

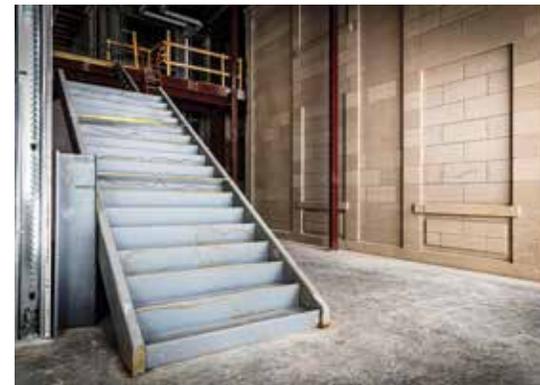


National Music Museum Expansion Update

Spring 2020



Construction Continues on Carnegie

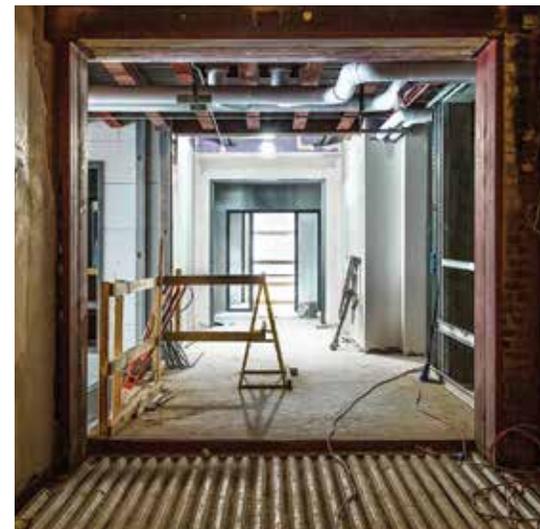


Although many of us slow down during the winter months, that wasn't the case for the construction crews working on the expansion and renovation of the National Music Museum's home in Vermillion. The project has continued to see steady progress as our new museum takes shape. Much of the architecture of the existing building has been incorporated with the new space -- including the one-time exterior west wall of the Carnegie building, giving the lobby and updated spaces a feel of historic integrity and innovation as you enter.

The NMM's new recital hall is also taking shape. Although the walls and floor are not yet finished, the installation of the ceiling baffles to deflect sound in different directions has already given the room a special feel.

Wood paneling on the walls and an updated staging system will complete the effect and give the NMM's guests an intimate concert experience.

Barring delay related to COVID-19, construction is slated to be complete in late summer allowing for limited staff access beginning next fall. The project has been swift and successful thus far due, in large part, to the cooperation of all partners. "Working with Journey Construction and USD has been an exciting and rewarding experience. Communication has been excellent all the way around. Everyone is committed that we have the best result possible," says Rodger Kelly, Deputy Director of Operations for the National Music Museum. "We are looking forward to the end result."



Top: Brett Smid, Project Superintendent for Journey Construction takes staff on a special tour of the site. Middle: The open staircase and preserved external wall create a stunning entrance area. Bottom: The gateway between the existing Carnegie building and museum addition.

Letter from the Director



View of the former Arne B. Larson Concert Hall, now under renovation.

Dear Friends of NMM,

During these uncertain times, NMM thanks you sincerely for your support and your interest. While these are difficult days for everyone, NMM is taking steps to ensure sustainability and progress over the coming months. We intend to maintain our talented staff as it currently exists. We also aim to complete our major projects, which include the finishing touches at the Center for Preservation and Research, the major expansion and renovation of our historic Carnegie Building, and the redesign and installation of our permanent and changing exhibition galleries.

Work continues at a brisk pace in all of these areas, and we remain as attentive as ever to the care and study of our world class collection. Like everyone else, our staff is adjusting to working from home and meeting online. While we aren't in the office, we are readily available by email, and we are committed to being as responsive as possible under the circumstances.

With the recent completion of our Center for Research and Preservation and the planned completion of major construction work at the Carnegie Building in late summer, the National Music Museum is positioned to serve as a world leader in our field for decades to come. We are currently working with our new design partner Luci Creative to begin conceptual design for our permanent exhibition galleries, and we expect these will set a new standard for the exhibiting of musical instruments when they open late next year.

However, our work is far from done, and we still need your help. The events of this spring forced the cancellation or postponement of many planned fund raising activities and events at NMM. While we will look to all available resources, we know that stimulus funding alone will not be enough to replace all of our lost revenue. Therefore, we would welcome any support that you might be able to offer us. Your help means more now than it ever has.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Collinworth".

