

TRAVELING EXHIBITION SOURCES, PART I

Cherie A. Cook
Field Services Coordinator
Oklahoma Historical Society

Introduction

Traveling exhibitions allow museums of all disciplines to explore contemporary and historical topics which may not typically be addressed in their exhibition galleries, programming or publications. The use of traveling exhibitions also creates an opportunity for museum personnel and the board of directors to fulfill their institution's mission by supplementing the museum's collection. As a result, traveling exhibitions help museums to attract wider audiences, including minorities, and serve more members of their communities.

Exhibitions offered by sources identified in this two-part technical bulletin cover a broad range of subjects. Examples include:

Ice Cream For All: The Democratization of an Elite Food (Gallery Association of New York State)

Cats! From Wild to Mild (Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History)

A CENTURY OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: Greenwood: From Ruins to Renaissance (ExhibitsUSA)

Built, Thrown and Touched: Contemporary Clay Works (ExhibitsUSA)

Friend and Foe: Jews and Native Americans in the Early West (Landau/ Travelling Exhibitions)

Through Our Grandmothers' Eyes: Interviews and Photographs of the Women Who Settled Oklahoma (TRACKS, Oklahoma Museums Association)

Greenhouse Earth (Association of Science-Technology Centers)

Quality traveling exhibitions can boost a museum's credibility and image. What community leader wouldn't be impressed by people traveling two hours or more to visit the museum? Increased credibility can quickly turn into new opportunities for cooperative ventures with other community institutions, such as co-sponsorship of the exhibition or related programming. Previously untapped financial support is often identified as well. Finally, traveling exhibitions can expose staff and volunteers to new exhibit design and construction techniques.

Rental fees range anywhere from \$100 or less for panel or framed exhibitions to \$25,000 and upwards for "blockbusters" like "Catherine the Great." Many factors affect the cost including the number of artifacts or original works of art in the exhibition. Keep in mind that in addition to the rental fee, a lender may require the borrower to pay shipping costs, either one-way or round-trip, and possibly insurance coverage. Budgeting funds for extra staff, installation materials, and publicity may also be necessary.

Exhibition periods differ from lender to lender but tend to average four to six weeks. This excludes time allowed before and after the exhibition for installation and packing.

Some lenders, such as the Smithsonian Institution, require borrowers to complete and return a facilities report before reserving an exhibition. A facilities report provides information about a borrowing institution's facility, personnel, climate control, and security systems and procedures. Lenders use this information to determine if a borrower can provide the necessary care, such as stable relative humidity and proper lighting, for the exhibition. The borrowing institution must also guarantee protection appropriate to the exhibition's security level (often defined as high, moderate or limited).

The following institutions and organizations offer traveling exhibitions on a regular basis. Most are willing to send a brochure or catalog at no charge. The Field Advisory Service has a large collection of these catalogs at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Anyone wanting to look through them may do so although an appointment should be made at least one week in advance.

Traveling exhibitions may also be available for loan from individual artists, photographers and collectors as well as from nearby colleges and universities.

Oklahoma Sources

Museum of the Great Plains
PO Box 68
Lawton, OK 73502
405/353-5675

Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
1335 Asp Ave.
Norman, OK 73019
405/325-4712

Oklahoma Museums Association
Kirkpatrick Center
2100 NE 52th
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
405/424-7757
TRACKS: Touring Humanities Exhibitions
Touring Art Exhibitions

Regional and National Sources

American Federation of Arts
41 East 65th St.
New York, NY 10021
212/988-7700
FAX 212/861-2487

American Institute of Graphic Arts
1059 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10021
212/752-0813
FAX 212/755-6749

Anti-Defamation League
823 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
212/490-2525
FAX 212/867-0779

Arizona Commission on the Arts
417 West Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
602/255-5882
FAX 602/256-0282

Arkansas Art Center
Traveling Exhibits Program
PO Box 2137
Little Rock, AR 72203
501/372-4000, ext. 350
FAX 501/375-8053

Arkansas Humanities Resource Center
10816 Executive Center Drive
Suite 310
Little Rock, AR 72211
501/221-0093

Art Services International
700 N. Fairfax St., Suite 220
Alexandria, VA 22314
703/548-4554
FAX 703/548-3305

Arts and Science Center for Southeast
Arkansas
Traveling Exhibits Program
220 Martin St.
Pine Bluff, AR 71601
501/536-3375

Asian Art Coordinating Council
3003 Third Ave., Suite 200- A
Denver, CO 80206
303/329- 6417

Association of Science- Technology Centers
1025 Vermont Ave., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005- 3516
202/783- 7200
FAX 202/783- 7207

ATLATL
Exhibit Touring Service
402 West Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85003
602/253- 2731
FAX 509/359- 7028

Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies
18 S. 7th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215/925- 8090
FAX 215/922- 3201

Blair- Murrah Exhibitions
Vintage Hill Orchard
Hostetter Rd.
Sibley, MO 64088
816/249- 9400
FAX 816/249- 9300

Carnegie- Mellon University
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/578- 2440

Center for Creative Photography
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721
602/621- 7968

Center for the Study of Political Graphics
8124 West Third St., Suite 211
Los Angeles, CA 90048
213/852- 0881
FAX 213/852- 0881

Cincinnati Museum of Natural History
1301 Western Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45203
513/287- 7020
FAX 513/287- 7029

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
30 West Dale St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719/634- 5581
FAX 719/634- 0570

Council for Creative Projects
Two Penn Plaza, Suite 1500
New York, NY 10121
800/442- 3003
FAX 800/442- 3003

Curatorial Assistance
113 East Union St.
Pasadena, CA 91103
213/681- 2401
FAX 818/449- 9603

Dinamation International Corp.
189 A Technology Dr.
Irvine, CA 92718
714/753- 9630

Educart Projects, Inc.: Cross Discipline
Projects in the Arts
PO Box 267
Davis, CA 95617- 0267
800/238- 0880
FAX 916/757- 1829

Entourage: Exhibitions
325 Saw Mill Ln.
Horsham, PA 19044
215/957- 6031
FAX 215/675- 4123

ExhibitsUSA
Mid- America Arts Alliance
912 Baltimore Ave., Suite 700
Kansas City, MO 64105
800/473- EUSA
FAX 816/421- 3918

French Cultural Services
Exhibitions Department
972 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10021
212/439- 1405

Gallery Association of New York State
PO Box 345
Hamilton, NY 13346- 0345
315/824- 2510
FAX 315/824-1683

Goeth Institute- Houston
3120 Southwest Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77098
713/523- 0966
FAX 713/528- 4023

Humphrey Traveling Exhibitions
2125 Calle Tecolote
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505/988- 4370

Independent Curators, Inc.
799 Broadway, Suite 205
New York, NY 10003
212/254- 8200
FAX 212/477- 4781

Institute of Texas Cultures
PO Box 1226
San Antonio, TX 78294- 1226
800/776- 7651, ext. 259
FAX 512/222- 8564

InterCultura
3327 West Seventh St.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817/332- 4691

International Center for Photography
1130 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10128
212/860- 1773
FAX 212/360- 6490

TRAVELING EXHIBITION SOURCES,
PART II will be published in the April 1993
issue of MUSENEWS.

For more information on traveling exhibi-
tions contact the Field Advisory Service,
Oklahoma Historical Society, 2100 N.
Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-
4997; 405/521- 2491.