Poster Exhibitions from the Smithsonian

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) is the world’s oldest traveling exhibition service, offering traveling exhibitions to museums, libraries, science centers, historical societies, community centers, botanical gardens, schools, and other organizations across the U.S. and around the globe. **SITES also develops and offers FREE poster exhibitions on a variety of subjects.**

Poster exhibitions are available for download at sites.si.edu. Each poster exhibition includes design files to print posters, as well as programming resources. Recipients are required to complete a short survey about how the poster exhibition was used. Some poster exhibitions are also available as free printed copies. For more information, go to sites.si.edu or contact SITES’ Poster Coordinator Stephanie McCoy-Johnson at (202) 633-3105 or mccoys@si.edu.

**A Place for All People**

*A Place for All People* celebrates the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Posters evoke the power of oration and freedom stories, the brilliance of artistic achievement, and the soaring heights of cultural expression, philosophy, sports, and politics. In addition to profiling the long struggle to create the Museum, the building’s architectural design and its prominent location on the National Mall, the poster exhibition is a survey of the African American community’s powerful, deep and lasting contributions to the American story.

Number of posters: 20
Dimensions: 18.5” x 26.5”

**Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964**

Developed with the National Museum of American History, this poster exhibition includes colorful bilingual (English-Spanish) posters featuring images and interviews by documentary photographer Leonard Nadel. It tells a story of both exploitation and opportunity, focusing on the little-known story of the Bracero Program, the largest guest worker program in U.S. history. Between 1942 and 1964, millions of Mexican men came to the U.S. on short-term labor contracts. The posters offer historical context, ask big questions, challenge perceptions, tell powerful stories, and provide a platform that encourages dialogue and civic engagement.

Number of posters: 6
Dimensions: 18.6” x 26.6”
Choosing to Participate

The Choosing to Participate poster exhibition is a collaboration between Facing History and Ourselves and SITES, and developed primarily for middle and high school students. Based on Facing History and Ourselves’ national initiative “Choosing to Participate,” it is designed to encourage dialogue, engagement, respect, and participation in our communities. In an increasingly interconnected world, it is more important than ever to inspire people of all ages to create positive social change. Through this exhibition we are encouraged to consider the consequences of our everyday choices—to discover how “little things are big”—and to make a difference in our own communities.

Number of posters: 11
Dimensions: 9 posters: 28.5” x 19.5”; 2 posters: 28.5” x 9.75”

City of Hope: Resurrection City and the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign

Although President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a “war on poverty” in 1964, tens of millions of Americans were without livable wages, adequate housing, nutritious food, quality education, and healthcare. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, led by Drs. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy, declared poverty a national human rights issue and organized the Poor People’s Campaign. The grassroots, multiracial movement drew thousands of people to Washington, D.C., for 43 days in 1968. Demonstrators demanded social reforms while living side-by-side on the National Mall in a tent city known as Resurrection City.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture and SITES organized this poster exhibition to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s daring vision for economic justice and opportunity for every U.S. citizen.

Number of posters: 18
Dimensions: 18.5” x 26.5”
Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission

On July 24, 1969, Apollo 11 met President John F. Kennedy's 1961 challenge of "landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth." Destination Moon explores how the U.S. met the challenge and how the resulting 953,054-mile voyage to the Moon and back was accomplished. The poster exhibition recognizes the labor and sacrifices of more than 400,000 people employed in NASA programs who worked through the trials, tragedies and triumphs of the 20 missions from 1961 to 1969 before Apollo 11. Fifty years later, the Apollo program remains a benchmark for great national achievement. Destination Moon was developed with the National Air and Space Museum.

Number of posters: 7
Dimensions: Six posters 19.5” x 28.5”; one timeline 39” x 28.5”

Earth from Space

Earth from Space presents large color reproductions of images captured by high-tech satellites constantly circling the globe, recording conditions and events that are nearly impossible to document from the Earth's surface. The poster exhibition was developed with the National Air and Space Museum's Center for Earth and Planetary Studies.

Number of posters: 20
Dimensions: 19.5" x 28.5"

From Sea to Shining Sea: 200 Years of Charting America’s Coasts

The U.S. Coast Survey was created in 1807 by President Thomas Jefferson to assist the United States with shipping, national defense, and nautical boundaries. Produced with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the poster exhibition explores the Coast Survey’s history, accomplishments, and scientific contributions. Illustrated with photos, charts, and artwork held in the Survey’s archives, these colorful posters provide a foundation for programs associated with boating, shipping, and maritime history.

Number of posters: 20
Dimensions: 19.5” x 28.5”
I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story

This poster exhibition explores how Asian Pacific Americans have shaped and been shaped by the course of our nation’s history. Developed by SITES and the Asian Pacific American Center, the posters celebrate Asian Pacific American history across a multitude of incredibly diverse cultures. They offer students, regardless of heritage and family history, the opportunity to be engaged and inspired through related activities and lessons in social studies, creative writing, art, and communications.

Number of posters: 8  
Dimensions: 18.5" x 26.5"

Journey Stories

For four centuries, movement, across short distances and far, has shaped America. Our nation’s history is a patchwork of many stories, woven over time from the voyages of people—voluntary and involuntary—who traveled to build new lives state-to-state, across the continent, and from around the world. This exhibition includes important chapters such as Western expansion and Native American displacement, African American migration from the Deep South, and important developments in transportation technology.

Number of posters: 7  
Dimensions: 18.5" x 26.5"
**Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and WWII**

Righting a Wrong poster exhibition traces the story of Japanese National and Japanese American incarceration during World War II and the people who survived it. Based on an original exhibition at the National Museum of American History, The Righting a Wrong poster exhibition centers around eight core questions that encourage viewers to engage in a dialogue about how this happened, and could it happen again.

Number of Posters: 8  
Dimensions: 26.5” x 18.5”

**World War I: Lessons and Legacies**

*World War I: Lessons and Legacies* explores the war and its lasting impact and far-reaching influence on American life. Sparked by the assassination of one man, the war eventually included the forces of the world's major industrial powers (over 18 countries) and ended with millions dead. Beyond the countries involved and people affected, World War I gave rise to significant and enduring changes in America. The poster exhibition and related Educator’s Guide were developed with the National Museum of American History.

Number of posters: 8  
Dimensions: 18” X 26”