



UTAH HUMANITIES
Ideas in Action

For Immediate Release

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Smithsonian Exhibition, *Water/Ways*, Continues Utah Tour at The Kanab Heritage Museum

Salt Lake City, Utah, October 6, 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](#), continues its year-long Utah tour with a stay at [The Kanab Heritage Museum](#). Presented by Utah Humanities, the [Smithsonian Institution](#), and communities statewide, the Kanab Heritage Museum portion of the tour takes place from October 17th through December 13th.



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 Kanab Heritage Museum will hold a kick-off event on October 17th.

October 17, 2020
6:30PM - Live Online Presentation - Registration Required
[Utah Water Ways/ Lecture with Greg Smoak](#)



Utah is land of scarcity and plenty, and those extremes have shaped our relationship to water. Join Greg Smoak (Director of the University of Utah's American West Center), to explore how water has motivated great cooperation and great conflict between peoples, communities, and governments. Register at www.kanabmuseum.org/events.

The *Water/Ways* exhibition will continue at the Kanab Heritage Museum through December 13th and will then tour two additional Utah sites into 2021.

The Kanab portion of the traveling exhibition is also complemented by this additional locally created exhibition:

Water Right explores the idea that while water is widely considered a community resource, the cultural values of different societies in the Kanab region over time have caused water resources to be allocated in decidedly different ways. Want to contribute your water story to this exhibit? Please share at www.kanabmuseum.org/waterstory.

A full schedule of *Water/Ways* events in Kanab is available at <https://utahhumanities.org/images/centerheritage/docs/WWKanabPublicProgramSchedule.pdf>.

Emily Bentley, Museums Director for Kanab City says "We are thrilled to host the *Water/Ways* Smithsonian exhibit and to offer our own local exhibition *Water Right*. The entire experience has given us an opportunity to serve our community and county, participate in high caliber exhibition programming, and frame our unique local water issues in ways that truly underscore their relevance. 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.

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, Director of the American West Center, and state scholar for *Water/Ways* 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 pages of the Utah Humanities website at <https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/think-water-utah.html>

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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