



## Local History Spotlight Exhibition at the Vermont History Museum

The Vermont Historical Society has dedicated an exhibit gallery at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier to the presentation and celebration of local history. Working with local historical societies and museums to create and present changing exhibitions that showcase collections and stories that cover the width and breadth of Vermont's diverse historic landscape.

The following general exhibit information is provided to local societies and museums to help them with participating as an exhibitor. These guidelines are subject to change.

### Preferred Exhibit Themes & Types

The general goals for this exhibit include promoting local historical societies, as well as encouraging quality exhibit scholarship and creation. To that end, organizations are encouraged to create exhibits which may:

- Highlight a unique feature or event for that community
- Present local history in wider historic context
- Touch on broad VT history topics to bring local flavor to: Industry, Environment/Nature, People, Rural Life, Landscape/Community Change, Transportation, etc.
- Use one or more of the three organizing themes currently in the *Freedom & Unity* exhibit: Who are Vermonters? What is wise use of the Land? How do you foster a Democratic society?
- Do not focus on an individual without placing that person within a wider historical context.
- Timeline exhibits will not be considered (though a small timeline within an exhibit is ok)

### Exhibit Parameters

The following items guide the selection and installation of exhibits for the space.

- Exhibits will be on display for six months (currently February-July or August-January)
- Exhibits will be chosen by committee via an application process at least six months prior to installation date. Potential criteria for selection may include:
  - Geographic diversity
  - Current/ongoing original exhibit design & creation at the organization
  - Topical diversity & relevance
- Organizations will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding with VHS which will outline project parameters and requirements for both parties such as:
  - Exhibit delivery, installation & takedown requirements
  - Publicity requirements
  - Liability parameters
  - Exhibit design and approval process
  - Requirements for content, labels, exhibit hardware, etc.

- Multiple organizations may collaborate on an exhibition based on a common theme or topic.
- Objects or other exhibit items need to be in good condition and able to withstand being on display for six months. Organizations will be required to submit an inventory & basic condition reports for all objects at installation time.
- Size & weight limits: Items must be able to fit safely through a 36" wide by 7' tall doorframe. Items weighing more than 125 lbs are discouraged.
- While VHS will make every effort to provide a safe and secure exhibit space, the room is not continuously monitored by staff/docents, and many (sometimes large) school groups go through the exhibit.

### **Exhibition Space**

The Gallery is a rotating exhibit space in the center of our award-winning *Freedom and Unity* exhibition at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. It has:

- Approximately 15x13' open space
- Flexible track lighting system utilizing LED bulbs
- Approximately 50-60' of fixed wall space for hanging works, with a rail hanging system. Additional movable walls may also be available.
- Display cases with Plexiglas bonnets, as well as platforms/pedestals may also be available

### **Let's Collaborate!**

We want to make this a collaborative and successful process for everyone, so please let us know if you have any questions, need clarification on any aspect of the program, or need assistance with potential exhibit development. For more details or further questions, please contact Community Outreach Coordinator Eileen Corcoran, [eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org](mailto:eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org), (802) 479-8522.