



UNITED STATES  
DIPLOMACY CENTER

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Why is the U.S. Diplomacy Center needed?***

Despite the crucial role that diplomacy has played in American foreign affairs since the time of Benjamin Franklin, few Americans fully appreciate and understand diplomacy's significance. Not one museum or national public education center in the country exists to deliver the message about diplomacy's effectiveness and its impact on our daily lives, yet we live in a time that increasingly calls for more and better uses of diplomacy.

### ***What is the mission of the U.S. Diplomacy Center?***

The U.S. Diplomacy Center's mission is to welcome the American people and visitors from around the world to the U.S. Department of State, explain why diplomacy matters and inspire future generations to become involved in diplomacy and foreign affairs.

### ***What are the programs of the U.S. Diplomacy Center?***

Since its founding in 2000, the U.S. Diplomacy Center has collected over 6,000 noteworthy artifacts and created exhibitions that have traveled across the U.S. The U.S. Diplomacy Center develops educational materials and disseminates them through the website and through conferences and forums (<http://diplomacy.state.gov>). Conceptual design and thematic plans for the new facility are available on the website.

### ***Where is the U.S. Diplomacy Center located?***

The three exhibit halls (new and existing space) of the 30,000-square-foot Center will be located at the 21<sup>st</sup> St., N.W. entrance to the Department of State headquarters in Washington, DC.

### ***How will the public access the U.S. Diplomacy Center?***

The Center will be part of a historic entrance area to the Department. Visitors will pass through security into a dramatic glass orientation pavilion added to that entrance, then on to other halls.

### ***Who has endorsed the U.S. Diplomacy Center?***

Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, all living former Secretaries of State and twelve national foreign affairs organizations endorse the U.S. Diplomacy Center. Among these organizations are the Council of American Ambassadors, American Foreign Service Association, Council on Foreign Affairs and American Academy of Diplomacy. The National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts have approved the architectural designs for the USDC.

### ***How will the U.S. Diplomacy Center be financed?***

The Department of State has a public-private partnership with the Foreign Affairs Museum Council (FAMC), founded by the late Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Ambassador Stephen Low and others. The Department of State will contribute space, staff and security for the Center. The FAMC, the Department, and AFSA are soliciting donations for a \$50 million capital fund. Construction of the Center will begin once that fund has approximately \$23 million. The millions of dollars of donations from corporations, foundations, and individuals that have been received are held in a specific Department gift fund.