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

Colorado Humanities will tour “Crossroads: Change in Rural America,” a Smithsonian 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 and explores how rural American communities changed in the 20th century. 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 opened in August 2023 in Walsenburg and will continue moving to other communities, including Ignacio on April 29th, 2024 at the Ignacio Community Library, 470 Goddard Ave, Ignacio.

About “Crossroads: Change in Rural America”

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%, and the exhibit 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 creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development.

“‘Crossroads’ allows us to reflect on Ignacio Colorado’s history, present and future, and we are excited to explore what the future may hold for our community,” said Eva Lewis, Director of the Ignacio Creative District. “We want to convene conversations about what makes our community unique and have developed a local exhibit, public programs, and facilitated conversations to complement the Smithsonian exhibition.” All events will be held at Ignacio Community Library, 470 Goddard Ave.

April 29th, Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting at 10 a.m.

May 9th, Ties to Land and Place at 5 p.m.

May 17th, Community Celebrations and Traditions at 1 p.m.

May 21st, Ignacio's Past, Present, and Future at 5 p.m.

May 31st, Visions, Views, and Voices at 5 p.m.

Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the U.S. Congress, Colorado Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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