

## **Fact Sheet**

### **The United States Diplomacy Center**

The United States Diplomacy Center (USDC) will be a museum and educational center devoted to telling the story of American diplomacy. The USDC will explore the history, practice, and challenges of U.S. diplomacy. Education will be at the core of the Center's mission. Through interactive exhibits, diplomatic simulations and stories of experienced diplomats, the USDC will show visitors how American diplomacy has a profound influence on their everyday lives. The Center is being developed and funded through a public-private partnership with the Diplomacy Center Foundation (DCF). It will be open to the public with no admission charge.

The USDC was first envisioned by the late Ambassador Stephen Low and Senator Charles Mathias. They felt strongly that there should be a museum where the public could learn about the importance of American diplomacy in their lives. Furthering this vision, former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright designated space in 2000 for a museum and education center at the U. S. Department of State's Harry S. Truman Building. The USDC will be the first facility in the United States dedicated to telling the story of American diplomacy. Secretary John Kerry and all living former Secretaries of State support its mission and are honorary directors of the DCF.

In 2000, the USDC formed a public-private partnership with the Foreign Affairs Museum Council (now called the DCF), a non-profit charitable institution founded by the late Ambassador Stephen Low and the late Senator Charles Mathias. The DCF in partnership with Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Special Initiatives, currently lead the ongoing capital campaign to raise funds from the private sector for the project.

The USDC Pavilion was designed by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP. They were awarded the contract after participating in the *GSA Design Excellence* program. Beyer Blinder Belle has subcontracted for all other consultants and contactors including: structural engineering; mechanical and electrical engineering; plumbing; acoustics, audio-visual, and telecommunications; fire protection, security, and life safety; lighting design; site and civil engineering; geotechnical engineering; and cost estimating.

After an open and competitive process, on May 1, 2014, the State Department and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced the award of a \$25 million contract to Gilbane Building Company. Construction is expected to take approximately 18 months.