



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Exhibit *Spark! Places of Innovation* Coming to Michigan**

**LANSING, MI**—Michigan Humanities is pleased to announce that a new Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Exhibit, *Spark! Places of Innovation* is coming to Michigan in 2023. *Spark! Places of Innovation* explores the unique combination of places, people, and circumstances that sparks innovation and invention in rural communities. Inspired by an exhibition at the National Museum of American History, this traveling exhibition features stories gathered from diverse communities across the nation. Photographs, engaging interactives, objects, videos, and augmented reality bring a multilayered experience to reveal the leaders, challenges, successes, and future of innovation in each town. Technical, social, cultural, or artistic—every sort of innovation story is as unique as each community and will be represented in *Spark! Places of Innovation*.

*Spark!* will be the springboard for diverse local programming in the humanities, sciences, and arts. Visitors will be inspired to learn about how innovation has shaped their own communities and how they may be innovators themselves. This exhibition will be an opportunity for community members to come together in conversation around their community's history, present, and future with innovation. Michigan Humanities is coordinating the exhibit's tour throughout Michigan and is seeking six partner organizations to host *Spark!* Selected sites will host the Smithsonian exhibit, work with local partners in their community, and create additional programming to support the exhibit.

“Michigan Humanities is honored that our state has been chosen as one of the first four host states of *Spark! Places of Innovation*. We look forward to seeing which organizations are chosen as host sites, and the wonderful programming that they create to complement the exhibit,” said Jennifer Rupp, President & CEO of Michigan Humanities.

The application for host sites is open from May 9 through June 23, 2022, with award notifications going out on July 12, 2022. *Spark!* will run from May 2023 through March 2024. For more information, please visit [michiganhumanities.org](http://michiganhumanities.org).

### **About Michigan Humanities**

Michigan Humanities strives to bring people together through stories, histories, cultures, and conversations. In carrying out this mission, Michigan Humanities builds awareness and excitement for humanities in everyday life, achieves best practices and sustainability for all humanities programs and services in Michigan, and upholds the following key values: inclusion, diversity, and equity; discovery and understanding; authentic conversation; respectful collaboration; and meaningful experiences. Michigan Humanities' vision is a more thoughtful, connected, engaged, and informed Michigan.

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