



CONCORD  
MUSEUM

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**CONCORD MUSEUM UNVEILS BUILDING MASTERPLAN**

***NEW EDUCATION CENTER OPENS AND MUSEUM GALLERIES UPGRADED***

(CONCORD –May 1, 2018) Churchill Franklin, President of the Board of Governors of the Concord Museum announced, “We have lots of great news to report today”, as he unveiled detailed plans for the **new education center** and announced the official opening projected for the **week of September 10, 2018**. “We are on schedule for a “soft” opening of the Education Center this summer, followed by a ribbon-cutting in September with week-long schedule of festivities for the public to enjoy. We look forward to welcoming you!”

The new Education Center opening festivities will include a members’ preview event. There will also be a FREE day open to the public tentatively planned on Friday, September 14 and a Family Day Event full of fun activities on Saturday, September 15, 2018.

The multi-million dollar education complex will blend modern design with New England vernacular architecture to create a stunning Education Center with a courtyard, orchard, and stone walls. The purpose-built Education Center will allow the Museum to meet growing demand for its school and public programs that serve 17,000 people annually. The building will contain a signature **History Learning Center** to facilitate learning directly with historical objects; three classrooms; an expanded state-of-the-art **collections storage area** for the Museum’s artifacts; staff offices; and the **Community Lyceum**, a large meeting hall that will host Museum programs as well as meetings with other community groups.

Churchill continued, “**Phase II of the Master Plan** includes upgrades to the infrastructure in the Museum galleries and a new entranceway to improve the overall visitor experience.” The original wing of

the Museum was built in 1930, and nearly ninety years later, it is necessary to install new mechanical, electrical, and HVAC systems, including wiring and lighting. The new systems will be energy efficient and are urgently needed to meet code, allow for future upgrades to the Museum's exhibition spaces, and, most importantly, ensure the long-term preservation of the Museum's invaluable permanent collection of historical artifacts. Such technical work requires the temporary removal of the Museum collections from the galleries to ensure their safety and security during the renovations. Churchill stated, "Another exciting aspect of these plans is that the front desk and visitor services area will be renovated to enhance the visitor experience and provide a gateway for exploring Concord." In order to undertake these major and necessary infrastructure upgrades, the galleries will be temporarily closed from July 9, 2018 to spring 2019.

"During this interim period we want to assure the public that the Museum will continue our regularly scheduled annual events and programs, such as *Family Trees*, as well as bring you many new programs and members-only events in the Education Center. While the galleries are under renovation, the Education Center will be open to the public on a regular basis, with many of the highlights from the Museum's collection, including Paul Revere's lantern, on view. We also look forward to welcoming you to Wright Tavern this summer for a series of open hours, walking tours, and events," explained Churchill.

This summer from July 9 through September 10 the historic Wright Tavern will be free and open to the public, Thursday through Monday, 10:30am to 3:30pm. Visitors can learn about the role the building played in the events of the Revolution, from the election of John Hancock as president of Massachusetts Provincial Congress, to visits from the King's army during the battles of Lexington and Concord. There will be hands-on-history programs, living history programs and walking tours offered on the topics of *At the Center of Revolution* and *Emerson's Circle: Concord In the 1800's*.

Churchill continued, "With the Concord Museum's Master Plan we are building on our past success to offer powerful experiences in history to new and broader audiences. While our vision has expanded, our mission remains the same: to show how a town shaped a nation and to make Concord's past relevant to the present and to the future."

John Ferrell, Interim Executive Director, explained "As you know, the Museum is an ambitious and vital organization. This strength comes directly from the collective energy and commitment of you, our community of members and supporters. Our impressive accomplishments give me great confidence in the future. Thank you for your continued support and patience during our renovation period. If you have any questions, I welcome hearing from you at [jferrell@concordmuseum.org](mailto:jferrell@concordmuseum.org)."

***Please note:*** please see the attached architectural renderings for the Museum's Education Center including the Community Lyceum and History Learning Center. Also attached is the new visitor entranceway planned for the Museum galleries.

## **CONCORD MUSEUM'S MASTER PLAN TIMELINE:**

**Now - July 8, 2018** - Be sure to see the new *Fresh Goods* exhibition as well as revisit the Museum's other exhibition galleries.

**July 9, 2018 – Spring 2019** - Improvements made to 1930 building infrastructure including lighting, HVAC, etc. New gateway/entranceway to galleries constructed. Galleries are closed.

**New! July 9 to September 10, 2018 –Free admission** to historic **Wright Tavern** built in 1747. Hands on history programs and living history. New walking tours offered. Regular Museum programs and events continue.

**Week of September 10, 2018– New Education Center opens.** Week-long open house and special events planned. **Object-based tours and lectures provided on a regular basis following opening. Some of the artifacts from the Museum's collection will be on display including Paul Revere's lantern.**

**Now through 2019** - All Museum events and programs will continue along with new programming for the public and members. Be sure to check the Calendar page of the newsletter and stay updated through our **website [www.concordmuseum.org](http://www.concordmuseum.org).**