
AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

A project of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HALL OF PEOPLE STEEL ERECTION

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (July 1, 2010) – March 11, 2010 will signify another symbolic milestone with the placement and erection of one of the two largest steel columns, in the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum's (AICCM) Hall of the People. The Hall of the People is a very complex structure with 90' columns which are 26" in diameter. The Hall of the People will be the most visible architectural feature on the site. Once the columns are upright, the structure will be visible from both interstates 35 and 40 as they rise above the top of the promontory mound. The first column is scheduled to begin its ascension at 9:00 a.m. (CST) at 659 American Indian Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73129, weather permitting. (Media is invited to capture this landmark occasion and encouraged to wear appropriate shoes, since it will undoubtedly still be muddy. There will be opportunities for personal interviews following the steel erection.)

The museum designed by Johnson Fain and Hornbeek Blatt architects is the result of many years of interviews with Native communities. The architectural design reflects the values of American Indian communities and has been guided by tribal elders, scholars and cultural leaders. The Hall of People is the central gathering space at the intersection of earth and man. This soaring, light-filled room will be a place for assembly and celebration. The Hall of the People is evocative of distinctive traditional American Indian structures where Native people have convened for thousands of years. This iconic gathering space will serve as a venue for special events and will perpetuate the importance of community.

Structurally the Hall of the People is comprised of ten columns with the tallest two columns reaching 90' and the shortest columns 40'. The two 90' columns weigh 32,000 lbs or 16 tons each. The ten columns are representative of the estimated ten miles a day traveled daily by Native people from original homelands to Indian Territory during forced removal. The columns will be bolted and welded together with ten arching trusses. One arching rainbow truss will be assembled in place spanning the length of the building from north to south. The rainbow truss is 208' in length with an overall 320' arc that ties the tops of all the columns and trusses together. The rainbow truss has multiple radii and center points. Tony Blatt comments, "the Hall of the People is a small prismatic shape that is one component of a spherical geometry." The Hall of the People It will take approximately two weeks to erect all the columns and trusses and another one to two months to weld each piece to the next. The final treatment will include grinding all of the connecting points to an architectural finish and applying coatings of high performance paint. When the Hall of the People is finished it will stand at 110' tall and will be enclosed in glass.

In January of 2007, construction began with the drilling of piers anchored 50' deep down to bedrock. The erection of the steel columns is emblematic because the columns ascend twice as high as the depth of the piers below ground. The total weight of the Hall of the People steel is a massive 460,000 lbs or 230 tons. To date in 2010 AICCM has \$2,977,860 in construction activity and will complete another \$13,281,000 by July 2010. Executive Director, Gena Timberman says, "This is an exciting time in the development of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum. The Hall of the People will be a special place for our community, a world class space for a project important in conveying Oklahoma's unique, rich cultural history."

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Project Scope: The American Indian Cultural Center & Museum includes a 125,000 square foot cultural center and museum on a 250 acre cultural park located on the Oklahoma River. The site was donated by the City of Oklahoma City and is an ideal location with significant traffic volume and high visibility. The project will also include privately-funded business enterprises such as an arts marketplace and conference center and a centralized visitor information center.

Project Team: Johnson Fain and Hornbeek/Blatt Co-prime Architects, Centennial Builders, Construction Manager at Risk; Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Exhibit Design, Thematic Approach and Interpretive Concepts; LORD Cultural Resources Planning & Management Inc., Museum and Institutional Planning; Cardinal Engineering, Civil Engineers; Hargreaves Associates, Landscape Design and Architectural Design Group, Owners Representative.

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