

# BUILDING THE DIPLOMACY CENTER

update

May 2016



▼ (left) Commemorative fragment of a Soviet missile destroyed under the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty; (right) Students take part in the U.S. Diplomacy Center's Refugee Crisis Simulation

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our team has made significant progress in our outreach to students and teachers, engaging with audiences across the country through our Diplomatic Simulations Program. We have expanded our topics by developing new simulations on nuclear nonproliferation and water conservation and are collaborating with exciting new partners, such as Rice University, to grow our program on key issues like counter-terrorism.

In simulations, subject matter experts act as invaluable guides for participants. Ambassador Ted McNamara, president of the Diplomacy Center Foundation, captivated visiting Latin American students in his debrief of their refugee simulation in Spanish, while Aaron Salzberg, Special Coordinator for Water Resources, inspired students during their *Freshwater Crisis* simulation. For a more in-depth look at our simulations program, be sure to check out the "Education" section of this newsletter.

Our Franklin Fellow and Professor of International Relations at Earlham College, Dr. Welling Hall, has developed prototypes to augment our diplomatic simulations through "object lesson" plans. Using photos of selected artifacts from our collection, teachers and students discuss diplomacy and global issues, considering, for example, a piece of shrapnel from a Soviet missile as a means to introduce nonproliferation.

All of these tools--simulations and artifact lesson plans--will be part of the Diplomacy Center's upcoming John C. Whitehead Conference for students and educators around the country. Funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the conference will be held in October at the Department of State.

Kudos to our Education Team for developing educational materials and programming opportunities which have made the Diplomacy Center a respected and innovative source on the history and practice of American diplomacy.

Kathy A. Johnson, U.S. Diplomacy Center Director

## INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- ▶ A Note From the Director
- ▶ Curator's Corner
- ▶ Construction Update
- ▶ Exhibits Update
- ▶ Education Update
- ▶ Social Media Update
- ▶ Watch our Google Hangouts
- ▶ Mark your Calendar: October 26

## CURATOR'S CORNER

Sometimes diplomats find themselves in the middle of history-in-the-making events where language skills and knowledge of international protocol are essential.

Foreign Service Officer (FSO) Hans Tuch worked for Voice of America in Moscow from 1958-1961, during the height of the Cold War. He was a public diplomacy officer who spoke excellent Russian. During this time, the United States and the U.S.S.R. agreed to engage in cultural exchange and promote mutual understanding by holding exhibitions in each other's countries. On July 24, 1959, U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon opened the American National Exhibition in Moscow and took Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on a tour.



Certificate (Diplomacy Center Collection)



Khrushchev (right) admonishes FSO Hans Tuch (left) about American contemporary art at the American National Exhibition in Moscow, August, 1959 (U.S. Embassy Moscow).

During the tour, Nixon and Khrushchev had a series of exchanges debating the relative merits of capitalism and communism, with much of the discussion taking place in the kitchen of a model suburban home exhibit. These exchanges are now known as the Kitchen Debate.

Mr. Tuch was assigned to escort Khrushchev during the tour and became the Soviet Premier's impromptu translator at one point during the debate when Khrushchev's official translator was lost in the crush of the entourage.

Afterwards, Nixon presented this unique certificate to Mr. Tuch for his role as a member of the Vice President's "Kitchen Cabinet." The Russian words at the bottom of the certificate translate as: "Peace and Friendship." Mr. Tuch generously donated this certificate to the U.S. Diplomacy Center's collection in 2016.

