

The first and only national museum in the United States dedicated to honoring veterans

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With almost 22 million living veterans, the NVMM will serve as a civic landmark to honor, connect, inspire and educate visitors and Americans about the service and sacrifice of the country's veterans. It will be the only public museum of its kind with the exclusive role of sharing the experiences of veterans across all eras, conflicts and branches of the military.

The museum is currently under construction in Downtown Columbus with the grand opening slated for spring/summer of 2018. The [Columbus Downtown Development Corporation](#) serves as the project manager for the project – leading the design, construction, exhibit development and fundraising elements. The NVMM is located on the Scioto Peninsula. Prioritized as a key project in the 2010 Downtown Strategic Plan, the goal of the Scioto Peninsula is to create an active, mixed-use development anchored by greenspace and a world-class cultural district, including COSI (Columbus' Center of Science and Industry), and the American Museum of Natural History Dinosaur Gallery at COSI.



Key highlights about the NVMM include:

- **Not “Just Another Museum”:** NVMM is neither a war memorial nor a military museum. It will take visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and shared experiences of veterans throughout history and pay tribute to the sacrifices of servicemen and women, and their families. The history will be presented through dynamic participatory experiences with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Artifacts and first-person testimonies will challenge visitors to confront the difficult history of topics such as colonialism and segregation.
- **NVMM Exhibits:** Exhibit designer Ralph Appelbaum Associates is working to create an exhibition that is focused on people, not tanks, technology or territory. The goal is to provide Visitors with a sense of what veterans have gone through during their military service and beyond. The exhibits will evoke the core themes and stories of the veteran experience. The interpretive framework for the exhibits is based on four central pillars: Honor, Connect, Inspire, and Educate. They will highlight the historical and contemporary examples of veterans’ stories, and rather than focus exclusively on war, combat, or the military, this exhibition narrative will explore the transformative experience of military service while connecting it to the broader idea of public and community service. This method of a narrative journey aims to stimulate an ongoing dialogue in an effort to increase connections between civilians and veterans.
 - **Thematic Alcoves** will evoke the emotions and challenges of those who have served the country.
 - **A Dimensional Timeline** will tell a chronological story of the major events and people who have shaped the U.S.’s military history.
 - **Central Media Experience** will be the heart of the experience for the visitor, with a 3-d film displayed in the center, surrounded by an exhibit featuring letters chronicling the similar experiences shared by service members and their families over the course of time.
 - **A Remembrance Room** will be a mezzanine exhibition that will honor The Fallen – those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of honor, duty and country.

- **Interactive Education:** There will be emphasis placed on developing links between exhibition content and educational curriculum so the NVMM can be used by educators as a tool to bring content to life both on site and remotely via distance learning modules.
- **Noteworthy Features:** The museum and surrounding Memorial Grove will occupy a seven-acre site overlooking the Scioto River with views of the downtown skyline.
 - **The Building** architect, Allied Works Architecture, designed a concrete arch structure with a glass curtainwall system, featuring a spiral processional rising to a rooftop sanctuary. The sanctuary, which can also be accessed from inside the building, is envisioned to be a civic room designed for ceremonies, celebrations, and reflection. The exhibition galleries will follow the curve of the concrete rings. In addition, there will be a lower level to incorporate a rotating exhibition gallery and interpretive classrooms and meeting rooms.



- **The Landscape** architect, OLIN, designed the surrounding Memorial Grove as a place for reflection so that visitors can pause to think about what they have experienced in the Museum. At the center of a circular path there will be a grove of trees, symbolizing reflection, designating the area as a sacred place to honor and memorialize veterans. At the end of the path there will be a stone wall with a reflecting pool at the base.
- **Museum Funding:** Funding for NVMM was made possible through a combination of private and public investment, which includes donations from Les and Abigail Wexner, the State of Ohio, Franklin County, and many other foundations and corporations. To-date nearly \$60 million has been raised.

To view photos and find out more about the NVMM, please visit: <http://www.nationalvmm.org/photos/>.