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& Project Director for
MoMS “Between Fences” Exhibit
in Winslow AZ
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Old Trails Museum is owned by the Winslow Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) corporation
The high desert town of Winslow has primarily two types of fences—those around homes and those around ranches.

We chose to expand our displays to include other forms of demarcation that defined Winslow and in so doing created “fences” of a different nature.

Thereby, our presentation became:

“Lines in the Sand…
Fences, Trails, Rails & Boundaries”
“Involving the Community with the Museum”

Partnering with individuals and organizations made this an OUR project not a THEIR effort.

First...the site

Old Trails Museum had to ‘borrow’ space to mount the exhibit, and thanks to Dan Lutzick, sculptor, we were able to set up in his gallery, one block west of OTM. Dan also delivered the MoMS crates, oversaw the installation, and hung the oversized photographs and large artifacts for the museum.
Community Partners

Winslow Chamber of Commerce
The CoC held a ribbon cutting, made sure the Mayor was invited, and served cake and beverages for 100. Then we were ‘off to the races!’

Oral History Display
Featured members of four families, representing 33 people of various ethnicities. This project coordinated by Sue Tecklenburg, WHS President.
Community Partners

In this, we had two loans—one of rails and ties from a local family, and, two large maps courtesy of Northland Pioneer College Library. NPC Staff attended and said they were open to joining in another project.
Community Partners

Ranching

Partnering here was a fifth-generation rancher who loaned this 1930s Clear Creek Range Map, hand colored on linen. It is 5’ high. He was so pleased with our effort, he has joined the Winslow Historical Society and continued the loan to the OTM Ranching Display.

At left, a representative fence made from posts and barbed wire from the same ranch, and the loan of a cowboy’s saddle who lives on a small part of the original ranch land.
This exhibit denotes a fence of a different kind. Involvement from the community include the mohair rug made by an 83-year old Navajo, Louise Curley just for the exhibit, a trading post miniature, and a short family history from the Chase family, also Navajos. Rene Chase Begay is Campus Coordinator at the Northland Pioneer College in Winslow.
Community Partners

Mrs. Bordner's fourth grade class contributed 20 essays about what fences meant to them. Five Winslow high school art students submitted interpretations of fences painted on wooden slats, and a graduating senior submitted two black and white photographs of fences.

All school exhibits were mounted on a chain link fence on loan from a local company!

Display coordinated by Donna Guiher, WHS Board Member.
Community Partners

Newspaper

More than one media source was used, but the paper providing local coverage went all out:

- Advance publicity
- Opening day coverage
- Coverage of most weekly entertainment events
- Updated weekly schedule of events
- Photo contest, example to right.

“Can you identify this fence?”

This and three other photographs ran weekly with the caption that the first to call the Museum and identify the location would win $25—and they had to pick up the prize at the BF Exhibit!
Community Partners

Local Entertainment for six Saturdays and one Friday evening, thanks to a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Week #1, Mexican Folklore Dance Club, 30 performers

Week #2, Western Artist and Singer, Mel Bradshaw
Week 3, Tommy Dukes Trio—the crowd insisted on 3 encores. Ripple effect of his performance was getting on the daily rotation for a Blues Segment on WUSM in Hattiesburg, MS, Dukes’ hometown.
Community Partners

Week 4

Below, on Friday evening Rhoda Linstra, musician and teacher played while some sang along and others danced. The young man was from the audience and asked if he could play, and did.

On the fourth Saturday, 17 dancers from the Winslow Stars Dance Troupe took the stage. This was its first time to receive compensation, and the instructor was thrilled as it helped defray cost for regional competition.
Week 5—The Homovoli Dance Group had 20 of its Hopi members dancing and singing to drums and rattles. At lower right, the lady in yellow was assisted to the stage and went through one whole song with the youngsters. Amazing when you realize she has no kidneys, and this likely would be her last chance to dance.
Community Partners

Week 6—The Winslow Harvey Girls closed the entertainment venue with a 6-hour display of Fred Harvey, La Posada and Harvey Girl memorabilia. This volunteer organization keeps the legacy alive by trunk shows as this and conducting tours.
Over 500 volunteer hours were logged to make this presentation open and available to the public 30 hours a week. Without them—it just could not have run so smoothly.

With them, the museum was able to maintain regular hours.

Pat Raygor, WHS Board Member and Officer, recruited all volunteers.
A little about “Lines in the Sand…”

After visitors entered through the MoMS gate, The sign at the left explained the two exhibits, one from the Smithsonian, and one from Old Trails Museum.

Then each was invited to sign in on a craft stick, which became a ‘slat’ in our own worm fence. Volunteers attached the sticks.

At the close of Between Fences, we displayed them for a few months at the museum, and they were a conversation point. Many saw their own names and those of their friends.

Most thought it was great fun—over 850!
More about “Lines in the Sand…”

Display themes on lines of demarcation that defined Winslow:

- **TRAILS**—PIONEER AND EXPLORER TRAILS OPENED THE WAY FOR SETTLERS AND DEVELOPMENT.
- **ORAL HISTORIES**—SHOWCASING CULTURAL DIVERSITY. THE ‘LINE’ HERE WAS PREJUDICE.
- **RAILS**—THE RAILROAD WAS THE CATALYST THAT FORMED WINSLOW.
- **RANCHING**—BROUGHT ANOTHER ENTERPRISE TO THIS AREA, AND STILL CONTINUES TODAY.
- **AIRPORT**—RUNWAYS CREATED LINES IN THE SAND, AND OPENED WINSLOW TO THE WORLD.
- **BORDER TOWN**—THEN AS NOW, A CONTINUING EXCHANGE BETWEEN NATIVE AMERICAN AND ANGLO CULTURES.
- **ROUTE 66**—EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT TRAVELED, THIS GRAND HIGHWAY STILL BRINGS TOURISTS THROUGH WINSLOW.
In Closing..

The MoMS experience gave our museum an opportunity to reach out to the community with expanded local displays and offer an interaction with the revered Smithsonian Institution in Winslow!

This project paid many dividends for the time and effort invested.