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Additional open house and walking tour offered

Due to popular demand, an additional open house event has been set for the new Sioux City Public Museum site at 607 4th Street. Pre-construction tours will be offered on Saturday, August 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In conjunction with the open house, a walking tour of the area surrounding the new museum site will be held at 1 p.m. Matt Anderson, exhibits preparator, will provide a history of several notable buildings and structures that no longer exist along Nebraska and 4th Streets. The tour will begin and conclude at the new Sioux City Public Museum site. The public is welcome to tour the new site before or after the tour.

“More than 700 people have toured the new site since we began holding the open house events in June,” said Steve Hansen, Museum director. “Our downtown walking tours have become a favorite with many repeat visitors. Once the new site opens we will originate most of our tours from the site.”

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. Demolition of the existing southwest corner exterior and installation of a two-story glass façade is set to begin in September.

An additional \$900,000 toward the \$13.8 million project must be raised by December 2009 to receive Vision Iowa 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 stockyards film footage and downtown historical items.

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.