
SIUXLAND HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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Sioux City Public Museum announces construction timeline for new site

Sioux City Public Museum officials announced today that plans are on track for the renovation of the new museum site in downtown Sioux City. Construction and renovation of the former J.C. Penney building is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2009. The project will include a facelift of the entire south side of the building, renovation of the interior of the building including permanent and temporary exhibit spaces, and the construction of classrooms. The current archives and collections located in the Pearl Street Research Center will be incorporated into the new facility. The New Museum is projected to open in the summer of 2010.

Presently the Museum fundraising committee has raised over 80% of the local funds needed to complete the project, including a matching grant from the Waitt Family Foundation for \$3 million. Approximately \$1.75 million still needs to be raised from the community and museum supporters. Additionally, officials still remain optimistic that they will receive a State of Iowa CAT grant during the spring of 2009. "Our application is in the pipeline and we feel we have an excellent opportunity to receive funding from the Vision Iowa/CAT Board provided they restore funding," stated Steve Hansen, Museum director. The Vision Iowa/CAT board is awaiting further legislative action before they issue more grants.

The Sioux City Public Museum traces its roots to the 1850s and has been located in the John Peirce Mansion since 1959. Present facilities include the Pearl Street Research Center, the Sgt. Floyd River Museum and Welcome Center, and the Loren Callendar Gallery in City Hall. The current slate of Siouxland Heritage Foundation board members were recruited in 2006 to develop a plan and raise funds to move the museum to a new home in the former JC Penney building. The Siouxland Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit and is accepting contributions and pledges payable over 5 years.

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