OBAMA FOUNDATION

June 2024 Update: The Obama Presidential Center

Overview
This month, the Obama Foundation marks a major milestone in building the Obama Presidential Center as the Obama Presidential Center Museum Building has reached its final height of 225 feet. The Museum exhibit galleries will tell the story of President and Mrs. Obama, the stories of the extraordinary and ordinary people whose work made their story possible, their historic presidency, and inspire visitors to learn about the role they can play in bringing change home.

The Obama Foundation has partnered with local businesses, community members, and partner organizations on this project, which will deliver over $3 billion in local economic activity. Located on Chicago's South Side, the 19-acre campus sits within the 550 acre Jackson Park. It includes a Museum building; an athletic, programs, and events facility; an auditorium; a branch of the Chicago Public Library; a fruit and vegetable garden, and more.

When it opens in 2026, the Center will serve as a world-class destination with on-campus programming that invites visitors—from down the block or around the world—to bring change home.

Construction Updates at the Obama Presidential Center (As of June 10, 2024)

- **Today, the Obama Presidential Museum Building** has officially reached its full height at 225 feet. Inside, work continues to install mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and drywall in addition to steel frames for large windows that will eventually be clad in bronze.

- In addition to the Museum Building, work continues across several campus facilities including:

    - **The Forum Building,** where the construction team is working diligently to install exterior stone and shape the Elie Wiesel Auditorium.
    - **The Library Building,** where the new Chicago Public Library branch and the Reading Courtyard will be, crews are currently framing in the interior walls.
    - The Obama Presidential Center's **Home Court,** where construction officially began in early 2024. Crews have poured caissons, large watertight chambers, and are now excavating the basement level of the facility.

Economic Investment and Workforce Commitments at the Obama Presidential Center

- The Presidential Center is **projected to generate over 3 billion dollars of new economic activity over 10 years**.

- The Presidential Center is being built in partnership with and by the local community. We are **committed to ensuring that 50 percent of the Center's on-site construction work is performed by Chicago residents** and that **50 percent of our work is being handled by businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, people with disabilities or people who identify as LGBTQ+.**

- As of April 30, 2024, **50 percent of Obama Presidential Center's on-site workers are Chicago residents and 35 percent are South Side and West Side residents.** This labor force includes construction workers, engineers, architects, and on-site management.

- The majority of the campus is being constructed by **Lakeside Alliance,** a joint venture of five of the largest, most respected African-American-owned construction firms in Chicago, with over 250 years of collective experience.

- As of April 30, 2024, Lakeside Alliance and the Obama Foundation have subcontracted with a variety of local trade partners. Of those contractors:
    - 35 percent are minority-owned businesses (MBE)
    - 15 percent are women-owned and led businesses (WBE)
    - 9 percent are local to the greater Chicago community

- The Foundation has also set up a dedicated Hometown Fund, which aims to **invest $75 million in the expansion of economic development opportunities for residents of Chicago's South Side.**

Sustainability at the Obama Presidential Center

- The Obama Presidential Center will source **100 percent of its electricity from renewable energy**. All buildings and facilities will be LEED v4 Platinum and SITES Silver certified, and will be operated with the standards of the International WELL Building Institute Health-Safety Rating.

- The campus will have a **comprehensive water conservation system**. By capturing and reusing a significant amount of rain that falls on-site, we will save over 1 million gallons of potable water use each year.

- The Center's landscape design has been developed in **partnership with the Chicago Botanic Garden**, bringing their expertise in horticulture, science, education to the project, and playing a key advisory role.

Inclusive Design at the Obama Presidential Center

- The Obama Presidential Center designers have created an inclusively-designed campus that exceeds standards set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and state and local requirements.

