

State Historian and Director's Report

The Renovation

McGough and ISG have kept things moving according to the construction timelines. Considering the challenges of supply chain and labor over the past couple years, this is mildly surprising. The two additions on the building are well underway. McGough has had to change how they were moving the sod on the roof, but the timeline remains for them to be done by 1 November with inspecting and modifying the structural roof and then replacing the sod.

At the current pace, we hope to be moving the staff back into the building in approximately September of next year - 2024. We plan then on moving the archival and museum materials back that fall. Then, we would see having the building open to the public for archive research or to see the press, preservation, or administration starting in later 2024. We are still shooting for the museum installation of the new exhibits to be done by late 2025, with the building being fully open to the public in December of 2025.

Museum Design Input and feedback

As stated in David Grabitske's report, we expect to have Schematic Design II in October of this year. From there we'd like to provide people the opportunity to provide us some feedback on the concepts and the designs, which will be discussed and shared in the December meeting. We also expect to have discussions with the following groups as well, after October until the end of the year:

- Academic Advisory Council
- Tribal Forum feedback response
- General Public forums

America 250 Commission

The SD Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Education office at the Mount Rushmore Memorial, and some veteran groups leaders are in discussion with me about partnering in the state effort. As the Commission gets appointments and gets a start, we expect more groups and individuals to express an interest as well.

History Conference

We will move ahead with planning the 2025 Conference to be in cooperation with the West River History Conference in Rapid City and the 2027 Conference to be in cooperation with the Center for Western Studies at Augustana in Sioux Falls.

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra partnership

The SDSO approached us and the Foundation over a year ago regarding a potential collaboration with *Giants in the Earth*. Coming to shape now, they plan to perform a Pulitzer Prize winning opera based on the novel in the Spring of 2025. We plan on publishing a new edition of the novel with a historian's introduction and annotations to be released Fall of 2024.