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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **CONTACT:** Donna Schepers, Jasper Community Arts, Education Coordinator
- **SUBJECT:** **Local Partnerships Awarded Funds to Highlight Changing Landscape in Rural America**
Jasper will receive funds as part of statewide tour of “Crossroads: Change in Rural America”
- **TODAY’S DATE:** Jasper, Ind. (August 23, 2019)

Jasper Community Arts, as part of a collaboration with the Jasper Public Library and Dubois County Museum, has been awarded \$1,500 by Indiana Humanities to host a local program exploring themes from a traveling Smithsonian-curated exhibit, called “Crossroads: Change in Rural America.” The “Crossroads” exhibit will tour six Indiana communities from Sept. 7 2019 to June 21 2020.

In addition to Jasper, 10 other communities received \$1,500 stipends to host programs and locally curated exhibits around rural change during the time of the tour.

Nearly 100 years ago, the 1920 census revealed that for the first time, more Americans lived in urban environments than in rural communities. Since 1900, the percentage of Americans living in rural areas dropped from 60 percent to 17 percent, yet the vast majority of America’s physical landscape remains rural. “Crossroads” looks at this remarkable societal change and how rural Americans responded. “We are thrilled to provide funds to underserved areas in Indiana like Jasper to explore the many themes of rural change that resonate with Hoosiers today, including identity, land, community, persistence and managing change,” said Keira Amstutz, president and CEO of Indiana Humanities. “We look forward to using the themes of the tour to celebrate our rural past while sparking conversations about our future.”

“The diversity of programs being offered and the opportunities that stem from those programs are what drew us to this project,” said Kyle Rupert, Director of Jasper Community Arts. “The fact that we were able to partner with the Jasper Public Library and the Dubois County Museum makes this a special experience.” In partnership with Jasper Community Arts to present five programs exploring the rural themes in our area are Jasper Public Library and Dubois County Museum.

The Crossroads, Change in Rural America
Program Series will include the following programs:

1. Ask Granny, a Genealogy Discovery

Facilitator: Jill Watson, Library Staff
Date: Thursday, October 10, 2019
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Jasper Public Library

2. Something’s Brewing - What Craft Beer Can Teach Us About Creative Place Making in Indiana

Guest Speaker Bill Riley, Author: 12 Great Midwestern Beer Trips
Date: Wednesday, Oct.30, 2019
Time: 6:30p.m.
Location: Parklands Pavilion

3. There and Gone and Back Again, A Conversation Sparked by the Creative and Culinary Arts

Guest Speaker David Hoppe, Journalist, Playwright and Essayist
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Time: 6:30
Location: Parklands Pavilion

4. The Story of Dubois County Agriculture

Guest Speaker: Lee Bilderback, Local Family and Agriculture Historian
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Time: 6:30p.m.
Location: Dubois County Museum

5. Indiana State Read, *The Year We Left Home*

Facilitators : Jill Watson, Library Staff and
Donna Schepers, Education Coordinator
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Time: 6:30p.m.
Location: Jasper Arts Center

Indiana Humanities is sponsoring the tour of this exhibit in conjunction with its new thematic initiative—called INseparable, which launches in 2019. Through a variety of programs, Indiana Humanities will encourage Hoosiers to explore how we relate to each other across urban, suburban and rural lines and spark conversations about our futures.

Indiana Humanities connects people, opens minds and enriches lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage Hoosiers to think, read and talk. Learn more at www.indianahumanities.org.

Museum on Main Street is 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.

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.

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