Matt Collinworth
National Music Museum Director



*Matt Collinworth
NMM Director*



Working together, yet apart, the NMM team strategizes ways to exhibit and interpret our collections.

Exhibit planning underway! NMM hires new design partner

While construction work progresses quickly, NMM continues to make significant progress toward reimagining the new permanent exhibitions that will fill more than 12,000 square feet in the museum's renovated galleries. Beginning last fall, our staff and trustees worked together to create a new plan for moving the exhibition design process forward. A "Request for Proposal" for exhibition design services was written and submitted to several regional and national design firms. The proposals were reviewed by both museum staff and trustees, and finalist interviews took place in mid-January.

Luci Creative (Chicago) was selected as our new exhibition design partner. It was with great excitement that the NMM staff began working with Luci in March, focusing first on the conceptual design phase of the project, which will continue through the summer. "NMM's exhibition design, fabrication and installation is a major museum project that will set a standard in our field," said NMM's Director Matt Collinworth. "Both our staff and trustees agreed that Luci is the perfect partner to help us realize our vision. The next several months are going to be very exciting."

NMM is seeking funding support for the completion of our exhibition project. If you are interested in contributing to NMM's exhibition design fund, please contact Carol.G.Robertson@usd.edu.

You can help!

Your gift to the National Music Museum will help ensure our future!

Give online today at nmmusd.org

NMM's Carnegie Building: A Retrospective

Dr. Margaret Downie Banks, Associate Director/Senior Curator



1911

1911: At first glance, you might think that this is a view of the NMM's current expansion and renovation project. But no, in reality, this photo was taken in 1911! The image documents the nearly completed new library at the University of South Dakota (USD), funded by a \$40,000 grant awarded to USD by the Carnegie Foundation in January 1910. NMM Photo Archive.



1911-1939

1911-1939: This real-photo postcard, postmarked in 1935, shows the front of USD's Carnegie Library, its exterior faced with Bedford, Indiana limestone. Over the years, many USD fraternities, sororities, and clubs have assembled on these iconic front steps to have their photographs taken for publication in the *Coyote* yearbook. From the postcard collection of Margaret Downie Banks.



1940-1967

1940-1967: As the student body increased in size at the end of the Great Depression, USD President I.D. Weeks prioritized a project to expand the university library into a 20,000 square-foot structure at a cost of only \$80,000. The addition was built between 1939-1940 by Public Works Administration (PWA) laborers, at no cost to the state. A dedication followed on October 10, 1940. This real-photo postcard view of the front and east side of the Carnegie building clearly shows the 1939/1940 addition at the north side (back) of the building, which essentially doubled the size of the original 1911 building. Two new entrances were also built at the east and west sides of the building. From the postcard collection of Margaret Downie Banks.



1967-1986

1967-1986: In response to a continuously increasing enrollment, USD spent \$1.5 million to build and open a brand new library in January 1967, named in honor of President I.D. Weeks. The empty space in USD's old Carnegie Library building was then allocated to be shared by the W. H. Over Museum (1967-1984), the Arne B. Larson Trust (which became the Shrine to Music Museum in 1973 and the National Music Museum in 2002), and the Oscar Howe Studio and Gallery (1967-1993). Between 1984-1986, the NMM undertook a \$1-million restoration of the interior and exterior of the building, which had by then been allotted entirely for the NMM's use. Photo by Simon Spicer. NMM Photo Archive.



1987-2013

1987-2013: The NMM's Townsley Courtyard was dedicated on September 26, 1987. Featuring an amphitheater, fountain, and bronze sculptures, the limestone courtyard in front of the NMM's Carnegie Library building was a gift to the Vermillion community from Bob and Marge Townsley Rawlins (Balboa Island, California), in memory of Marge's parents, John Boyd Townsley (USD Class of 1900; later, editor of Vermillion's *Dakota Republican* newspaper) and his wife, Emeline C. Townsley. The fountain sculpture, "Generations," was designed by Black Hills sculptor, Michael R. Tuma, to represent the Dakota immigrant musical heritage, in celebration of the South Dakota Centennial (1989). Photo by Bill Willroth, Sr. NMM Photo Archive.



2013-2018

2013-2018: The NMM's Carnegie building sported a new banner with updated branding in celebration of the museum's 40th anniversary. Photo by Tony Jones. NMM Photo Archive.

For additional information, see Evelyn H. Schlenker, "A History of the Two Carnegie Libraries in Vermillion, South Dakota." Vermillion: Clay County Historic Preservation Commission, 2019.



National Music Museum
University of South Dakota
414 E. Clark St
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069-2390

Support the NMM's expansion and renovation!
Give online at nmmusd.org

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