



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Learning through Innovation

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**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
Enhances Dedication To History In New Gallery**

*Gallery Features Premier Exhibition,
“Let’s Take The Streetcar: Journeying Through Fort Worth’s Past”*

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – When the newly constructed Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH) opens to the public Friday Nov. 20, 2009, it will feature a new permanent gallery in support of the Museum’s commitment to history. This 3,000 square-foot Fort Worth History Gallery will feature a changing stream of stories about the region.

“One of our goals for expanding the physical Museum was to enhance the historical aspect of the exhibitions we offer and the stories we tell,” said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. “This new gallery gives us the opportunity to create and present large, multi-layered exhibitions that tell the many stories of this region’s colorful history.”

In recognition of the family’s generous contribution toward the Museum’s campaign to construct its new building, brushed aluminum lettering on the entrance to the gallery will designate the space as the Ed and Vicki Bass Fort Worth History Gallery.

The Museum’s opening exhibition, *Let’s Take the Streetcar: Journeying Through Fort Worth’s Past*, follows the rise and decline of city and interurban rail travel in Fort Worth from the mid-1870s to the mid-1930s. By focusing on the development of five areas – Spring Palace; North side Rosen Heights; Lake Como and Camp Bowie; the TCU Area; and Stop Six/Handley, Lake Erie and the Interurban. The exhibition reveals how rail travel greatly influenced the settlement and development of the city.

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Museum guests are encouraged to board an exquisite replica of a late-19th-century street car and travel throughout Victorian Fort Worth. “Designed and constructed by Museum exhibits staff, the street car moves and rumbles as it takes guests to popular Fort Worth landmarks,” said Museum Curator of History Dr. Gene Allen Smith. “It’s as if families are on a Sunday afternoon outing, exploring the sights and sounds of Fort Worth during an early heyday.”

Trolley stops within *Let’s Take the Streetcar: Journeying Through Fort Worth’s Past*, include:

Karporama – Texas Spring Palace: Visitors could take the South Main mule-drawn street car to the end of the line, near the Texas and Pacific Railway, and walk a short distance to the Texas Spring Palace.

Modeled after the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Corn Palace of Mitchell, South Dakota, and Ice Palace of St. Paul, Minnesota, the Spring Palace was conceived as a regional agricultural fair. It advertised Texas by displaying all the natural products of the state in an educational, cultural, and entertainment exhibit designed to attract settlers and investors.

Pleasure-seekers assemble here every evening – Lake Como

Lake Como was built in 1889 on the west side of town by promoter H.B. Chamberlain to cool power generating equipment. The 40-acre artificial lake provided water for the resort and cooled the generators that powered the Inn and a street car line that ran the three and half miles from downtown to the hotel.

Lake Erie Tonight – The Lake Erie Amusement Area

The 30-acre Lake Erie, with its pavilion, was one of the most elaborate theaters and amusement areas in North Texas. The two-story pavilion that jutted over the lake had indoor vaudeville acts, concerts, movies, dances, and a roller skating rink.

Buy a Lot in God’s Country – North Side, Rosen Heights, and White City

Cattle have always been important to the city of Fort Worth, but by the early twentieth century, meat packing plants and stockyards emerged as a major presence on Fort Worth’s north side. Workers rode the street car down North Main Street on a line that crossed the Trinity River and ended at the steps to the Armour and Swift plants.

A young Jewish immigrant named Sam Rosen from Kovarsk, Russia, saw the possibilities the meat packing plants brought to the area. In 1901 he purchased land west of North Main Street at present-day Twenty-Fifth Street. He divided it into home lots to sell, naming the subdivision Rosen Heights.

Free land, Free utilities, and a Street Car – Camp Bowie

Named for Alamo defender Jim Bowie, the camp occupied 2,186 acres in the Arlington Heights and Monticello neighborhoods of west Fort Worth. Geographically most of the camp encompassed an area between the current University Drive to the east, Horne Street to the west, the current Camp Bowie Boulevard to the north, and Vickery Boulevard to the south

Church, Community, and Education – Stop Six

Stop Six is located between the communities of Polytechnic and Handley. The historically African American community, one of the oldest in Tarrant County, stretched between Rosedale and Berry Streets and from Edgewood Terrace to Stalcup Road. Village Creek separated Stop Six from the mostly anglo area of Polytechnic Heights.

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Horned Frog Crazy! – TCU

Texas Christian University, founded in the city in 1869 by brothers Addison and Randolph Clark, returned to Fort Worth in May 1910 after a fire gutted its administration building on the Waco campus. The school's trustees chose to return to Fort Worth because the city's civic leaders had made a genuine and generous offer to the university. TCU would receive 50 acres of land, \$200,000 in cash, guaranteed utility hookups, and street car services for the campus.

About the Museum

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Days. For more information about the Museum visit www.fortworthmuseum.org or call 817-255-9300.

In 1939, the Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education presented a successful proposal to the City Council for the creation of a children's museum in Fort Worth. Chartered with the State of Texas in 1941 as the "Fort Worth Children's Museum," the new \$80 million FWMSH campus marks the culmination of an extensive multi-year fund-raising campaign following a comprehensive planning effort. Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Museum engages school children and adult visitors through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. For more than six decades, the FWMSH has provided learning opportunities for tens of thousands of area children annually among its million visitors each year, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The new Museum building, created by internationally acclaimed architects Legorreta + Legorreta with Gideon Toal, is located in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural District. The world-class, 166,000 square-foot facility features a collection of new, interactive exhibits and programs developed by the Museum's staff and a team of nationally recognized designers in support of the Museum's dedication to informal, discovery-based learning for all.

The new Museum's environment of learning comprises state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and components including: Energy Blast; the Fort Worth Children's Museum; the Cattle Raisers Museum; the Noble Planetarium; Omni IMAX® Theater; DinoLabs/DinoDig® – featuring the State Dinosaur of Texas, *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; Innovation Studios/Innovation Gallery; and the 60-year-old Museum School.