

## National exhibit on fences to be put up in Layton

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LAYTON — A traveling world-class museum exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and Utah Humanities Council will be making its first Utah stop in Layton.

“Between Fences” explores how fences of all kinds shaped the country’s history and molded its future. It runs from Sept. 16 through Oct. 27 at the Heritage Museum of Layton, 403 N. Wasatch Drive.

The exhibit, free to the public, is expected to draw big crowds as Davis School District officials hope to take advantage of having the exhibit within field trip range.

“This needs to get top billing,” said Norma Jean Remington, district social studies supervisor for grades K-12.

“I just see this as huge and something I would really like to be able to share with my teachers,” Remington said, adding she hopes to disseminate information about the exhibit to the district’s social studies teachers.

“I really hope we can piggyback on this to get kids there,” she said.

Because of the “first-class” job the Smithsonian Institution puts into its exhibits, Remington said, she is hoping to get as many of the district’s 63,000 students as she can to the display. She said she envisions the exhibit will be symbolic in nature.

“Symbolically, a fence can be a bias, an injustice,” Remington said. “It’s not only a physical boundary, but a human boundary in life experiences, getting along and building communities.

“Keeping people in, keeping people out. Keeping ideas in, keeping ideas out.”

The display addresses fences in a literal sense, as well as metaphorically, including the recent issue over immigration, said Cynthia Buckingham, Utah Humanities Council executive director.

The Layton museum was selected to open the exhibit because of its past success in hosting other exhibits there, Buckingham said.

“Just a combination of From 1B

timing and merit,” she said.

The six-week traveling exhibit, Buckingham said, deals with history, as well as contemporary issues. She said the exhibit works well in smaller cities.

The Utah Humanities Council said the crowds the exhibit will attract will be anything but small.

“We really love it when it’s a local crowd that is interested in an opening,” she said.

But when these type of exhibits have been set up before, Buckingham said, “they have drawn from the entire region and not just the state.”

The exhibit is part of the national Museum on Main Street Program created by The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Federation of State Humanities Council.

Later, the exhibit will be on display in Utah at the American West Heritage Center in Wellsville; The John Hutchings Museum in Lehi; Anasazi State Park Museum in Boulder; and at the Delta Public Library in conjunction with the Topaz Museum.

“In my social science experiences,” Remington said, “Smithsonian has a first-class name that says it is going to be good.”