



THE POWER OF FUN

Durango Discovery Museum

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Public Forum

Planning Durango's Sustainable Science and Energy Museum

Sponsored by a grant from the Kresge Foundation

Friday, May 19, 2006
7:45am – 3:00pm
Durango Recreation Center
2700 Main Avenue
Durango CO



Dear Forum Participant:

Thank you for taking the time to attend the Public Forum . The staff and board members of the Durango Discovery Museum are extremely appreciative of your interest in the effort to build a sustainable science and energy museum in Durango.

The intent is for the public forum to be the 'Kickoff' for a public design process for the Durango Discovery Museum. Our hope is to build on the progress and good work that

has been completed in recent years, and to move forward with the project. There are a number of key issues that will be addressed during the 'Dream&Scheme' sessions during the course of the public forum. See the 'Dream&Scheme' section below for an overview.

What's the deal with the Children's Museum and the Durango Discovery Museum?

They're one and the same organization. The Durango Discovery Museum is a project of the Children's Museum. Once the new facility is completed, the operations of the existing Children's Museum will relocate to the Durango Discovery Museum at the Power House.

Exhibits and programs for young children will be incorporated in the new facility, which is planned to appeal to all age groups.

Interested community members are encouraged to stay involved in the effort. This public forum is just the beginning.

Included in the Forum Packet is background on the Durango Discovery Museum and the Power House. More detailed information can be found in documents that are available on the website: durangodiscovery.org



Agenda

Public Forum – Durango Recreation Center

7:45-8:30	Breakfast	Informal
8:30-8:40	Opening	Sidny Zink, Durango Mayor
8:40-8:50	Quick Overview	Marsha Porter Norton Facilitator
8:50-9:05	Web Based Collaboration	Jeff Vierling DDM Board
9:10-9:35	Building a Sustainable Museum	Sharon Klotz Brooklyn Children's Museum
9:40-10:20	Cost Effective Sustainable Design	Bill Frazen, Exec. Director of Operations, Poudre Schools
10:20-10:45	Break	Informal
10:45-11:10	Exhibits in a Sustainable Museum	Ross Chapman, Pittsburgh Children's Museum
11:15-11:40	Green Exhibits	Brenda Baker GreenExhibits.org
11:40-12:20	Lunch	Eat
12:20-12:40	Overview: Dream and Scheme	Marsha Porter Norton
12:45-2:15	Dream and Scheme Sessions	Pick one of four topics See descriptions below
2:15-2:55	Sessions share with whole group	Marsha Porter Norton
2:55-3:00	Wrap	Marsha Porter Norton

Thank You !!!

Dream & Scheme Sessions:

These sessions will occur right after lunch, and will help direct the planning and design of the museum and its facilities and exhibits. There are some key questions that will be addressed in each of the four sessions.

Why is the Durango Power House so important?

The 1893 Power House is the oldest known surviving AC power plant in the world.

While the first successful commercial use of AC power was in 1891 near Telluride, none of the original building or equipment remains.

It's also known as the first use of the 'Mission Style' used on an industrial building.

Power House Addition – To make for a functional museum to work out at the Power House, an addition is needed for elements including restrooms, lobby, multipurpose room, mechanical room, administrative offices, museum store, etc. It will need to be between 2500 and 4000 square feet in size. Key issues are: room for future expansion; traffic noise from US 550; energy efficiency; integration with historic power house; relationship between various uses; relationship to science plaza.

Key Question: What is the best configuration for this addition?

Science Plaza – A public plaza is envisioned as an important aspect of the Durango Discovery Museum. It will include an outdoor café, the historic smokestack as a sundial pointer, and outdoor musical instruments. Additional science-oriented outdoor exhibits and elements will be incorporated in this space. The intent is for the plaza to be an animated and interesting place that will invite people to spend some time.

Key Question: What are some key elements that will make Science Plaza a lively, energetic, fun place for all ages?

Sustainable Technologies – Back in 1893, the Power House was never designed for energy efficiency. The museum must have the lowest possible utility bills, while showcasing a number of sustainable technologies that will heat and power the facility.

Key Questions: Which technologies should be used for heating, cooling, and powering the facility? Which technologies should not be pursued, and why?

Green Exhibits – One of the goals for the facility is for the building itself to be 'transparent' in the sense of helping visitors how things work.

Key Question: How can the sustainable technologies that heat and power the Durango Discovery Museum be treated as 'exhibits' and made as interactive and engaging as possible?

Vision

The Durango Discovery Museum is envisioned as a family oriented science and energy museum. It is intended to be a visually exciting project that initially communicates the idea of having fun while learning about science (otherwise known as the “WOW” factor). The goal is to create an atmosphere allowing hands on learning methods that will be truly inviting and exciting to all ages.

The project will not only preserve but also enhance the existing Mission style Power House structure while incorporating the existing building, its original boilers, generators, and other vintage equipment, and industrial finishes and details into the overall design. This is intended to provide a means of focusing on the history of Durango’s unique legacy of electrical power distribution into the theme of the museum.

The concept is not only to create an interest in historic power but also in alternative and sustainable energy options available for future use by all communities. Not only will the exhibits bring attention to sustainable technologies, the building itself will embody sustainable design and construction strategies that create healthy, durable, resource efficient conditions that are beneficial to the natural environment. To illustrate these results, the design and construction team will be striving to achieve the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified facility in the Four Corners region.

It is considered important to embrace and incorporate the Animas River as well as other distinctive aspects of Durango’s character into the design. This will create a riverfront development that provides education, entertainment, recreation, and a community meeting place for Durango’s citizens and visitors while strengthening the community’s economic future and functioning as a self-reliant business enterprise.



The Power House Site

is located at the north end of Downtown Durango, between US 550 and the Animas River.

Vehicular access will be from the south, with a new traffic signal and intersection configuration near 12th Street.

Except for emergency vehicles, vehicular traffic will be limited to a planned parking area south of the storage building.