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Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Highlighting Changing Landscape of Rural America Coming to Trinidad, Colorado

Colorado Humanities will tour “Crossroads: Change in Rural America,” a Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibit to 10 Colorado communities August 2023 to December 2024. The exhibit takes a broad look at the characteristics of rural America. It explores how an attraction to and interaction with the land formed the basis of rural America, and how rural communities and small towns evolve. It also highlights how change has transformed rural America and how rural Americans are evolving for the future. The exhibition hosted by Corazon de Trinidad Creative District, opens at the Commons @ Space to Create 218 W Main St, Trinidad, CO 81082, on December 9, 2023 and will be on view there through January 13, 2024 before moving to the other communities

About “Crossroads: Change in Rural America”

“Crossroads” explores how rural American communities changed in the 20th century. Currently, most of the United States landscape remains rural with only 3.5% of the landmass considered urban. Since 1900, the percentage of Americans living in rural areas dropped from 60% to 17%. The exhibition looks at that remarkable societal change and how rural Americans responded.

Americans have relied on rural crossroads for generations. These places where people gather to exchange goods, services and culture and to engage in political and community discussions are an important part of our cultural fabric. Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America’s small towns continue to focus on new opportunities for growth and development creatively.

“We’ve engaged more than 150 people from the community in the creation of ‘Crossroads’ which allows us to reflect on Trinidad, Colorado’s history, present and future in a truly unique way and we are excited to explore what the future may hold for our community,” said Marggie Ferrendelli, Executive Director of Creative Main Street. “We want to convene conversations about what makes our community unique and have developed local exhibits, public programs and facilitated conversations to complement the Smithsonian exhibition.” Please join us for the Grand Opening of the exhibit hosted by the Corazon de Trinidad Creative District on December 9 starting at 10 a.m, at the Commons @ the Space to Create with activities throughout the day including a model railroad exhibit, portrait exhibition, an educational multimedia art exhibition, public workshops on playback theater and a live

story share performance at 5 p.m. Join us for two dynamic panel discussions, starting with "Matriarch" on January 10 at 5 p.m., followed by "Patriarch" on January 17 at 5 p.m. These engaging discussions are the perfect complement to the exhibit, shining a spotlight on the incredible contributions of influential men and women from the region. Don't miss out on the enthusiasm at Main Street Live for both events!

Support for MoMS has been provided by the U.S. Congress, Colorado Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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<https://www.trinidadcreativedistrict.org/smithsonianexhibition>

Hours/Admission Open Mon - Friday 8 -5 - Free admission

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For more information, contact Jennifer Macias, History Programs Coordinator at jennifer@coloradohumanities.org or 303 894 7951 x17.