

theMUSEUM

BROKEN ARROW



Mayor Thurmond:

I am writing you today about our upcoming Smithsonian exhibit, "The Way We Worked." As you know, our exhibit will be opening in May and we are making fevered preparations for that. The exhibit officially opens on May 19. However, on May 18 we will be hosting a VIP event. It is our fervent hope that at that event, the City of Broken Arrow would make a proclamation that May 19, 2017 would be known as "The Way We Worked" day in Broken Arrow.

"The Way We Worked", an exhibition created by the US National Archives, is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Oklahoma Humanities. The "Museum on Main Street" Program is the Smithsonian Institution's key initiative that directly engages small town audiences and brings revitalized attention to communities through their museums and historical societies.

With busy hands and minds, American workers perform a diverse array of jobs to power our society. Work is part of nearly every American's life, whether for professional satisfaction and personal growth or to ensure the well-being of their families. In offices, factories, on the road, and at home, millions keep the nation going through contributions to industry and American culture.

The Way We Worked, adapted from the original exhibition developed by the National Archives, explores how work became such a central element in American culture by tracing the many changes that affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years. The exhibition draws from the Archives' rich collections to tell this compelling story. The exhibition shows how we identify with work—as individuals and as communities. The exhibition invites visitors to hear workers tell their own stories, or view films of various industries. Interactive components convey the experiences of multiple generations of families involved in the same industry.

The Oklahoma History Center will be providing an exhibit showcasing the history of labor in our state. It will be at the museum at the same time as this exhibit. The Museum Broken Arrow will also be pulling items from our collection to tell how labor has changed in our town.

From our application and interview process, we know you and the City of Broken Arrow strongly support our institution and mission so we are asking for this proclamation to shine a bit more of a spotlight on our museum and this exhibit. It would give additional attention to the exhibition and bring more visitors to our facility to experience this unique opportunity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lori Lewis

Executive Director

keeping history alive.

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