



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI



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KANSAS CITY MUSEUM LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS JOIN TOGETHER FOR A CONSTRUCTION KICKOFF CEREMONY

(KANSAS CITY, Mo.) — Despite the threat of rain and a cold front that moved into the area Tuesday morning, leaders and supporters of the Kansas City Museum convened for coffee, Seven Swans Cr perie, and a Construction Kickoff Ceremony to celebrate the commencement of construction on the Kansas City Museum restoration and renovation project.

Gathering in the Grand Hall of the Museum’s Corinthian Hall in the Historic Northeast neighborhood, stakeholders and supporters came to share in remarks and pose for photos in honor of the occasion. The initial stage of construction, scheduled to begin in the next several weeks, will include all four floors of Corinthian Hall (the mansion) and will result in the creation of a leading edge, 21st-century museum of Kansas City’s history and cultural heritage.

City leaders and Board members of the [Kansas City Museum Foundation](#) gave special thanks to [International Architects Atelier](#), the architectural design firm for the project that has completed more than two years of design preparation in advance of construction. The work of [J.E. Dunn Construction Co.](#) as the project’s construction manager was also recognized, which will begin to add amenities that include: exhibition galleries, a Museum Caf , a retail store, theater/auditorium, a classroom/meeting room, a billiards room and a new interpretation of the much beloved Soda Fountain space.

Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department Director Mark McHenry welcomed the Museum’s guests, and Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner shared his excitement for the Museum project, which he said serves as an important cultural asset for the City and its future as it continues to grow.

City Manager Troy Schulte shared details of the public-private partnership that makes this restoration and renovation project possible. Of the \$15,000,000 total project cost, \$6,000,000 has been secured from the City’s Museum Mill Levy. In addition the Museum is set to receive \$8,000,000 over two fiscal years (FY18 and FY19) in funding from the GO KC Bonds, approved by voters in April 2017. Since launching it’s capital campaign initiative, #MakingAMuseumKC in May 2017, the Kansas City Museum Foundation has leveraged this public support to raise \$1,250,000 in private funding.

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“This commitment of funds from the GO KC Bonds is based on several factors including that the Museum restoration project is shovel-ready,” Schulte said. “The project is focused on repairing an existing public building, which the City recognizes is a priority for residents. Further, it contributes to the redevelopment of the Historic Northeast, a neighborhood that is truly building on our City’s assets and investing back into the local economy.”

Schulte said that he was particularly proud that when the Museum reopens in 2019, general admission would be free for all residents of Kansas City, Missouri.

Kansas City Museum Foundation Board Member Allen Dillingham shared further details of what Museum visitors will see when the doors of the mansion re-open in 2019. He discussed the Visitor Experience Plan, a document that the [Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department](#) officially adopted in April 2017. The Visitor Experience Plan outlines strategies and Core Stories, creating a vibrant and participatory visitor experience, which reflect the dynamic history, culture, and impact of Kansas City.

“The Foundation Board is pleased to support the project team as they use this tool to begin the process of Museum Exhibition Design,” Mr. Dillingham said. “Working alongside local historians, educators, curators, and artists, the plan will guide development of exhibitions and unique programming for the public to enjoy.” Mr. Dillingham reminded guests of the Construction Kickoff Ceremony to be on the lookout for continued programming while the Museum is under construction. He said that visitors would be able to attend events both on the museum grounds, in Kessler Park, in the community, and at the [Kansas City Museum at the Historic Garment District \(KCM@HGD\)](#) at 8th and Broadway Blvd.

Kansas City Museum Foundation Board Chair Dr. Mary Davidson said that on November 1, the new [MakingAMuseumKC.org](#) website will launch.

“As we continue to raise private funds for Stage I and subsequent stages of construction, and finalize the exhibit design and development in early 2018, I encourage each of you to visit the site,” said Davidson. “Please keep up to date with renovation progress and to read the stories of those who support this project.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, special guests were invited by Kansas City Parks Director McHenry to take a turn at the creation of ceremonial renovation display. As Honorary Chairs of the Museum’s Capital Campaign, Mr. Bill Dunn, Sr., Mr. Henry Bloch, and Mr. Ed Matheny, Jr., placed building elements onto a door that will later serve as a frame. Next, former Parks Commissioners Mrs. Anita Gorman, and Mr. Carl J. DiCapo marked their service as the Honorary Members of the Campaign by adding to the collage.

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“I feel very honored to be one of the Honorary Chairs for the Kansas City Museum’s fundraising initiative and capital campaign, #MakingAMuseumKC, along with my two close friends, Henry Bloch and Ed Matheny, to increase awareness and build community support for the Museum’s multi-phased renovation project,” Mr. Dunn said. “For many years, I have been involved in a number of fundraising efforts involving important issues in the Kansas City metropolitan area. I am delighted that there is now a plan in place at the Kansas City Museum to recognize the brilliant history of a city that has encountered many difficulties from its very beginning. Kansas City is now acknowledged as a very important destination in the United States and I am thrilled to play a supporting role to assist the Kansas City Museum in preserving our history and cultural heritage to be shared for many years to come.”

To receive construction updates, to support the #MakingAMuseumKC Capital Campaign, or to see a schedule of upcoming programming associated with the Kansas City Museum, please visit kansascitymuseum.org.

BACKGROUND ON THE KANSAS CITY MUSEUM

Located in the Historic Northeast community of Kansas City, Missouri, the Kansas City Museum is comprised of five original buildings, including the mansion Corinthian Hall, which was built in 1910 by Robert Alexander Long. The estate became a public museum in 1940. It is owned by the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and operated and managed by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. The Collection contains more than 100,000 artifacts and several thousand more archival materials that interpret Kansas City’s local and regional history.

The Kansas City Museum is in the process of architectural design development to create a premier museum of Kansas City’s history and cultural heritage through a multi-year, multi-staged restoration and renovation project. Construction on Corinthian Hall (the mansion) is beginning in October 2017 and will be completed in 2019. International Architects Atelier is the lead architectural design firm, and J.E. Dunn Construction Co. is the Construction Manager. Museum Management Consultants produced the Museum’s Strategic and Business Plans, which were adopted in Fall 2016, and Gallagher & Associates produced the Museum’s Visitor Experience Plan that provides the parameters for exhibition design and development and that adopted in Spring 2017.

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City of Kansas City, Missouri City Manager Troy Schulte made remarks to leaders and supporters of the Kansas City Museum who joined together on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 for the Construction Kickoff Ceremony for the renovation and restoration of Corinthian Hall.

Photo Credit David Remley Photography



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Leaders and supporters of the Kansas City Museum joined together on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 for the Construction Kickoff Ceremony for the renovation and restoration of Corinthian Hall.

Back Row: Parks Department Director Mark McHenry; Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner and Kansas City Museum Foundation Board Member Allen Dillingham; Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mary Jane Judy; Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Dave Mecklenburg; Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner and Kansas City Museum Foundation Board Member Shannon Cade; Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners President Jean-Paul Chaurand.

Front Row: Honorary Chairs Bill Dunn, Sr., Henry Bloch, and Edward Matheny, Jr.; Honorary Members Anita Gorman and Carl J. DiCapo; Kansas City Museum Executive Director Anna Marie Tutera.

Photo Credit David Remley Photography