



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Smithsonian's "Americans" Exhibition Coming to Kansas

Topeka – A new Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition is coming to Kansas for an exclusive statewide tour August 2025 – July 2026. "Americans" is based on the exhibition of the same name currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Curated by Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche) and Cécile R. Ganteaume, the exhibit explores the ways American Indian images, names, and stories have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began. The Kansas tour is presented in partnership between Humanities Kansas and the Museum on Main Street program.

"Americans" will be on display at seven locations in Kansas:

Lawrence: Cultural Center and Museum, Haskell Indian Nations University (August 23 – October 5, 2025)

Highland: Iowa and Sac and Fox Mission Museum (October 11 – November 16, 2025)

Wichita: Mid-America All-Indian Museum (November 22, 2025 – January 4, 2026)

Mayetta: Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (January 10 – February 22, 2026)

Salina: Smoky Hill Museum (February 28 – April 5, 2026)

Liberal: Seward County Community College (April 11 – May 24, 2026)

Bonner Springs: Wyandotte County Historical Museum (May 30 – July 5, 2026)

The exhibit will feature photographs, hands-on interactives, objects, and videos that invite visitors to explore this history and representation of Native Americans in American culture.

"We are looking forward to hosting the first stop of this powerful exhibit," shared Eric Anderson (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), professor of history at Haskell Indian Nations University. "It provides a unique opportunity to engage with perceptions and conceptions of Native Americans through the lens of popular culture and history. Hopefully doing so will allow us to challenge old assumptions and afford new perspectives."

In addition to the seven Smithsonian host locations, Humanities Kansas is collaborating with ten partners across the state to create original local exhibits and events that explore the "Americans" themes. Partner organizations include: Ashland City Library; Ellis County Historical Society Museum, Hays; Kansas Oil Museum, El Dorado; Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, Olathe; Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum, Chanute; Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture, Olathe; NOTO Arts Center, Topeka; Coronado Quivira Museum, Lyons; El Quartejejo Museum, Scott City; Wabaunsee County Historical Society and Museum, Alma.

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For more information on “Americans,” contact Humanities Kansas at 785-357-0359 or visit humanitieskansas.org.

About Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit leading a movement of ideas. Since 1972, HK’s programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and invite new insights. Together with statewide partners and supporters, HK encourages Kansans to draw on diverse histories, literatures, and cultures to create connections with one another and strengthen Kansas communities and our democracy. humanitieskansas.org

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