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North Building Project - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the North Building project?

An architectural gem in the heart of Denver's Golden Triangle neighborhood, the museum's North Building will be 50 years old in 2021. The vision for renovating the North Building is to unify the museum campus to serve audiences reflective of our shared community; to illuminate collections; to highlight the museum's exemplary education programs, and to deliver excellent programs in contemporary spaces. The project will include the addition of a new Welcome Center, expanded public gallery spaces, flexible event spaces, and significant outdoor improvements. Updates to the North Building in this project will include critical safety and operations systems, replacing aging infrastructure and equipment to enable continued public service for the next 50 years.

How will the North Building project renovation serve the community and museum visitors?

The completed North Building renovation will unify the museum campus to serve audiences reflective of our shared community; to illuminate collections; to highlight the museum's exemplary education programs, and to deliver excellent programs in contemporary spaces. The museum serves more than 700,000 visitors per year, half of them attending free of charge, including *all* visitors 18 and under who enjoy free general admission every day thanks to the DAM's Free for Kids program. The improvements in the North Building project will enable the museum to better and more safely serve the community, including school groups and visitors with different abilities.

Will the North Building close during this project?

Denver Art Museum's North Building closed at the end of the day on November 19 to begin preparation for construction on the nearly 50-year-old building. Closing the building enables work to take place in several spaces at once, reducing costs and enabling the project to be completed more quickly.

Why did you decide to close the building all at once for renovation?

Closing the entire building will enable the museum to complete the construction work needed in the shortest possible timeline.

What can visitors see at DAM during construction?

The Denver Art Museum has a robust program and the Hamilton Building will be open to the public throughout North Building construction. Collections will be on view, and exhibitions include [*Her Paris: Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism*](#), [*Degas: A Passion for Perfection*](#), [*Jeffrey Gibson: Like a Hammer*](#) and [*Dior: From Paris to the World*](#).

Will the museum collections still be available to visitors, students and scholars?

Yes, many artworks from all of our collections will continue to be on view in various exhibitions in the Hamilton Building during the North Building project renovation, including [*Stampede: Animals in Art*](#), [*Ganesha: The Playful Protector*](#) and [*Linking Asia: Art, Trade, and Devotion*](#).

What hands-on and kids activities are available in the Hamilton Building during construction?

Hands-on artmaking and other creative activities are available throughout the Hamilton Building. [The Studio](#), on level 1, currently focuses on 3-D art and creativity. Enjoy building an abstract paper sculpture, create your own wire animal or work with friends and family to create a collaborative piece. See live artist demonstrations in the studio every weekend. A [Walk in the Woods](#), on level 3, invites visitors of all ages to explore animals in the museum's collections and make animal art. In [Past the Tangled Present](#) on level 2, step into an interactive and immersive world where paintings evolve into 3-D objects created by Denver artist Jaime Molina.

Will school tours still be available during construction?

School tours and youth group tours will continue uninterrupted throughout the project. Additionally, general admission is free for student groups and all guests age 18 and under thanks to the museum's Free for Kids program. Special exhibition tours, collection tours and artmaking will continue to be a part of our onsite programs for school groups.

What school programs are available at schools and online?

The Denver Art Museum has programs available for scheduling on-site at regional schools. Family Art Socials bring a facilitated, collaborative art project for multi-generational families to create together as part of school family nights. Please contact izamora@denverartmuseum.org for more information about this program.

[Art Lives Here](#) is a program co-created by the Denver Art Museum and local schools. An installation of unique museum objects lives in the school for about a month. Students, teachers and families can use the installation to bring curriculum to life and reinforce school values, spark intercultural dialogue and empathy, and build community through shared experience. Art Lives Here partner schools have been selected for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact artliveshere@denverartmuseum.org for more information.

The Denver Art Museum's online [Creativity Resource for Teachers](#) is a robust online repository of resources for teachers (and parents!) of students from Early Childhood through grade 12. The database includes complete lesson plans created by teachers for teachers, which leverage objects in the museum's collection for social studies, arts and creative writing projects directly responding to Colorado educational standards. Images, video and lesson plans are available online at any time free of charge.

When will the North Building reopen?

The goal is to complete work and completely reopen the North Building by its 50th anniversary in fall 2021, with plans for a phased reopening of some spaces before that date. During construction, visitors can explore exhibitions, hands-on activities and artworks from every collection [seven days a week](#) in the Hamilton Building, which will be open to the public for the duration of the project. [Free First Saturdays](#) and the [Free for Kids](#) program will continue through the project.

Where will the art go during construction?

Select objects from each of the museum's collections will be on view in the Hamilton Building during construction. Some pieces will be safely stored during this time, while some artworks will be accessible to the public via collaborations. For example, [Backstory: Western American Art in Context](#), the museum's exhibition in partnership with History Colorado Center, which features nearly 50 works from the Denver Art Museum's Western American Art collection, will be on view through spring 2018.

