



SIOUX CITY  
P U B L I C  
M U S E U M

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## **Museum's grand opening date announced**

Karen Van De Steeg, president of the Siouxland Heritage Foundation, and Dennis Bullock, chair of the Sioux City Museum Board of Trustees, announced the date of the grand opening of the new downtown Sioux City Public Museum will be April 23, 2011. Details of the event will be released closer to the grand opening date.

The completion of the new \$12.5 million museum facility represents an extensive public/private partnership that began in 2005. The City of Sioux City purchased the former department store building for use as a new museum and appropriated \$1.5 million for the project. The new museum occupies the first floor of the building — approximately 55,000 square feet of floor space, with about 10,000 square feet of two-story space as an atrium in the southwest corner of the building.

The Sioux City Public Museum traces its roots back to late 1800s. After becoming a division of the City of Sioux City in 1938, the Museum opened in the John Peirce Mansion at 2901 Jackson Street in 1961. The new site, at 4th and Nebraska Streets, places the museum at the heart of Sioux City's recently designated downtown cultural and entertainment district, in proximity to the Sioux City Art Center, the Orpheum Theater, other cultural and entertainment venues, and the central business district.

In addition, the new facility allows more space for the display and storage of the Sioux City Public Museum collections. In the past, the Sioux City Public Museum was only able to showcase 15 percent of its collection which includes more than 250,000 photographs and 50,000 objects. The new museum facility contains a theater, multipurpose classrooms, offices, a conference room, artifact and exhibition preparation rooms, food prep space, large temporary exhibit spaces, archival storage, and a gift shop.

The Siouxland Heritage Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3), was created to oversee design, construction and fundraising of the new Sioux City Public Museum. To date, more than \$12 million has been raised from public and private sources. While an additional \$25,000 to \$40,000 is still needed for the capital campaign, the Museum has plans to grow its endowment as well. Information about how to give, volunteer, or donate artifacts will be available at the grand opening.

For more information about "Our New Museum" visit [www.siouxcitymuseum.org](http://www.siouxcitymuseum.org). The

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*The Sioux City Public Museum collects, preserves, and interprets  
cultural and social history with an emphasis on Sioux City and the region.*