- We have engaged with stakeholders and experts to provide insight into the latest models to service people with disabilities, including:
    - BOF Inclusion Council
    - Members of the disability community
    - Physical site consultants: LCM
    - Inclusive design consultants: Prime Access

Campus Overview

- **The Obama Presidential Center Museum Building**
  The Obama Presidential Center Museum Building will be an iconic landmark on the South Side and house four levels of world-class immersive museum exhibits and experiences. The Building's exterior design embodies the idea that many hands make a place, offering a sense of ascension and upward movement from the grassroots. Inside, exhibits explore the Obamas' story and inspire collective action, while the exterior of the Building features words from President Obama's speech honoring the 1965 Selma, Alabama march.

- **The Obama Presidential Center Forum Building**
  The Forum Building is a vibrant space of exchange, co-creation, and transformation. Its collaborative and creative spaces are brought to life by inspiring artwork, views of the John Lewis Plaza, and two stunning courtyards. Inside the Forum Building will be the Hadiya Pendleton Winter Garden, the Elie Wiesel Auditorium, the Obama Presidential Center Restaurant, a Media Suite, and our Democracy In Action Lab Program Rooms.

- **The Chicago Public Library Branch at the Obama Presidential Center**
  The 82nd branch of the Chicago Public Library will be on the Obama Presidential Center Campus. This new branch of the Chicago Public Library will feature interactive digital media spaces and amenities for children, informational and vocational resources for adults, and a reading room for all to enjoy. The library will feature a YOUMedia Program dedicated to innovative and interactive learning opportunities for teens. On the roof of the Library will be the Eleanor Roosevelt Fruit & Vegetable Garden and Teaching Kitchen, a unique space to support programs around local sustainability, economic growth, and physical health.

- **Home Court at the Obama Presidential Center**
  Home Court at the Obama Presidential Center will serve as a place for active community engagement and enrichment. This 45,000 square foot multipurpose space will act as a venue for a variety of youth and adult programming, professional conferences, and community events for organizations. Home Court's design is inspired by two of President Obama's personal passions, basketball and building community, with a sleek metal and fritted glass panel exterior inspired by the pattern and form of a basketball net—a metaphor for community connection.

- **Art at the Obama Presidential Center**
  The Obama Presidential Center campus will be a destination for public art, featuring unique commissions from a diverse group of artists selected by President Obama. The commissions will span several buildings and outdoor spaces across the campus, and will become touchpoints for an array of public programming and educational offerings around the arts at the Center.

The Obama Presidential Center Timeline

July 29, 2016
The Obama Foundation announces Jackson Park as the site of the Obama Presidential Center.

January 5, 2018
The Obama Foundation announces Lakeside Alliance as construction manager for the Center.

May 1, 2018
The Obama Foundation announces a new South Side Chicago Public Library Branch at Obama Presidential Center.

October 31, 2018
The Chicago City Council unanimously votes to approve agreements between the City of Chicago and the Obama Foundation, the last step in the City's approval process related to the Center.

March 10, 2021
The Obama Foundation launches the Obama Presidential Center Construction Workforce Initiative.

September 28, 2021
President Obama and Mrs. Obama lead the groundbreaking of the Obama Presidential Center.

December 9, 2021
The Obama Foundation announces several namesakes of the Center campus including Congressman John Lewis, Dr. Elie Wiesel, Harold Washington, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

February 28, 2022
The Obama Foundation commissions its first piece of art for the Center. Chicago native and artist Richard Hunt will create "Book Bird," a sculpture placed in the Library Reading Garden outside of the campus branch of the Chicago Public Library.

August 4, 2022
President Obama announces that the Water Garden at the Center will be named in honor of his mother, Ann Dunham and will feature an art installation from world-renowned artist, Maya Lin.

June 22, 2023
President Obama announces that the Presidential Center will house the Democracy in Action Lab, a programming hub that honors the power of democracy, public service, and leadership.

March 11, 2024
The Obama Presidential Center breaks ground on Home Court, an athletic, programs, and event facility.

2025 – Athletic Center Opens | 2026 – Obama Presidential Center Opens