



WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kyle Warmack, 304-346-8500
warmack@wvhumanities.org

HUMANITIES COUNCIL ANNOUNCES UPDATED SMITHSONIAN TOUR SCHEDULE

Charleston, WV — The Smithsonian’s traveling exhibit, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, will extend its current stay at the Museum of American Glass in Weston for an additional two weeks, lining up its last day with Weston’s “Miracle on Main Street” celebration on December 4. The West Virginia Humanities Council, which sponsors and coordinates the exhibit’s statewide tour, announced the change along with several other adjustments in the ongoing tour schedule.

Crossroads, which is part of the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program, was originally slated to visit the McDowell County seat of Welch in mid-November. Instead, it will now travel to Arthurdale in nearby Preston County. The tragic loss of Welch’s local *Crossroads* liaison, Jason Grubb, to COVID in early October necessitated the change, says Council Program Officer Kyle Warmack.

“The Humanities Council and the City of Welch are determined to honor the tireless energy Jason invested into bringing *Crossroads* to his beloved city,” Warmack adds. To give the community time to recover from his loss and set new plans in motion to host the exhibit, the Smithsonian and the Council have worked together to move Welch to the end of the tour. “*Crossroads* represents so many of the changes Welch is going through, and its communal aspirations,” Warmack continues. “It was clear right away that the city is determined to make the most of hosting the Smithsonian, in part because that’s what Jason was working toward. While it’s not easy for the Smithsonian to cut into their turnaround before the exhibit moves to another state, it’s worth it for the folks of McDowell and southern West Virginia to be able to participate.”

Besides moving *Crossroads* to Arthurdale about a month earlier than originally scheduled, says Warmack, opening and closing dates at most of the sites have generally only shifted about two weeks. For the duration of the tour, *Crossroads* will open at the following dates and locations:

Weston – *Museum of American Glass* – Now through December 4, 2021

Arthurdale – *Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.* - December 11 through January 22, 2022

Weirton – *Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center* – January 31 through March 9, 2022

New Martinsville – *Wetzel County Museum* – March 11 through April 20, 2022

Mt. Hope – *Coal Heritage Discovery Center* – April 22 through May 30, 2022

Welch – *Jack Caffrey Arts and Cultural Center* – June 3 through July 6, 2022

Please contact the local host organizations listed above for more information on their planned *Crossroads* programming, or if you are interested in serving as a volunteer or docent.

The *Crossroads* tour is made possible through the Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program, an alliance of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, state humanities councils across the country, and cultural organizations in small, rural communities. Within West Virginia, the tour is sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council with funding from the Department of Arts, Culture, and History.

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The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.