Learn more about how you can contribute to the our artifact collection at: <http://diplomacy.state.gov/>

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

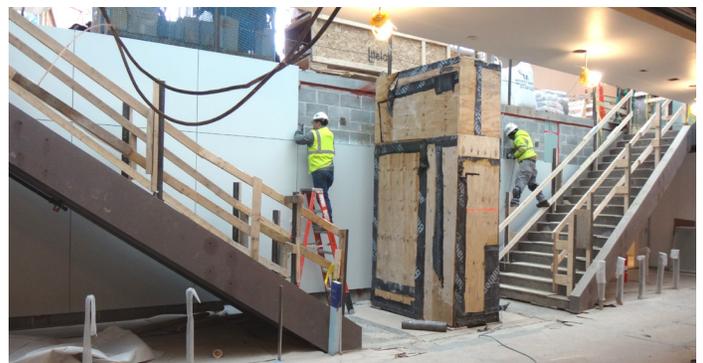
Over the last three months, we have seen major progress on the U.S. Diplomacy Center. Workers are laying the granite pavers that line the walkway, closing up the ceiling spaces and testing the mechanical systems of the building. Here are a few recent photos:



Granite pavers are being installed on the outside of the U.S. Diplomacy Center.

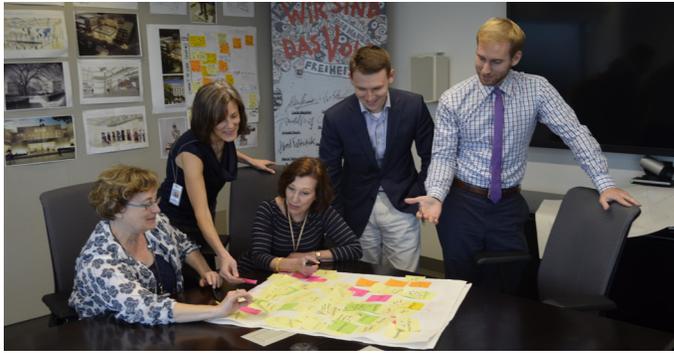


On the upper level, workers are laying the Tennessee pink marble floor. The historic brass doors of the old War Department will soon be restored to their original brilliance.



As workers complete the lower level, the space around the Berlin Wall is being transformed into its final form.

# BUILDING THE DIPLOMACY CENTER



U.S. Diplomacy Center team discusses engagement strategies, a topic from the IBM workshops.

## EXHIBITS UPDATE

Through an in-kind donation to the Diplomacy Center Foundation, IBM has been lending their expertise to the Diplomacy Center to help us develop a business and technology roadmap. Thanks to IBM, we now have recommendations to help us shape decisions on current and future technology needs, audience engagement, and social media in connection with ongoing exhibit planning.

IBM consultants recommended technical architecture, including cloud platforms, data centers, and shared services. They also highlighted best practices to attract donors for the Center and advised us on using analytics to inform future planning. As part of the project, IBM surveyed 200 members of the museum's target audience, providing us with valuable insights about visitor preferences that will help our future planning.

The contribution of IBM's expertise is critical to the Center's goal of being a highly interactive facility that attracts a wide range of visitors, including high school and college students. Museums across the country are re-imagining technology as a way to target millennials, who expect interactive engagement as part of their museum experience. Developing appropriate technology for the Center is a major consideration in planning our exhibits, as well as for the state-of-the-art Global Classroom. Given the importance of the Center's information architecture as a whole, we are very pleased that our technology roadmap is moving forward. Thanks, IBM!

## EDUCATION UPDATE

Over the past year, the Diplomacy Center has run over 250 Diplomatic Simulations, a Model-United Nations-like activity that walks participants through geopolitical challenges. Our simulations program has become the Center's premier educational outreach tool and directly meets our primary educational goal -- helping high school and university students better understand the theory and practice of diplomacy. Through simulations and other education programs, the Center has reached over 7,500 participants.

After completing a simulation, many students noted the process of diplomacy was far more complicated than expected. One said, "I thought diplomacy was boring but found out it's actually a very interesting kind of art." Another observed, "When you think about 'diplomacy,' you always imagine people talking and doing nothing. However, I realized how hard it is to find a solution and listen to other people's opinions."



Students negotiating during the *Refugee Crisis Simulation*

Many were surprised at how complex, demanding, and even stressful being a diplomat could be. Several students recognized the unique challenge diplomats face in representing their countries' interests while still being open to the possibility of compromise. As one participant put it, "diplomats need to think strategically about how other nations will respond to an issue and utilize their own knowledge and the positions of their people to persuade others for purposes of mutual benefit."

