

Spark! Places of Innovation Host Site Application

Spark! Places of Innovation explores the unique combination of places, people, and circumstances that sparks innovation and invention in rural communities across our nation.

Inspired by a Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibition, this traveling exhibit features stories gathered from diverse communities across the nation. Photographs, engaging interactives, objects, videos, and augmented reality bring a multilayered experience to reveal the stories, challenges, successes, and future of innovation in rural America.

Spark! Places of Innovation will serve as a springboard for diverse local programming in the humanities, sciences, and arts. Visitors will be inspired to think about how innovation has shaped their own communities and how they may themselves be innovators. By hosting *Spark!* in partnership with the Alabama Humanities Alliance (state coordinator of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program), Alabama communities will come together in conversations about their past, present, and future.

***Spark! Places of Innovation* will tour Alabama from June 14, 2025 – March 29, 2026.**

NOTE: Host organizations/communities must commit to *full participation* in a year of capacity-building sessions (mostly virtual) that will begin with an in-person kick-off event to be held in Ozark, Alabama, on Thursday and Friday, June 13–14, 2024.

I. Host Information

Institution Name: _____

Institution Address: _____

Project Director's name/title: _____

Project Director's e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Number of permanent full-time staff: _____ Number of permanent part-time staff: _____

Number of regular volunteers: _____

Hours of operation: _____ Annual visitation: _____ Months regularly open: _____

Hours per week that *Spark!* would be open to visitors: _____

III. Community Support

List at least two partner organizations in your community that would contribute to the success of this project if your community were selected to host. ** Attach a letter from each organization.**

1. _____

2. _____



II. Preferred Host Dates

Please indicate your first and second choices. *Note: Dates are subject to change slightly.*

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| ____ 1. June 14 — July 28, 2025 | ____ 4. October 27 — December 10, 2025 |
| ____ 2. July 29 — September 5, 2025 | ____ 5. December 12, 2025 – February 6, 2026 |
| ____ 3. September 8 — October 24, 2025 | ____ 6. February 9 – March 29, 2026 |

III. Site Information

Please describe the facility where *Spark!* would be displayed. (Feel free to include photos of exhibition space, if available.) In your description, please answer the following questions:

- What type of facility is your proposed venue and who owns it?
- Does it meet the minimum space requirement of 700 sq. ft. and minimum ceiling height of 8 ft?
- Does the space have access to at least five electrical outlets needed for the exhibit?
- Is the physical environment clean, dry, and secure?
- *Is there a separate secure and dry space (200 sq ft) available in which to store packing crates?*

IV. Project Narrative

In a separate document, please address the following (limit to 750 words):

- Why should your community and/or organization serve as hosts of *Spark! Places of Innovation*?
 - What is your community's innovation story or vision?
- How would you interpret the exhibit topic — innovation in rural communities — when developing companion exhibits and/or local programs?
 - Please describe at least four of your ideas for public humanities programs that would extend the *Spark!* theme into your community.

Please return completed application and supporting documents by email to
landerson@alabamahumanities.org.

Or, mail to:

Alabama Humanities Alliance
c/o Laura Anderson
1100 Ireland Way, Suite 202
Birmingham, AL 35205

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY: January 30, 2024

