site support liaison to a statewide Programming Meeting and Installation Workshop
- Ensure at least a 2:1 grant match of cash and In-kind resources for public programs
- Record all staff and volunteer time, facilities, and other resources donated to the project

Host Sites Will Receive
- The Smithsonian Institution exhibition for approximately a six-week period, rent free
- Grant funds of up to $2,000 to support public, humanities-based programming, such as lecturers, film series, local exhibit development, oral history collection, workshops, reading discussion programs, dramatizations, etc.
- Travel expenses for the Project Director and site support liaison to attend the Program Meeting and Installation Workshop
- An exhibition support manual covering installation, object collection, and conservation
- Promotional support including, exhibition brochures and posters, public relations support, and promotional templates
- Expert guidance in program-planning from exhibition consultants and statewide humanities scholar
- Capacity development support including a membership to AASLH and their StEPs program
- One-on-one consultations with Council staff for program assistance and guidance

Submission Instructions
1. Review the Council’s RFP and Grant Proposal Guidelines before applying
2. Review the application instructions and FAQs then watch this video tutorial on how to apply online
3. Get started on your LOI application in our online application system and submit it by 11/1/18
4. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Submission of an LOI application does not guarantee selection
5. Determinations Announced in January 2019

Proposals Due November 1st 2018 | Questions? Call us at 704.687.1521

Water/Ways is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the North Carolina Humanities Council. Water/Ways is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York and supported by the United States Congress.