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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renton History Museum to Host Smithsonian Institution's *Key Ingredients - America By Food* Traveling Exhibition this Spring

RENTON, WA – The Renton History Museum will host the only greater Seattle showing of *Key Ingredients: America by Food*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, from March 21 through May 9, 2009. *Key Ingredients* will be the first Smithsonian Institution exhibit hosted by the Renton History Museum, and to celebrate the exhibit will kick-off a three-month series of food events in Renton.

"*Key Ingredients* explores the historical, regional, and social traditions that merge in home-cooked meals, restaurant cuisine, and celebrations," said Museum Director Elizabeth P. Stewart. "At the same time, the Museum will also unveil *Sustaining A City*, an exhibit about Renton's unique foodways."

Key Ingredients uses artifacts, photographs, and illustrations to explore how culture, ethnicity, landscape, and tradition influence American cooking. The *Sustaining a City* exhibit, which runs indefinitely from March 21, explores how Renton fits into the larger national sustainability picture.

Together the two exhibits showcase the ways in which food brings different people together to celebrate and share common values. "Whether in Italian groceries in the nineteenth century or in Mexican restaurants in the twenty-first century, food has brought people together in Renton," Stewart said.

In conjunction with the two exhibits, Renton will host a series of food events, classes and activities. Key events include:

- **"In the Kitchen with Tom and Thierry," Saturday, March 21, 4 – 7 p.m., Renton History Museum.** Chefs Tom Douglas and Thierry Rautureau will broadcast live on 97.3 KIRO FM from the Museum.
- **Western Regional Hot Food Championship, Saturday, April 4 – Monday, April 6, Renton Technical College.**

- **Author Mark Winne speaks about “Closing the Food Gap,” Saturday, April 4, Carco Theatre.** Winne explores food inequality in the U.S. and suggests solutions. He will sign his book, *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*, after the talk. Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, or free with food item for Renton Food Bank. Presented by the Renton History Museum.
- **Productive Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces: Planning Raised Beds and Containers, Wednesday, April 8, 6 – 8 p.m. Renton Technical College.** Learn how to garden in containers or raised beds and enjoy the delicious freshness of home-grown veggies. Presented by WSU King County Extension.
- **“3 Feet Under: Digging Deep for the Geoduck Clam,” Thursday, April 16, 4:30 p.m. at Carco Theatre.** A screening of the Emmy-nominated film by Justin Bookey about the Pacific Northwest’s favorite clam, the “goopy duck.” Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Presented by the Renton History Museum.
- **“Taste of The Landing” – Sunday, April 26.** Come celebrate the opening of Renton’s new urban village.
- **“An Afternoon with Greg Atkinson,” Thursday, May 7, 4:30 p.m. at Carco Theatre.** Local chef and cookbook author Greg Atkinson shares his passion for West Coast regional cuisine. Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Presented by Renton History Museum.
- **Local Food Year-Round: Simple Methods for Preserving Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Wednesday, May 13, 6 – 8 p.m., Renton Technical College.** Come learn some safe, simple techniques for saving the flavors of summer to enjoy in the dark season of root vegetables. Presented by WSU King County Extension.
- **Master Gardener’s Program** provides free advice on growing fruits and vegetables at the Farmer’s Market on the Piazza, Tuesdays, June 2 through September 15. Presented by the WSU King County Extension.
- **The Renton History Museum** will also offer an essay contest for youth, and an ongoing trivia contest with weekly prizes.
- Over the next three months, **Renton Technical College** has planned a series of culinary classes. For further information, visit <http://www.rtc.edu/>.

About the Traveling Exhibition

The exhibition comes to the Renton History Museum as part of the Museum on Main Street project, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils, and local host institutions. To learn more about *Key Ingredients* and *Sustaining A City* at the Renton History Museum, go to <http://www.rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=13328>.

Museum Background

The Renton History Museum is a joint project of the Renton Historical Society and the City of Renton. Its mission is the preservation, documentation, and interpretation of the history and culture of greater Renton. The Museum is located at 235 Mill Avenue South, and its hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Renton Historical Society, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, supports the Renton Museum in its effort to collect, preserve and interpret the history of greater Renton, Washington, through research, archives, exhibits and publications.

For further information: www.rentonhistory.rentonwa.gov.

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