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For Immediate Release
July 21, 2009

Two additional open house dates offered

Two additional dates for pre-construction tours of the new Sioux City Public Museum site at 607 4th Street have been set for Saturday, July 25 and August 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The announcement of the open house events comes on the heels of the City Council's approval of the \$2 million Vision Iowa grant and the bid documents for the first phase of construction. Demolition of the existing southwest corner exterior and installation of a two-story glass façade is set to begin in September.

"Nearly 500 people toured the new site during our two open house dates in June," said Steve Hansen, Museum director. "We have been very pleased by the response and wanted to give the public a couple more opportunities to tour the site before construction begins."

The sneak peek of the former downtown JC Penney store's transformation includes a look at the architectural and exhibit plans as well as some of the artifacts that will be displayed. The Museum portion of the building will be accessible via the Nebraska Street entrance.

The new museum will occupy the entire 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.

Since the announcement of the \$2 million Vision Iowa grant to the Siouxland Heritage Foundation in June, \$200,000 has been raised toward the \$13.8 million project. An additional \$900,000 must be raised by December 2009 to receive the state funding. The Siouxland Heritage Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) created to oversee design, construction and fundraising of the new Sioux City Public Museum.

Along with financial support, the Sioux City Public Museum is actively looking for artifact donations, particularly ones for an exhibit about the various ethnic groups who have lived in Sioux City.

For more information about the "Our New Museum" capital campaign or the open house events, visit www.siouxcitymuseum.org. The website includes the latest capital campaign news as well as giving information and a pledge card.