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## **JIMMY CARTER PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM PLANS MAJOR RENOVATION**

### *New Exhibits to Include Extensive Post-Presidential Coverage*

ATLANTA – Former U. S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, announced today a major renovation to the current presidential museum in Atlanta, Ga. The \$10 million building project, designed by Patrick Gallagher and fabricated by Design and Production (D&P), will chronicle the life of the 39<sup>th</sup> president from his birth in 1924 through the post-presidency.

The current museum, built in 1986, will be closed to the public Monday, April 27, and the revitalized landmark will reopen on Oct. 1, 2009, Carter's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

“Rosalynn and I hope that the new museum will be a teaching tool not only for students of history, but for people of all ages eager to learn about the world beyond their own borders, where for 27 years The Carter Center has worked to build hope for suffering people,” said President Carter.

The renovation designer, Gallagher & Associates, also is designing the exhibits for the new Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta. He is well known for his design of the Spy Museum in Washington D. C., the “Public Vaults” displays at the National Archives, and the new visitors' center in Gettysburg.

The exhibits will be fabricated by D&P, which designed and constructed the exhibits for the current Jimmy Carter Museum and has worked on projects at the Smithsonian Institution, the Jamestown Settlement Museum, the Chicago History Museum, and the new World of Coke in Atlanta.

“The opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, the new Center for Civil and Human Rights, and the new Jimmy Carter Museum, all here in Atlanta, will provide a rich immersion into the civil rights legacy of this region and the human rights legacy of our country,” said Jay Hakes, director of The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum. “I don't know of anything like that combination of attractions anywhere.”

## **Major Changes to Include the Post-Presidency**

The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum is one of 13 Presidential Libraries around the U.S. managed by the National Archives and Records Administration. Traditionally, these museums promote the understanding of the road to the White House and the presidency. However, a large section of this new museum will be devoted to the years of the post-presidency.

“President Carter’s impact after his political career ended is a unique story in the chronicles of presidential history. The exhibits will show the connections between his roots in Georgia, his agenda as president and his determination to continue working for peace and human rights after the White House,” Hakes said.

The \$10 million project, totally funded by private donations, will take about five months to fabricate. The award-winning team of Gallagher and D&P will begin a dramatic transformation of the 24,000-square-foot space facility. Except for the existing replica of the Oval Office, the museum will have a brand-new look, which will include history-making scenes from around the world. It will allow the public to discover the multi-faceted work of The Carter Center, the nonprofit organization which the former president and his wife, founded in 1982 after leaving the White House. The Carter Center is internationally recognized for the bold initiatives to resolve conflicts, advance democracy and human rights, and prevent diseases in more than 70 countries.

The new museum will highlight the progress being made on the historic campaign to eradicate the Guinea worm, which is anticipated to be the second disease ever to be erased from the earth. An exhibit also will feature election-monitoring in some 30 countries around the world. This area will be continually updated as the work continues in the coming years.

A centerpiece of the museum will be a large interactive exhibit with multiple touch screen stations that will take visitors to countries around the world where Carter, his wife and Carter Center staff have worked. Observers will meet thousands of people whose lives have been changed, and learn about their communities, as well as their challenges and their triumphs.

## **Experience the Daily Life of the President**

One of the most exciting additions to the museum will be experiencing “A Day in the Life of the President,” beginning with a wake-up call at 5:30 a.m. for the most powerful person in the world. Museum visitors will feel the impact of the national and international problems that come across the president’s desk and watch the myriad of teams that the president employs to handle day-to-day challenges. From a historian’s point of view, this exhibit will be a true-to-life “West Wing” experience. Presidential history will come to life at a rapid pace.

## **Educational Benefit**

In an attempt to make the entire museum a teaching tool for Georgia schools, the museum will be interwoven with kid friendly and education-oriented exhibits. The Georgia education curriculum already includes an extensive topical study of former President Carter, the only U.S. president born in Georgia. School groups will be able to understand more about how Atlanta and the U.S. are connected to people around the world and the responsibilities and opportunities as a member of the global community. The exhibits will be created to both inspire and challenge young people to choose careers to help people around the world, as well as make the world a better place.