

## BETTER DENVER FAQ'S

### **How much Better Denver bond funding did the Denver Museum of Nature & Science receive?**

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science will receive \$50 million in Better Denver bond funding thanks to the generosity of Denver voters who approved the Better Denver campaign in November 2007.

### **What will Better Denver bond funds pay for at the Museum?**

The Museum will use approximately \$20 million of the money for much needed infrastructure improvements on our 100-year-old building in City Park, including a total renovation of the Phipps Special Exhibits Gallery where our traveling exhibitions are staged. By bringing the gallery up to contemporary museum standards with improved climate control and lighting systems, an improved vapor barrier, and increased electrical capacity, the Museum will continue to attract the high quality exhibitions we're known for. The Phipps Gallery upgrades will be completed in September 2009.

Other infrastructure projects will make our building more energy efficient, and will replace aging elevators, bathroom fixtures, HVAC, electrical, public address and fire suppression systems. Many of these projects are already underway.

We'll put the remaining \$30 million of the Better Denver funds toward building a new science education center that will provide better classroom space, and a facility to house the 1 million objects in our collections. These facilities will be located on the south side of the building, near where the school entrance is now. We're actively working on plans for these new additions, but construction will not get underway until 2010.

### **Doesn't the Museum receive funding from the SCFD tax?**

The Museum uses revenue from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), admissions, donations and membership dues to deliver programs and services on an annual basis, within a balanced budget without deficits or debt (for which the Museum has a stellar record). Operating revenues do not provide capital funds to expand the building and address major maintenance needs. Because the Museum is in a building owned by the City of Denver, we asked the City for help funding these necessary improvements.

### **Will the Museum be expanding into City Park?**

NO. All building renovations, including the science education center, will not go beyond current sidewalks and driveways.

### **Who does the Museum of Nature & Science serve?**

The Museum of Nature & Science is everybody's museum. Over 1.25 million people visit the Museum annually, including 167,400 students. Another 127,100 students were served through outreach events.

Approximately 46,200 visitors attend the Museum at no cost each year through SCFD Free Days and all DPS teachers are provided with complimentary Museum memberships.

### **About the Denver Museum of Nature & Science:**

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is the Rocky Mountain Region's leading resource for informal science education. A variety of engaging exhibits, activities and discussions help visitors celebrate and understand the natural wonders of Colorado, Earth and the universe. The Museum is located at 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205. To learn more about the Museum, check [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org), or call 303-322-7009 or 1-800-925-2250.



**About Better Denver:** The improvements to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science are part of the Better Denver program. Mayor John Hickenlooper, together with civic leaders, staff, and citizens, challenged the Denver community to imagine a city with enhanced infrastructure and facilities to add to our quality of life. Voters endorsed the program in 2007. Better Denver will improve, preserve, renovate and create many amenities that touch our lives – including roads, libraries, parks, hospitals, public safety and cultural facilities. The improvements are being implemented over a five year period through 2012, and are funded by the \$550 million dollar voter-approved bond. For more information visit: [www.denvergov.org/betterdenver](http://www.denvergov.org/betterdenver).