

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mulvihill
Kansas Humanities Council
112 SW 6th Ave., Suite 210
Topeka KS 66603-3895
785/357-0359
julie@kansashumanities.org

Date: June 14, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smithsonian Exhibition on Food Will Tour Kansas

The Kansas Humanities Council announces the Kansas tour of the Smithsonian Institution exhibition, "Key Ingredients: America By Food." The exhibition will visit six Kansas communities – Garden City, Arkansas City, Ottawa, Hays, Johnson, and Council Grove – beginning May 27, 2005 and ending March 10, 2006.

"Key Ingredients: America by Food" explores the connections between Americans and the foods they produce, prepare, preserve, and present at the table. It is a look at the historical, regional, and social traditions that merge in everyday meals and celebrations.

Through a selection of artifacts, photographs, and illustrations, "Key Ingredients" examines the evolution of the American kitchen and how food industries have responded to the technological innovations that have enabled Americans to choose an ever-wider variety of frozen, prepared, and fresh foods. "Key Ingredients" also looks beyond the home to restaurants, diners, and celebrations that help build a sense of community through food.

The exhibition will offer many opportunities for host organizations to link their own collections and local food specialties to the story told in the exhibition. KHC anticipates that this exhibit will expand understanding of both past and present immigrants to Kansas communities, engage residents as well as out-of-town visitors, create conversations, and inspire community recollection and celebration.

"Key Ingredients: America By Food" follows three previous traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibitions in Kansas: "Barn Again!" in 1999-2000, "Yesterdays Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future" in 2002, and "Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945" in 2003-2004.

A non-profit cultural organization with 30 years experience, the Kansas Humanities Council conducts and supports community-based programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grantmaking program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities. For more information visit online at www.kansashumanities.org.

"Key Ingredients: America By Food" is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Hearst Foundation. For more information about Museum on Main Street, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org.

###