The Diplomacy Center is proud to offer diplomatic simulations for audiences unfamiliar with and unaccustomed to international affairs. Our simulations feature a wide range of topics including refugee/migration issues, arms control, climate change, water conservation and global health. We plan to continue to develop our library of exercises for the benefit of students and educators across the United States.



## SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

The Diplomacy Center has been busy on social media! Since our February newsletter, our Twitter following grew by 13% to over 3,200 followers and on Facebook, we now have over 15,212 likes. We plan to build upon our first successful foray into Google Hangouts and use that feature more.

In honor of African American History Month, we held a Google Hangout panel discussion on the contributions of African American diplomats moderated by the Diplomacy Center's Education Specialist Lauren Fischer. Members of the panel included Christopher Teal, author of *The Hero of Hispaniola: America's First Black Diplomat, Ebenezer Bassett*; Dr. Carlton McLellan, Senior Fellow at the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training; and Public Affairs Officer Monty McGee.

The "Art and Artifacts of Diplomacy" was the subject of our May Google Hangout. Moderated by Liz Cedar Tunick from the Smithsonian Institute's Office of International Relations, the panel included the Diplomacy Center's Collection Manager Katie Speckart; Art in Embassies Curator Claire D'Alba; and the Diplomatic Reception Rooms' Director & Curator Marcee Craighill.

Panelists took questions online before and during the Hangouts. Dozens of viewers watched these two Hangouts live and many more have watched it on YouTube. Keep an eye out for future Diplomacy Center Google Hangouts as we share new stories about the history and practice of American Diplomacy.

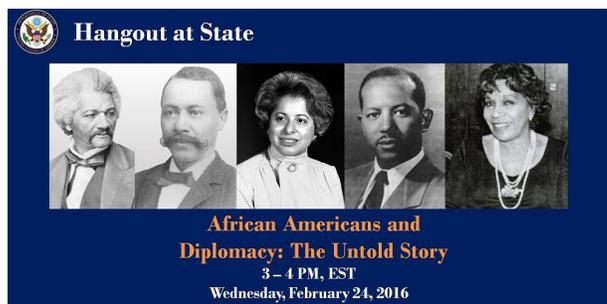
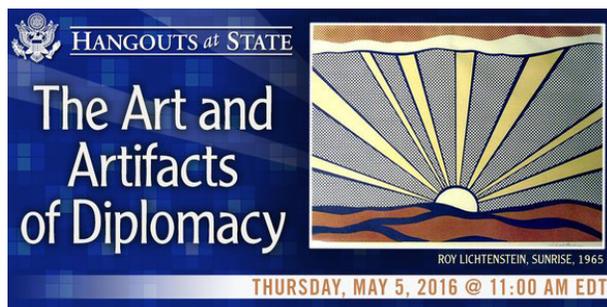


## ABOUT THE U.S. DIPLOMACY CENTER

Located at the Department of State's historic headquarters, the Harry S Truman Building, the Center will invite visitors to explore the history, practice, and challenges of American diplomacy through interactive exhibits, artifacts, hands-on education programs, diplomatic simulations, and the expertise of foreign affairs specialists.

## WATCH OUR RECENT GOOGLE HANGOUTS

All of our Hangouts are available on YouTube!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 26TH



### John C. Whitehead

Conference on American Diplomacy  
October 26, 2016 - U.S. Department of State

The John C. Whitehead conference invites high school and college students to learn about the diplomatic work of the Foreign Service. Students and Educators can explore how diplomats respond to crises, and work with international partners to deal with issues of mutual concern.

Use the hashtag #DiplomatCon to stay up to date on the latest conference information and details as they are announced.



## SUPPORT THE U.S. DIPLOMACY CENTER

The U.S. Diplomacy Center is a privately-funded, non-partisan museum and education center dedicated to telling the story of American diplomacy. Our private partner, the Diplomacy Center Foundation, works to support the creation of the museum and education center. Donations can be made through their website at:

[DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org](http://DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org)

Comments or questions?

Email us at: [usdc@state.gov](mailto:usdc@state.gov)