



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Naper Settlement breaks ground on the Innovation Gateway Welcome & Education Center

PHOTOS:

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B-ROLL:

<https://cityofnaperville.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/NSPublicRelationsExternal/Em1nlHusGkxIk07wGDZfEeMBFw60WmN0pCFjFVhZ10CJbw?e=nuYVHL>

NAPERVILLE, IL — On Sunday, July 17, Naper Settlement broke ground on the museum’s new 5,150 square-foot welcome and education center, the Innovation Gateway. Among those in attendance at the community event to celebrate the site’s transformation and expansion were donors, community members, and public officials, including Representative Janet Yang Rohr and Senator Laura Ellman. The community celebration featured a short presentation followed by a reception.

With a fully ADA-accessible entrance and wall-to-wall digital exhibition space, the Innovation Gateway will be the new “front door” to Naper Settlement’s 13-acre site. The Innovation Gateway is designed to orient and engage guests while expanding the museum’s content to represent Naperville in the 20th and 21st centuries and place its local history in context with state and national narratives. The center will include a 23’ X 10’ digital wall exhibit that will invite visitors to self-curate their own history journey. The digital wall exhibit experience will be a repository for stories, files, and photos and will allow visitors to upload their own stories through a crowd-sourced mechanism for public and self-curated experiences.

Beyond the digital wall exhibit, Innovation Gateway will also serve as an important space for Naper Settlement’s 132,000 annual visitors, including 35,000 school children. The welcome center will allow the museum to expand current programming, including teacher professional development programs, workshops, and corporate training offerings while providing an improved site entrance that is accessible for people of all abilities.

For more information on the Innovation Gateway, please visit NaperSettlement.org/InnovationGateway.

About Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor living history museum set on 13 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville. Located 30 miles from Chicago, the museum is

home to thirty-one historical structures dating back as early as the 1830s. Featuring exhibits, special events, educational programming and more, Naper Settlement is where history comes alive and the community comes to connect. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.