Will the original North Building structure, designed by Gio Ponti, stay whole?

The original Ponti structure will remain intact. However, the connecting corridor between the North towers and the south structure, called Silber Hall, will be partially rebuilt in order to connect to the new Welcome Center, and support the build out of the lower level, improving natural light.

Will anything be removed from the current structure during the North Building project?

The south structure, which housed Palettes restaurant and served as the entrance to the North Building, will be removed to make way for a Welcome Center that will house a full-service restaurant, a quick-service café, a new art conservation lab, an events space and a ticketing desk.

What will the Welcome Center add to the museum?

The planned Welcome Center will include 50,000 square feet on three levels, helping unify the campus. This significant addition will feature visitor-centric amenities including a restaurant, quick-service café and improved way finding, along with dynamic and flexible program spaces and a state-of-the-art event hall.

How much new public space will be added to the North Building after its renovation?

About 30,000 feet of new public space will be added to the Denver Art Museum when the project is complete, including expanded gallery space on levels 2 and 7.

How far along is the museum in raising funds for the North Building project?

The museum has been privately raising funds for this project for several years, and two transformational gifts were announced in [late 2016](#) and [early 2017](#) in support of this project. As of fall 2017, the museum had privately raised more than \$100 million in support of the North Building project. Thanks to Denver voters' support of the Our Denver Bond package, an additional \$35.5 million in bond dollars will support key infrastructure needs, including new HVAC, insulation and plumbing as well as outdoor safety features for student and group visitors.

How much public money will be used for this project?

The North Building project features a \$3 million allocation from the 2007 Better Denver Bonds program to renovate the Bonfils-Stanton Gallery on Level 1 of the North Building. Thanks to the voters of Denver, the museum also will receive \$35.5 million from the Our Denver General Obligation Bond. The museum will match each public bond dollar with three privately raised dollars.

Why did the DAM apply for bond funds?

The Denver Art Museum's North Building is nearly 50 years old and requires significant investment in its infrastructure in order to extend the life of the architectural icon and maintain an environment that meets 21st-century standards for guest safety and the care and presentation of art.

What will happen to the museum's outdoor works of art during construction?

Outdoor artworks in the museum's collection that are adjacent to the North Building will be deinstalled and safely stored during the construction phase of the project. The DAM's curatorial staff will develop plans for the installation of outdoor works as the project moves forward.

How and when will the public get updates on the project?

The DAM will continue to keep museum members and the public up to date on key project milestones online at denverartmuseum.org/north, as well as email newsletters, blog posts and media stories for major milestones.

Who are your construction and architecture partners?

The North Building project design was developed by the team of Fentress Architects of Denver and Machado Silvetti of Boston. Saunders will serve as our construction partner.

How will the museum continue to serve its members during construction?

The 2017-2018 exhibition calendar is one of the museum's most exciting and dynamic yet, and Denver Art Museum members can now enjoy free general admission seven days a week, as well as guest passes and discounts in The Shop. And members always enjoy the best prices for ticketed exhibitions. This year, DAM members will enjoy half-price tickets to *Her Paris: Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism*, *Degas: A Passion for Perfection* and *Dior: From Paris to the World*—and have the chance to see them first at the member-only previews.

Her Paris: Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism, on view through January 14, 2018, features more than 80 paintings by 37 women artists from across Europe and America, all of whom were drawn to this epicenter of art to further their artistic careers. Additionally, the DAM is the sole US venue for *Degas: A Passion for Perfection*, on view February 11–May 20, 2018, and will showcase more than 100 works by prolific French artist Edgar Degas. The DAM also will debut more than 70 years of the House of Dior's iconic legacy in *Dior: From Paris to the World*, on view November 18, 2018–March 3, 2019.

DAM members will receive regular updates on construction progress and have priority access to program registration, including lectures with artists and the North Building project architecture team.

Will Palettes return following the North Building project? Will there be a restaurant?

There will be a new restaurant space inside the building, as well as a quick-service café. Early in 2017, the museum issued an RFP for food service vendors in the new Welcome Center. The Welcome Center vendor will be announced as the project progresses.

What are some additional dining options in the neighborhood?

There are several dining options in the Golden Triangle neighborhood – starting with the quick-service Callahan Café on the main level of the Denver Art Museum’s Hamilton Building. Other locations include Mad Greens across the plaza, as well as neighborhood favorites Cap City Tavern, Pint’s Pub, Dozens, Rendezvous Café at History Colorado, BurgerFi, Torchy’s Tacos and Fire at The Art: A Hotel. In the warmer months, Civic Center Eats features dozens of food trucks in Civic Center Park.

Can people still book events (e.g., weddings, luncheons, lectures) at DAM during this project?

Yes, the Denver Art Museum Hamilton Building is available as a venue for events during the North Building project. Please visit denverartmuseum.org/events or email eventinfo@denverartmuseum.org for details.

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