The Transformation Continues

Dear Friends,

Our Building Transformation is truly underway. Among the many new experiences visitors will encounter next fall will be, first, the restored original staircases leading down to the renovated Harrison Auditorium. You will continue into a bright and open Main Entrance Hall. To the right will be the Middle East Galleries. Straight ahead, behind the visitor desk, will be a gallery space created from the former location of the Museum Shop, along with two elevators to access all floors of the Harrison and Coxe Wings. To the left, through Native American Voices, you will be able to visit the reinstalled Mexico & Central America Gallery and Africa Galleries. In other words, in a year, the second floor will be dramatically changed.

And while these much-anticipated changes are taking place, the Museum will remain open. This is our promise: there is always something to discover here. While certain galleries may go temporarily offline or new routes through the Museum become necessary to accommodate renovations, the majority of our gallery space is—and will continue to be—open. We invite you to continue exploring, and to share our excitement at the new Museum taking shape behind construction walls.

One way that we continue to engage visitors of all ages throughout construction is with our programming. This year, we are expanding popular programs and adding new ones, like The Museum Mile, Coffee with a Keeper, and Crafternoons at the Museum (see At the Museum for more). Programs invite our community into the Museum. After all, this is a place not only for exploration but for conversation, reflection, and relaxation.

So, as we look forward to a renovated Harrison Auditorium and new gallery spaces that will host new programs, we hope you will join us for this year’s events throughout the Museum, particularly around the new Middle East Galleries. Thank you for joining us as we explore the human story together.

Warm regards,

JULIAN SIGGERS, PH.D.
WILLIAMS DIRECTOR

Julian Siggers welcomes guests at the Golden Gala: An Evening in the Fertile Crescent on April 14.