



UTAH HUMANITIES
Ideas in Action



For Immediate Release

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Smithsonian Exhibition, *Water/Ways*, Kicks Off Utah Tour with Opening at the Fremont Indian State Park

Salt Lake City, Utah, August 20, 2020 – As part of Think Water Utah, a statewide conversation on the critical topic of water presented by Utah Humanities and its partners, [Utah Humanities](#) announces that [Water/Ways, a Smithsonian Museum on Main Street \(MoMS\) exhibition](#), begins its year-long Utah tour with a Grand Opening at the [Fremont Indian State Park Museum](#). Presented by Utah Humanities, the [Smithsonian Institution](#), and communities statewide, the Fremont Indian State Park Museum portion of the tour takes place from August 22nd through October 11th, and includes a collaboration with the [Snow College Library, Richfield Campus](#).



The Smithsonian's *Water/Ways* exhibition dives into water – an essential component of life on our planet, environmentally, culturally, and historically. Water is a vital global, regional, and local resource. We'll explore Utah's water stories and issues through the lens of our shared heritage and interests.

The Fremont Indian State Park Museum Opening and Statewide Tour Kick-Off will be held on Saturday, August 22nd with an opening reception from 5:00-7:00pm.

A Grand Opening event Pa (Water) Celebration will be held on August 29th from 11:00am-1:00pm.

Both events will be held at:

Fremont Indian State Park Museum
3820 W Clear Creek Canyon Rd,
Sevier, UT 435.527.4631

The *Water/Ways* exhibition will continue at the Fremont Indian State Park Museum through October 11th and will then tour three additional Utah sites into 2021.



The Sevier Valley portion of the traveling exhibition will be complemented by these additional locally created exhibitions:

Carved Rock: How Water Shaped Land & Life in Clear Creek Canyon explores how the water of Clear Creek carved a canyon passageway through daunting mountains and served as a source of life and symbol of sustenance to people using the canyon for the last 10,000 years. At the Fremont Indian State Park Museum.

Drained: Using Water from the Sevier River shows how irrigation projects started in the 1860s have directed nearly all the Sevier River's water to agriculture and industries and asks whether it's time to re-evaluate this water usage. At Snow College Library - Richfield Campus.

A full schedule of *Water/Ways* events in the Sevier Valley is available [here](#).

Amy Larson, Curator of the Fremont Indian State Park Museum says “We are honored to host the *Water/Ways* Smithsonian exhibit at our museum. It offers an unparalleled opportunity for us to serve the Sevier Valley, participate in high caliber exhibition programming, and frame key water issues that are as relevant today as they have ever been. We are proud to collaborate with our community partners in collecting and telling the pivotal water stories of the Sevier Valley.”

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 that, “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 History 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. By trying to understand the natural world, its limitations and reasonable opportunities, and considering the many ways in which Utahns have engaged our precious waters, we might use history to map a sustainable way forward.”

To learn more about the statewide tour, contact Utah Humanities at 801.359.9670 or visit the [Think Water Utah portion of the Utah Humanities website](#).

The four host sites and dates for this exhibition are:

August 22 – October 11, 2020 | Fremont Indian State Park Museum, 3820 Clear Creek Canyon Road, Sevier, UT 84766, 435.527.4631

October 17 – December 13, 2020 | [Kanab Heritage Museum](#), 13 South 100 East, Kanab, UT 84741, 435.644.3506

December 19, 2020 – March 27, 2021 | [Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter](#), 1258 Center Drive, Park City, UT 84098, 435.797.8943

April 3 – June 6, 2021 | [John Wesley Powell River History Museum](#), 1765 Main Street, Green River, UT 84525, 435.564.3427

Water/Ways has been made possible in Utah by Utah Humanities. *Water/Ways* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress. *Water/Ways* was adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History (New York) and the Science Museum of Minnesota (St. Paul), in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center (Cleveland), Field Museum (Chicago), Instituto Sangari (Sao Paulo), National Museum of Australia (Canberra), Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), San Diego Natural History Museum, and Science Centre Singapore.

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About Utah Humanities: Utah Humanities empowers Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities. UH is funded by the Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks Fund, the State of Utah, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and through gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Each year, Utah Humanities supports hundreds of educational and cultural programs throughout Utah. For more information, visit www.utahhumanities.org.

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