

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM

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Passersby Now Know: That Big, New Building Really *Is* The New Mexico History Museum



Santa Fe – With the installation of exterior signage today, the New Mexico History Museum took another step toward its May 24 grand opening. Workers affixed the words “New Mexico History Museum” and “Pete V. Domenici Building” over the Museum’s main entrance at 113 Lincoln Avenue, just north of the Santa Fe Plaza.

"It's beautiful," said Dr. Frances Levine, Museum director. "Now it looks like the Museum it's quickly becoming on the inside. We're in a final flurry of activity to mount exhibits and we're looking forward to letting visitors experience the stories our staff, volunteers and contractors have worked so hard to bring to life."

The Museum has been a long-sought dream of supporters for more than 20 years. Archaeological work began on the site in 2002, and ground was officially broken in 2004. A combination of \$44 million in state and federal money, plus private donations, has brought it to the brink of completion.

The 96,000-square-foot Museum takes visitors on an interactive journey through more than four centuries of stories in its core exhibition, *Telling New Mexico: Stories from Then and Now*. It also features a Changing Gallery, with a premiere exhibition, *Fashioning New Mexico*.

Two free days of family activities will herald its grand opening at noon on May 24. For a full schedule of events, log onto www.nmhistorymuseum.org.

The New Mexico Rail Runner will operate its Saturday schedule (<http://www.nmrailrunner.com/schedule.asp>) on May 24 and 25 to accommodate opening-weekend visitors. In addition, all four of the state's Santa Fe-based museums will have free admission on both days: the Museum of Art (<http://www.nmartmuseum.org/>); the Museum of International Folk Art (<http://www.internationalfolkart.org/>); and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (<http://www.indianartsandculture.org/>).

For more information about the New Mexico History Museum, including a selection of user-ready high-resolution photographs, log on to <http://media.museumofnewmexico.org/nmhm>. More than 8,000 additional, high-resolution photographs illustrating the history of New Mexico are available by keyword search at www.palaceofthegovernors.org (click on "Digitized Collections"). Most requests for scans from this site can be delivered the same day, and usage is free for publicity purposes only.

Attached photos' credit: David Rohr, New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

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