

Planting Roots: The Story of Czech America



Planting Roots tells the story of Czechs in America, from the first Bohemian colonist in the 1630s through the late 20th century. The impact of Czechs on American culture is highlighted with an emphasis on their contributions to history, the arts, and science. The origins and history of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library are also included.

First Panel:

This panel tells the story of immigration to the New World, beginning with August Hermann in the early 17th century. Each of the major waves of Czech immigration, from 1848 to 1968, are highlighted.

Second Panel:

Czech-Americans formed fraternal societies and social clubs in their new home. These organizations provided both social and educational opportunities. Their members encouraged the retention of Czech culture, language, and identity but at the same time fully embraced the American way of life. Sokol, fraternal societies, businesses, and festivals are included in this panel.

Third Panel:

Around the turn of the last century, three national heroes of Bohemia and Moravia visited the United States. Antonín Dvořák, Alphonse Mucha, and Tomáš Masaryk all made their marks on Czechs in American, and even on the nation itself. In turn, each of these men was influenced by the United States while also inspiring American citizens.

Fourth Panel:

Famous Czech-Americans are highlighted on this panel, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, filmmaker Milos Forman, astronaut Gene Cernan, and Chicago Bears legend George Halas.

Fifth Panel:

The story of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is told from its inception in 1974 through the dedication of the famed red roof building in 1995.

Sixth Panel:

NCSML's history continues. From 1995 to the present, NCSML hosted a number of memorable blockbuster exhibits, fell prey to a devastating flood in 2008, and rose up to reopen triumphantly in 2012 with an exhibition of Alphonse Mucha's exquisite art.

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Exhibit Rental Information

Planting Roots: The Story of Czech America is comprised of six retractable panels that tell the story of Czechs coming to the United States and building new lives in a new land. Dating back to the first Bohemian colonists in the 1630s and extending to the late 20th century, this exhibit provides a comprehensive look at Czech immigration and Czech influence on America.

Exhibit Contains:

- 6 panels that retract into a metal base (opened like a roller shade), each housed in a black zippered bag. The opened panels are each 36 x 72 inches in size.
- 1 pole folded in half for each panel (in bag with panel)
- All panels fit into one box (14 inches long, 14 inches wide, 48 inches tall)
- Box weighs approximately 76 lbs

Space Requirements:

- 21 linear feet (allowing for 6 inches between each panel). This figure is based upon all six panels being set up in a row, but they can be in any configuration within a space.

Time:

- Duration of exhibit is negotiable

Security:

- Periodic checks of exhibit area
- Open to the public only while there is an attendant in the building

The NCSML traveling exhibition program is generously supported by American Czech Association, Los Angeles and American Sokol Los Angeles.

Procedures for Booking:

Shipping costs to and from the venue must be paid for by the borrower. The NCSML Traveling Exhibit Coordinator will ship via FedEx and include return shipping labels. The borrower will be billed by the NCSML Finance Director after the exhibit's return to NCSML.

Setting up the Exhibit:

- Remove panel (rolled up in metal case) and pole from bag
- Place metal case on floor with hole for pole as the back
- Unfold pole and insert one into the other at the center point (where the elastic connects the two pieces)
- Insert pole into hole with flat end as top
- Pull up on panel to unroll it
- Attach top edge of panel to flat top on pole

Questions about this exhibit?

Contact:

Tricia Bender

Collections Manager / Traveling Exhibits

☎ 319-362-8500 ext. 201

✉ tbender@ncsml.org

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