



UTAH HUMANITIES
Ideas in Action



For Immediate Release

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Smithsonian Exhibition, *H2O Today*, Continues Utah Tour in the Bear River Heritage Area at the Hyrum City Museum.

Thursday, August 5, 2021 – As part of Think Water Utah, a statewide conversation on the critical topic of water presented by Utah Humanities and its partners, [Utah Humanities](#) announces that the Smithsonian's *H2O Today* exhibition continues its Utah tour with a stay at the [Hyrum City Museum](#) in Hyrum. Presented by Utah Humanities, the [Smithsonian Institution](#), and communities statewide, the Bear River Heritage Area and Hyrum City Museum portion of the *H2O Today* tour takes place from August 7th, 2021 through February 5th, 2022.



The Smithsonian's *H2O Today* explores the beauty and essential nature of water, our planet's lifeblood. Through immersive content, interactives, and digital media, the exhibition explores the diversity and challenges of our global water sources, as well as Utah's unique relationship with water. *H2O Today* asks the question: "What does water mean to you?"

The Hyrum City Museum is holding a Grand Opening on August 14th:

EXHIBITION GRAND OPENING
August 14, 2021, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Hyrum City Museum
50 West Main Street, Hyrum, UT 84319



Local Bear River Heritage Area exhibitions have been created as companions to *H2O Today*:

Blessed by Water, Worked by Hand features painted wire that transforms black & white photography into colored images exploring how water in the Bear River Heritage Area was important to people in the last century. *H2Oh! How Miraculous!* will be shown in historic downtown storefronts and offers infographics that explain the wonders of water, its unique properties, and easy ways to conserve it. In addition, nearly a dozen organizations around the region have curated local exhibitions that explore how water is essential to our communities.

Join the Bear River Heritage Area in the coming months for local water exhibitions and events. A schedule of the Bear River Heritage Area and Hyrum City Museum's *H2O Today* events can be found in this [event publication](#). Learn more about *H2O Today* in the Bear River Heritage Area and keep up to date on happenings at www.bearriverheritage.com/h2o/.

Jami Van Huss, Director of the Hyrum City Museum, says "We are thrilled to host *H2O Today* at the Hyrum City Museum and throughout the Bear River Heritage Area. Water is such an essential resource in Utah, and the Bear River Heritage Area offers a rich opportunity to explore the topic. We are offering events and activities that will deepen our community's relationship to our local water stories as well as the larger context within our state. We are honored to host such an educational exhibition and to complement it with an amazing collaboration of educational and artistic exhibitions, programming, and tours. Many thanks to Utah Humanities, the Smithsonian, and generous sponsors who make these opportunities possible."

Camille Sleight, Folklorist and Heritage Program Manager, also remarks that "The Bear River Heritage Area is very excited to be hosting the *H2O Today* series beginning in August through February of next year. We are overwhelmed by the support we've received from our area partners in developing meaningful events, programs, activities, and secured spaces in a variety of community venues to present exhibits surrounding life's most sustaining resource of all: water.

Megan van Frank, Director of the Center for Community Heritage at Utah Humanities, is coordinating the exhibition tour in Utah. In explaining the critical role Utah Humanities plays in bringing the Smithsonian tour to Utah, she says, “We work closely with host organizations to bring this experience to their communities, and the collaboration among national, state, and local organizations benefits everyone. The entire experience directly strengthens Utah museums and helps to preserve and share Utah history.” She also hopes that, “visitors to the exhibition will come away with a panoramic and personal view of how water has shaped the state of Utah as well as its role in their personal lives. The exhibition is a unique opportunity for Utahns to tell their own water stories as part of local, state, and national conversations.”

Gregory Smoak, Director of the American West Center, University of Utah, and state scholar for Think Water Utah remarks that “Water is life. It has shaped the stunning, inspiring, and often difficult landscapes of our state. It sustains our very existence and has largely defined where Utahns have lived for the past 12,000 years. And there can be no future without water. While the challenges facing Utahns appear daunting, the story of Utah’s water ways can offer us a guide. By trying to understand the natural world, its limitations and reasonable opportunities, and considering the many ways in which Utahns have engaged our precious waters, we might use history to map a sustainable way forward.”

To learn more about the statewide tour, contact Utah Humanities at 801.359.9670 or visit the [Think Water Utah portion of the Utah Humanities website](#).

The three host sites and dates for this exhibition are:

- **January 21 – April 19, 2021** | [West Valley Arts at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center](#), 1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City, UT 84119, 801.965.5100
- **April 26 – July 31, 2021** | [Uintah County Heritage Museum](#), 155 E. Main, Vernal, Utah 84078, 435.789.7399
- **August 7, 2021 – February 5, 2022** | [Bear River Heritage Area](#) at the [Hyrum City Museum](#), 50 West Main Street, Hyrum, UT 84319, 435.245.0208

H2O Today has been made possible in Utah by Utah Humanities. *H2O Today* is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. It was adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History (New York) and the Science Museum of Minnesota (St. Paul), in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center (Cleveland), Field Museum (Chicago), Instituto Sangari (Sao Paulo), National Museum of Australia (Canberra), Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), San Diego Natural History Museum, and Science Centre Singapore.

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About Utah Humanities: Utah Humanities empowers Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities. UH is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks Fund, the State of Utah, and through gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Each year, Utah Humanities supports hundreds of educational and cultural programs throughout Utah. For more information, visit www.utahhumanities.org.

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