



MAYS FAMILY CENTER



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The Witte Museum Announces Completion of Mays Family Center *Opens first exhibit, Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed, May 14*

San Antonio, TX – The Witte Museum announces on April 12, 2016, completion of the Mays Family Center, San Antonio’s newest, premier exhibition and event venue. This \$15 million project spanning 19,000 square-feet takes the Witte to new heights as a catalytic destination in shaping the future of Texas.

“The Mays Family Center is a stunning building that embraces both the ancient San Antonio River and historic Broadway. The center is emblematic of the cultural renaissance in the City of San Antonio because it can accommodate the best and largest exhibitions in the world and the City’s most majestic events,” said Marise McDermott, President and CEO of the Witte Museum.

The Mays Family Center represents a critical phase of the \$100 million, 174,000 square foot reshaping and revisioning of the 10-acre campus of the Witte Museum.

Peggy and Lowry Mays, Kathy Mays Johnson and the Mays Family Foundation led the way with this project with their transformational support, which has been critical to the reimagination and the rise of the New Witte.

The Mays Family provided \$5 million for the Mays Family Center and asked the Witte to find matching donors, which the Museum accomplished with generous and enthusiastic supporters.

“This is a great day for the Witte and San Antonio,” said Kathy Johnson, daughter of Peggy and Lowry Mays. “We are extremely grateful we can help leave this legacy, which will both inspire learning and create lifelong memories.”

It’s as if the new landmark has always been destined for something important. Three hundred years ago underneath the Mays Family Center on the upper most bend of the San Antonio River, Spanish settlers and mission Indians built a diversion dam to channel water from the River into the Acequia Madre de Valero which provided water downstream to the historic city of San Antonio.

The Mays Family Center will serve as a multi-purpose exhibition and special events center in San Antonio for generations to come, whether it be as a legacy-defining gathering place for educational events and social galas or as a destination for the world’s best traveling exhibitions.

On May 14, the Mays Family Center welcomes its debut exhibition, *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*. *Maya* is the largest exhibition in a generation to be brought to a San Antonio Museum and the largest traveling exhibition in the United States featuring Mayan civilization. This is the Texas premiere of this blockbuster exhibition.

Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed brings together hundreds of authentic artifacts displayed in more than a half-dozen immersive environments. In this 10,000 square foot exhibit, visitors will have the opportunity to learn how the Maya built their towering temples and created their intricate calendar system. There are hands-on activity stations where the whole family can build arches, decipher hieroglyphs and learn drilling techniques. *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* uses a combination of authentic artifacts along with multimedia and interactive, hands-on activities to reveal our deep ties to this astonishing civilization.

The Mays Family Center was designed by the renowned architectural firm, Lake | Flato Architects, led by David Lake. The Linbeck Group, a Texas-based building construction firm, managed construction of the Mays Family Center.

Note to editor: Renderings of the building are available, as well as photos of the mural installation. The progress of the Witte Museum construction can be viewed via a WorkZoneCam near the jobsite: <https://www.witemuseum.org/new-witte/master-plan/mays-family-center-special-exhibitions-and-events>

About the Witte Museum

Founded in 1926, the Witte Museum is located on the banks of the San Antonio River in Brackenridge Park and is San Antonio's premier museum promoting lifelong learning through innovative exhibition, programs and collections in natural history, science and South Texas heritage.

The Witte Museum is grateful to the following supporters who have generously contributed to the Mays Family Center:

Mays Family Foundation
Bexar County
G.A.C. Halff Foundation
The Feik Family Foundation
The Tex Elliott Family
The John H. White Family
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The Zachry Corporation
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To participate, please contact Heather Welder Russo, Vice President of Development at 210.357.1851.

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