



Smithsonian

**MUSEUM**  
on Main Street



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
humanities



CHOOSE  
COMMUNITY

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**Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Highlighting Changing  
Landscape of Rural America Coming to Claremont, NH**

The Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street, in cooperation with New Hampshire Humanities, presents “Crossroads: Change in Rural America.” The exhibition examining the evolving landscape of rural America opens at River Valley Community College on October 14, 2024. “Crossroads” will be on view through December 13, 2024. A public opening reception is planned for Wednesday, October 23 from 1-2pm in the library—all are welcome.

**River Valley Community College** and the surrounding community has been expressly chosen by **New Hampshire Humanities** to host “Crossroads” as part of the Museum on Main Street program—a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations.

The exhibition will tour **six communities across New Hampshire and Vermont** from **August 2024** through **August 2025**. See itinerary below:

- August – Oct. 26, 2024, St. Albans Museum, St. Albans City, VT
- Oct. 14 – Dec. 13, 2024, River Valley Community College, Claremont, NH
- Feb. 8 – March 23, 2025, Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph, VT
- March 29 – May 11, 2025, Jefferson Historical Society, Jefferson, NH
- May 31 – July 12, 2025, Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth, NH
- July 19 – Aug. 31, 2025, Old Stone House Museum, Brownington, VT

Americans have relied on rural crossroads for generations. These places where people gather to exchange goods, services and culture and to engage in political and community discussions are an important part of our cultural fabric. Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America’s small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development.



**"River Valley Community College is proud to have been chosen as a site for the inaugural hosting of a Smithsonian exhibit in New Hampshire" said Alfred Williams, President of RVCC. "We look forward to welcoming the community we service onto our campus to enjoy this traveling exhibit."** To coincide with the exhibit, RVCC is hosting a variety of free public events including an opening reception on Wednesday, October 23 from 1-2pm; a selection of objects and artifacts from the Claremont Historical Society on view through December 13; a community art exhibit on view through January 10, 2025, "Harvest Fest," a family-friendly fall celebration on Saturday, October 26; and a series of public panel discussions on topics relevant to Claremont and the surrounding communities. Visit [www.rivervalley.edu/crossroads](http://www.rivervalley.edu/crossroads) for event details.

Designed for small-town museums, libraries and cultural organizations, "Crossroads" will serve as a community meeting place for conversations about how rural America has changed. With the support and guidance of state humanities councils, these towns will develop complementary exhibits, host public programs and facilitate educational initiatives to raise people's understanding about their own history, the joys and challenges of living rural, how change has impacted their community, and prompt discussion of goals for the future.

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about "Crossroads" and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit [www.museumonmainstreet.org](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org).

Support for MoMS has been provided by the U.S. Congress and New Hampshire Humanities.

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For exhibition description and tour schedules, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

**River Valley Community College: 1 College Place, Claremont NH, 03743; (603) 542-7744**

**Exhibit Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri–9am-5pm; Tue, Thurs–9am-9pm**