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Museum's grand opening ceremony on Saturday to welcome former Iowa governor

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and former Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack will be a special guest at the Sioux City Public Museum's grand opening ceremony on Saturday, April 23, announced Steve Hansen, Museum director today. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in the Museum's temporary exhibit gallery. The Museum will open its doors for general admission at 10:45 a.m.

As governor of Iowa, Vilsack initiated the Vision Iowa program which awarded \$2 million in funding for the new Museum project. Vilsack will be introduced by Irving F. Jensen Jr., honorary co-chair of the "Our New Museum" capital campaign.

Lead donor Ted Waitt of the Waitt Foundation will give brief remarks and introduce his mother, Joan Waitt, honorary co-chair of the "Our New Museum" capital campaign.

Vilsack was appointed the 30th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture by President Barack Obama. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Vilsack received a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in 1972 and earned his law degree from Albany Law School in 1975. He and his wife moved to Mt. Pleasant, IA where he was elected mayor and state senator before being elected the governor in 1998.

Due to the Easter holiday, the Museum will be closed on Sunday, April 24, but will have special Monday hours on Monday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Sioux City Public Museum's new regular hours will be Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.