{DATE}

{CONTACT NAME, TITLE}
{ORGANIZATION} {PHONE} {EMAIL}

**Importance of Chinese Laborers to Transcontinental Railroad**

**Highlighted in New Exhibit at [LOCATION]**

[DATELINE CITY] — A new exhibition explores the history of Chinese railroad workers through photographs, historical documents, and excavated ceramics.

*Through Toil and Labor: The Forgotten History of Utah’s Chinese Railroad Workers* will provide insight to the daily lives and culture of these laborers as they brought the Central Pacific railroad over the Sierra Nevada mountains and across the Great Basin desert. The exhibition, presented by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums Traveling Exhibits program, will open on [OPENING DATE] at [LOCATION] and run through [CLOSING DATE].

With the ceremonial completion of the United States’ first Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869, the nation entered a new age of commerce and travel. The momentous meeting of the rails at Promontory Summit, Utah, meant goods and services could now move across the country in quantities and at speeds previously unknown. Key to this massive effort to connect the nation were the contributions of thousands of immigrant workers from around the globe.

Chinese immigrants composed over 75 percent of the Transcontinental Railroad workforce between 1865 and 1869, numbering more than 11,000 by its completion. These Chinese laborers, mostly young men ages 15-25, left their families and homes in China to seek new economic opportunities. The contributions of these Chinese railroad workers to Utah and the United States are slowly becoming better known.

Through photographs, historical documents, and excavated fragments of imported Chinese ceramics, this exhibition shows the unique history of the Transcontinental Railroad’s Chinese workers in Utah and share what’s been learned from the artifacts they left behind.

*Through Toil and Labor* will be shown at [LOCATION], [STREET ADDRESS, CITY], from [START DATE] to [END DATE]. [LOCATION] is open [DAYS OPEN] from [OPENING TIME] to [CLOSING TIME]. Accompanying educational materials are available. For more information on viewing the exhibition, please call [PHONE NUMBER] or go to [WEB ADDRESS].

**About Utah Arts & Museums and the Traveling Exhibit Program**Utah Arts & Museums’ Traveling Exhibit Program is a statewide outreach program that provides schools, museums, libraries, and community galleries with the opportunity to bring curated exhibitions to their community. This program is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information on participating in the program, please contact Fletcher Booth at fbooth@utah.gov or call 801.532.2617. For media inquiries, please contact Josh Loftin at jloftin@utah.gov or 801.245.7205.

Utah Arts & Museums is a division of the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts (DHA). To enrich the quality of life for the people of Utah, DHA creates, preserves, and promotes Heritage and Arts. The Division provides funding, education, and technical services to individuals and organizations statewide so that all Utahns, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or economic status, can access, understand, and receive the benefits of arts and culture. Additional information on the programs and services can be found at [artsandmuseums.utah.gov](http://www.artsandmuseums.utah.gov)