**Sample Press Release**

{*Print your press release on your sponsoring organization's letterhead*

*or include name, address, and phone number of organization at top of release*}

**For Immediate Release**

**THE [SPONSORING ORGANIZATION] HOSTS MONTANA CONVERSATION “MONTANA STORIES AND HOW THEY SHAPE OUR LIVES” WITH SALLY THOMPSON**

[City–date]

The [sponsoring organization] hosts Montana Conversation “Montana Stories and How they Share Our Lives” with Sally Thompson on [date of program]. The program is at [location and time of program]. The presentation is free and open to the public. Funding for Montana Conversations is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montana’s Cultural Trust, and private donations. We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana’s cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund.

In this two-hour hands-on workshop, facilitator Sally Thompson shares her treasure trove of primary documents from Montana history to facilitate more nuanced and respectful understandings than are commonly held. We will explore short historical narratives, artwork, and maps, from places we know, with an eye toward understanding how our viewpoints have been shaped by those who have controlled the pen. In small groups, participants will discuss perceptions and work together to tell the story from a different point of view to be shared with the whole group. The mode of expression will be at the discretion of each group. The geographical focus can be tailored to the various regions of Montana.

Anthropologist Sally Thompson is an experienced workshop leader whose career in the Rocky Mountains and American Southwest has spanned more than four decades. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1980, the same year she moved to Missoula. She has worked as an archaeologist, ethnohistorian, educator, filmmaker, and tribal consultant and collaborator. Her 2015 book, *People Before the Park* (Montana Historical Society), was a collaboration with the Kootenai Culture Committee and the Pikunni Traditionalist Association of the Blackfeet Tribe. She has two books to be released in 2024: *Disturbing the Sleeping Buffalo: 23 Unexpected Stories that Awaken Montana's Past* (Farcountry Press) and *Black Robes enter Coyote’s World* (Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press). Sally enjoys engaging people in the rich fabric of Montana’s cultures and histories.

For more information, please call [sponsoring organization] at [phone number].

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Contact person: [project organizer and phone number]