



**Minnesota Humanities Center
Announces *Spark! Places of Innovation* Call for Exhibit Hosts**

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2026—ST. PAUL, MN— The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications to host [*Spark! Places of Innovation*](#) exhibition during the 2027 and 2028 tour. *Spark!* is part of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street Traveling Exhibition Program.

Spark! Places of Innovation was inspired by the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation and features photographs, videos, engaging interactives, and digital stories about the leaders, challenges, successes, and future innovations occurring in rural communities across the nation. Every kind of innovation story is represented in *Spark!*, from the technical, social, cultural, and artistic.

"The Smithsonian is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, and we look forward to partnering to create unique opportunities for Minnesotans through *Spark!* and other programming such as [*Voices Forward*](#)," said Kevin Lindsey, MHC's CEO. "I can see how *Spark!* will have towns across Minnesota talking about the past, present, and future of innovation in their communities."

Local units of government or Minnesota-based organizations in communities with a population of 20,000 or under are [invited to apply to host](#) the six-week exhibition. Host sites will provide at least 650 square feet of exposition floor space and help facilitate community engagement while the exhibition is in town. *Spark!* will travel across Minnesota from May 2027 through March 2028. Applications are open until midnight on May 31, 2026. Decisions will be made by July 17. If you have any questions about the application process or hosting the exhibition, please reach out to Program Director Rachel Busse-Aswar at rachel@mnhum.org.

Spark! Places of Innovation has been made possible in Minnesota by the Minnesota Humanities Center.

Spark! is a Museum on Main Street exhibition developed by the Smithsonian Institution. It is inspired by *Places of Invention*, an exhibition developed by the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

Museum on Main Street is a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide that serves the small-town cultural organizations and citizens of rural America

Funding provided by MHC for Museum on Main Street comes from the Arts and Culture Heritage Fund, part of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment that was created with

the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC)

MHC, an affiliate to the National Endowment for the Humanities, was founded as an independent non-profit organization in 1971. MHC strengthens our society by promoting the humanities and increasing shared understanding of our collective pasts. MHC creates a wide variety of humanities programming in collaboration with individuals, creators, scholars, and organizations to build a more curious, inclusive, and connected society. MHC has a long history as a grantmaking organization and operates a full-service event center in a historic building in St. Paul. More information is available at mnhum.org.

About Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment

The Minnesota Legislature passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) in 2008 to ensure clean water, preserve opportunities for Minnesotans to enjoy nature, parks, and trails, and to appreciate arts and culture that exists within the State. The Legacy Amendment increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent to create the Legacy Fund and 19.75% of the Legacy Fund is dedicated to the arts and cultural heritage fund.



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