

Smithsonian traveling exhibition exploring water environmental and cultural impact coming to Kanab

From above, Earth appears as a water planet, with more than 71 percent of its surface covered with this vital resource for life. Water impacts climate, agriculture, transportation, industry and more. It inspires art and music.

The Kanab Heritage Museum, in cooperation with Utah Humanities, will examine water as an environmental necessity and an important cultural element as it hosts "Water/Ways," a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program. "Water/Ways" will be on view Oct. 17, 2020 through Dec. 13, 2020.

The Kanab Heritage Museum and the surrounding community has been expressly chosen by the Utah Humanities to host "Water/Ways" as part of the Museum on Main Street program – a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations.

"Water/Ways" explores the endless motion of the water cycle, water's effect on landscape, settlement and migration, and its impact on culture and spirituality. It looks at

how political and economic planning have long been affected by access to water and control of water resources. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment.

Designed for small-town museums, libraries and cultural organizations, "Water/Ways" will serve as a community meeting place to convene conversations about water's impact on American culture. With the support and guidance of state humanities councils, these towns will develop complementary exhibits, host public programs and facilitate educational initiatives to raise people's understanding about what water means culturally, socially and spiritually in their own community.

"We are thrilled to host the Water|Ways Smithsonian exhibit and to offer our own local exhibition Water Right. The entire experience has given the museum an incredible opportunity to serve our community, participate in high caliber exhibi-

tion programming, and frame our unique local water issues in ways that truly underscore their relevance," said the museum's Director, Emily Bentley. "We are also proud to collaborate with our community in collecting and telling both our historical and current-day water stories. This is an essential topic and we are honored to be involved with the project. We want to convene conversations about water and have developed local exhibitions and public programs to compliment the Smithsonian exhibition." Such free events include lec-

tures, art classes, hikes and community conversation workshops.

Megan van Frank, Director of the Center for Community Heritage at Utah Humanities, is coordinating the exhibition tour in Utah. In explaining the critical role Utah Humanities plays in bringing the Smithsonian tour to Utah, she says, "We work hard to bring this experience to local communities, and the collaboration among national, state and community organizations benefits everyone. We work closely with the host museums, helping to

support their expertise in hosting a national exhibition. The entire experience directly strengthens Utah museums and helps to preserve and share Utah history."

She also hopes, "visitors to the exhibition will come away with a panoramic and personal view of how water has shaped the state of Utah, as well as its role in their personal lives. The exhibition is a unique opportunity for Utahns to tell their own water stories as part of local, state and national conversations."

Gregory Smoak, Associate Professor of His-

tory at the University of Utah, and director of the American West Center, remarks that, "Water is life. It has shaped the stunning, inspiring and often difficult landscapes of our state. It sustains our very existence and has largely defined where Utahns have lived for the past 12,000 years. And there can be no future without water. While the challenges facing Utahns appear daunting, the story of Utah's water ways can offer us a guide."

For more information about the exhibit and community programs, visit Kanabmuseum.org.

Early voting for Nov. 3 General Election in Arizona

The Coconino County Recorder's Office has mailed 65,300 early ballots to registered voters for the upcoming November 3 General Election. Early voters that are on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) and have not received their ballots by Tuesday, October 13, should call the Elections Office at 800-793-6181 to make sure there is not a problem with their voter registration status or mailing address.

Registered voters that are not on the PEVL may request an early ballot be mailed to them by calling the Elections Office, sending a written request to Coconino County Elections Office, 110 E. Cherry Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, or submitting an online request at www.coconino.az.gov/elections and clicking on "Early Ballot Request." The deadline to request an early ballot by mail is October 23.

In-person early voting started on October 7 at several locations across the county. In-person early voting is available through Friday, October 30. Check the times and locations on the Elections webpage. Some locations are only available by appointment because of the COVID pandemic.

In-person early voting is not available at the downtown Flagstaff Elections Office at 110 E. Cherry Ave. Instead there

are two other locations in Flagstaff – the Eastside Flagstaff Elections Office in the Flagstaff Mall, next to Dillard's Department Store and the Drive Thru Service window at 2304 N 3rd Street, enter the driveway off of 6th Avenue. Check the Elections website for dates and hours these locations are open. The hours may change depending on the COVID pandemic.