
AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

A project of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority

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SUSTAINABILITY STEPS FORWARD WITH MUSEUM ON THE RISE

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (September 21, 2009) –September 17, 2009 marked another milestone for the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum (AICCM) and the State of Oklahoma. The Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (NACEA), the state agency developing the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum, was notified of receiving the first portion of a \$1 million grant from the State Energy Program American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funding will be used by the NACEA to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption/cost and lower greenhouse emissions in the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum project. These activities support the NACEA's approach to building a credible state-of-the-art cultural center and museum while remaining good stewards to mother earth.

"For thousands of years Native peoples have considered the earth as an integral part of man's ecosystem. When native communities face cultural, economic or philosophical choices they are often filtered through a lens that considers how that decision will impact the next seven generations," Executive Director of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority Gena Timberman said. "The NACEA and AICCM are proud to embrace the latest technologies and museum approaches to sustain cultural traditions as well as preserve stewardship for the environment." Reducing the environmental imprint will be executed by reducing equipment maintenance costs, improving efficiency and life expectancy of mechanical components and improving the ability to control temperature and humidification requirements. These ambitions will be accomplished with ice storage cooling technologies, glass treatments that bolster energy efficiency and natural gas powered generators.

The American Cultural Center & Museum facility will utilize a central plant concept to employ a system of controls which will deliver the stringent temperatures and humidification requirements in the museum. The central plant delivery system is more efficient than a multitude of package units to service the 125,000 square feet of the facility's multiple building complexes. The museum will implement an ice storage cooling system that produces much of its cooling capacity during off peak hours. The ice storage system produces ice during evening/off-peak hours, at maximum capacity with minimal cycling, in below grade tanks. During the day, cooling is provided from the melting ice. Chillers run minimally during the day when rates are more expensive. Glass and glazing treatments will be utilized to reduce sunlight penetration and the corresponding heat gain. The reduction of greenhouse gas emission will be impacted by reducing the need for imported fossil fuels providing a more efficient system utilizing natural gas generators.

During the next several months 1,636 tons of steel will be erected to support the museum gallery buildings and children's discovery center. When the 125,000 square foot museum is complete it will reveal many unique architectural spaces that are closely linked to cultural values and traditions. Among the distinctive features will be the iconic 110 foot tall Hall of the People. This central gathering space is evocative of traditional architectural structures where people have convened for thousands of years. "The Hall of the People illustrates how Native cultures have adapted, survived and continue to be innovators in the 21st century. The Hall perpetuates the importance of community - respecting, honoring and uniting all peoples of the world." Timberman said. "Our project philosophy is rooted in ancient traditions and approaches while blending modern design sensibility. We remain mindful of the impact our actions leave on mother earth. We are excited to move the project closer to completion as we develop a cultural center and museum that will attract visitors from around the world, nation, region and state."

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