Curation Facility and Museum Design

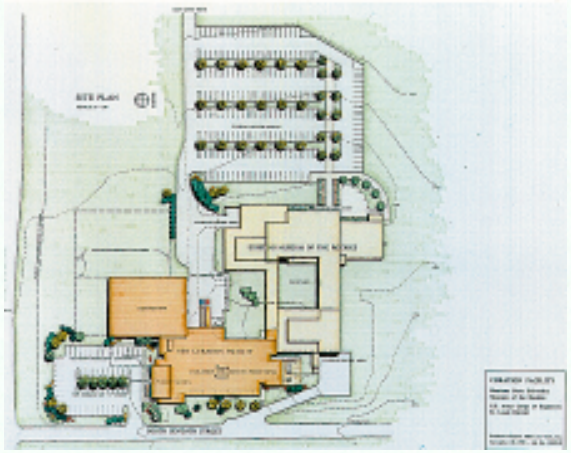
Background

After passage of federal regulation 36 CFR Part 79 (Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections) in 1991, curators responsible for the management and preservation of collections at federal properties and repositories began evaluating how their organizations house, curate and conserve historic materials and records. In many cases, agencies found that they have not kept pace with the influx of archaeological collections and as a result, many collections have not been properly inventoried, labeled, catalogued, documented, conserved, or stored. In some cases, materials were in a state of neglect along with their associated records, maps, and photographs. With few exceptions, current federal archaeological materials and records are inaccessible and unavailable for research and exhibition. Many repositories do not meet the minimum requirements outlined in 36 CFR Part 79.

Gila River Indian Community – evaluation of design and construction

Solution

Since 1992, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (SLD), became the Technical Center of Expertise for Curation of Archaeological Collections, we have assisted numerous government agencies in solving archaeological curation-related design and construction problems. During this period, we have developed considerable expertise in helping curators define and solve their building-related needs through professional design, programming, building code analysis, cost estimates, management of architect-engineer contracts, and construction phase services for both new facilities and the adaptive re-use of existing buildings. All projects are led by a licensed architect who has considerable documented experience with this building type.



Museum of the Rockies, design of addition to existing museum.

Services

- **Facility Analysis.** This process enables us to understand existing space needs for a collection and the needs and concerns of the responsible curator.
- **Programming**. After developing an understanding of the collection, we will identify alternative solutions for proper care of artifacts and records in terms of laboratory, holding rooms, processing rooms, and administrative and exhibit spaces.

South Street Seaport Museum, site of repository feasibility study.

Services (Continued)

- **Schematic Design.** Development of floor plans, site plan, building elevations, and code analysis. Work is done in compliance with 36 CFR Part 79 and local and state building codes.
- **Cost Estimate.** We estimate costs based on realistic plans and known needs. We do not apply estimated percentages to gross square foot figures.
- **Working Drawings/Contract Documents**. We have the expertise, capability, and experience to produce working drawings and contract documents for any repository, collection center, or museum building.
- **Architect-Engineer Contract Management.** Our in-house capability is supplemented by A-E firms that have been selected based on their qualifications and knowledge of collection centers and museums. Each contract for professional design services is negotiated and managed by a licensed design professional who is authorized to represent the contracting officer.
- **Construction Phase Services.** The SLD has authority to award government construction contracts. We can provide periodic on-site inspections and construction management services. We will work with your construction contractor/manager to ensure quality work for your building project.

Past and Current Customers

- Arkansas Archaeological Survey
- Montana State University – Museum of the Rockies
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Rhode Island Department of Transportation
- U.S. Air Force – Edwards AFB
- U.S. Navy – Pacific Fleet
- General Services Administration & The South Street Seaport Museum

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US Army Corps of Engineers®

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
St. Louis District