



National Music Museum Expansion Update

Fall 2018



Overture!

New NMM Preservation Center

The National Music Museum's expansion is underway – with the groundbreaking of a new off-site Preservation Center. The first use of this facility will be to temporarily house most of the 4,000 musical instruments that have been in NMM's Carnegie building (either on display or in storage), during the Carnegie renovation.

The NMM is partnering with the Vermillion Chamber and Development Corporation, who stepped forward with a win/win solution on the creation of a Vermillion structure that would be purpose-built but also flexible for the future. The City of Vermillion donated the land, and the VCDC is leading in the construction of the 28,350-square-foot facility, which will meet museum-standard security and climate control. The NMM will initially occupy 22,000 square feet of the building. The University of South Dakota will utilize the remaining 6,350 square feet. The entire facility will meet the standards for archival needs.

The NMM Preservation Center will be located at 1225 N. Carr Street, east of the Polaris facility, south of Highway 50. The building will be made of a

robust pre-cast concrete that is highly resistant to weather, while providing high security. To fulfill museum-grade HVAC standards, each room will be separately controlled for temperature and humidity.

The facility will also contain photography and lab space so that NMM staff can continue with internal curation, conservation, and research projects during the NMM's Carnegie building construction project.

Though function must dominate the look of the structure, there will be a touch of visual symbolism: Piano keys

around the top of building will be tinted into the concrete. [See rendering above right.]

Inside and outside, the Preservation Center will be attended by state-of-the-art camera security, tied in to the University of South Dakota.

Contractor AMS Building Systems has begun work on the Preservation Center. Completion is slated by summer 2019, which is when construction is anticipated to begin on the architectural expansion of the NMM's Carnegie building.

As NMM Deputy Director of Operations Rodger Kelly says, "Carefully moving our collections is a lot like manipulating a giant slide puzzle (those squares with movable tiles that we played with as kids). The new Preservation Center helps us solve that puzzle."

Ultimately, after the Carnegie renovation is fully complete, the Preservation Center will become a busy working facility where NMM staff, students, and visiting researchers can study thousands of NMM instruments and related artifacts that are not on display.



NMM Preservation Center groundbreaking, Sept. 21, 2018

Letter from the Director



Progress!

After so many years of planning and revisiting architectural concepts, the National Music Museum is now busy in preparation for our expansion — the addition of approximately 16,000 square feet (two floors plus an underground level) to the existing Carnegie building!

The expansion will provide much-needed room, including approximately 4,600 square feet of new exhibit space, a special gallery for temporary exhibits, a new performance hall, a dedicated classroom, a new conservation lab, a new photography lab, and new above-ground staff and administration offices. This construction also presents us the equally exciting opportunity to renovate and reconfigure the existing museum space — redesigning exhibits and rethinking how people will engage with the collection.

Even though our grand (re)opening is not planned until 2021, there is so much work to do before then! The doors to the NMM closed to the public on October 7, and the staff has been diligently working to prepare the collections since then. Because the Carnegie building will need to be vacated for the renovation, exhibits have been dismantled, one gallery at a time, with the help of volunteers. Each instrument must be assessed and documented with a condition report and photographs, and then carefully rehoused and packed in museum-grade containers to be ready for storage in our new Preservation Center, a state-of-the-art off-site facility made possible with the support of the City of Vermillion and the University of South Dakota.

Additionally, the NMM has contracted professional museum-exhibit consultants to help us update the presentation of our collection — promising an even better visitor experience through new graphics, interactive technologies, and expanded cultural and historical contextualization.

Although much of the funding for the construction project has already been raised by the Museum's Board, including substantial support from the University of South Dakota, representing upgrades to HVAC and facilities infrastructure, your support is still needed to complete the gallery renovations and 'bring the museum alive!'

I look forward to sharing our progress with you through these quarterly updates and hearing from you too, as the excitement for our new facility builds!

Thank you for your support,

Dennis Acrea
NMM Interim Director



A little help from our friends

The Carnegie building has been home to some 4,000 of the NMM's unique musical instruments. Meticulously preparing so many artifacts for storage offsite is no simple task! By the time we break ground on the building expansion here next summer, the instruments must be fully secured for the move to our Preservation Center. Thanks to a growing number of volunteers, we'll be ready!

After completing training [pictured], NMM volunteers can assist with the important work of assessing, reporting, photographing, barcoding, and creating custom storage-containers for each of our precious instruments — to the tune of 15-20 instruments each day. It is a huge help!

[Thank you to all of them!]



NMM volunteers Evelyn Schlenker (top) and Susanne Skyrn (bottom) work with conservator Emanuele Marconi to prepare for the move.



A concerted effort...

The NMM staff work in harmony to prepare the collection. Counter-clockwise from left: Arian Sheets photographing a musical instrument for its condition report. Middle left: Dr. Deborah Check Reeves evaluating one of the many bugles in the NMM collections. Bottom left: Emanuele Marconi and Michael Suing discussing the construction of custom 'bean bags' that will cradle instruments during condition review. Bottom right: Rodger Kelly analyzing a 17th-century recorder during condition reporting. Below: Becky McLaughlin preparing historic woodwinds for secured packaging.





**414 E. Clark St
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069-2390**

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