

UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The United States Diplomacy Center (USDC) will be a 40,000 square foot museum and education center

Fall 2014

Construction is in full swing following the September 3, 2014, groundbreaking. The turning of the shovels by Secretaries Kerry, Clinton, Powell, Baker, Albright and Kissinger has paved the way for the next phase - sheet and shore, excavation and concrete pouring.



This big Caterpillar removed the heavy planters added during the 1986 renovation.

By the end of September, the process of sheet and shoring will be performed by the construction crew. This is the practice of boxing in the area of the footprint before the ground is excavated. The USDC will have a below grade level that will be approximately 20 ft. deep. To properly excavate, the laborers will drill and insert side walls around the perimeter foot print to create a box like shape. When these walls are firmed up, an excavator will remove the dirt and the sheet and shoring will prevent the outer dirt from falling back into the pit.



An example of sheet and shoring.

The ground will be prepped and concrete will be poured to create the slab and walls.

Last month the project management team headed for the quarries in Friendsville, Tennessee. The team inspected blocks of marble at the Tennessee Marble Co from where the marble will be cut into slabs and sent on to Washington DC. This famous quarry and ones like it in Tennessee have provided the Tennessee pink marble – as it is known – for Washington DC's landmark buildings and monuments for many decades, including the flanks to the Lincoln Memorial, the US Capitol, the National Gallery of Art, the Newseum and others.

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The USDC will share this honor by having 9,000 square feet of its upper pavilion floor lined with this marble. After 25 blocks are extracted from the quarry 600 pieces will be cut into slabs and a dry lay will be placed on the factory's floor to see how the marble looks -- as if it were on the museum's floor. Pieces will be moved around for the best optics, numbered for placement, and then shipped on two semi-trucks to Washington DC. This process could take more than a year.



This actual quarry from which the marble of the U.S. Diplomacy Center floor will be quarried.

Visit our website for more details: For more information visit our website diplomacy.state.gov . Also check out our construction webcam!



The project team ponders the right look.



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