



**UTAH HUMANITIES**  
Ideas in Action



**SWANER PRESERVE  
AND ECOCENTER**  
**UtahStateUniversity**

For Immediate Release

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### **Smithsonian Exhibition, *Water/Ways*, Continues Utah Tour at the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter**

Salt Lake City, Utah, December 14, 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 [Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter](#). Presented by Utah Humanities, the [Smithsonian Institution](#), and communities statewide, the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter portion of the tour takes place from December 19th through March 27<sup>th</sup>.



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 Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter will be hosting and livestreaming events, as well as offer a local companion exhibition.**



The Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter is also featuring their own exhibition as a local complement to *Water/Ways*. The exhibition *Why Wetlands?* is a new, Spanish-English bilingual, permanent exhibit that explores the wetlands of the Swaner Preserve and the critical role they play in the long-term health of the community and local ecosystem.

A full schedule of *Water/Ways* events at the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter and surrounding areas will be available at the Swaner Preserve's online calendar and at this [events publication](#). In addition, their Facebook page will host much of the event livestreaming: <https://www.facebook.com/SwanerEcoCenter>.

**Hunter Klingensmith, Visitor Experience and Exhibit Manager at the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter** says "Hosting the *Water/Ways* Smithsonian exhibition in partnership with Utah Humanities has given us an exciting opportunity to not only highlight the global importance of water but to explore its unique impacts on our local community. Water plays an essential role in the habitats that make up the Swaner Preserve and the culture of Park City as a whole. In creating our new permanent exhibit *Why Wetlands?* as a companion to *Water/Ways*, we are thrilled to spotlight the rare wetlands that occupy the Preserve and their part in our community's past, present, and future. We are also proud to collaborate with our community in collecting and telling both our historical and current-day water stories. Water is an essential topic, and we are delighted 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, Director of the American West Center, University of Utah, and state scholar for the Utah tour of 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 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](http://www.utahhumanities.org).

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